

doubt arises as to the construction of this act, to construe it so as to give to the person performing any labor the full amount of his claim over and above all costs and a reasonable attorneys fee, to be determined by the court.

Duties of court  
in construing  
act.

SEC. 12. All acts and parts of acts inconsistent with the provisions of this act are hereby repealed.

SEC. 13. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

When act to  
take effect.

Approved March 8, 1887.

## CHAPTER 171.

[H. F. No. 732.]

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE PROSECUTION AT THE EXPENSE OF THIS STATE, OF CERTAIN CASES IN BEHALF OF SETTLERS UPON CERTAIN LANDS KNOWN AS "INDEMNITY LAND" IN THIS STATE.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota:*

SECTION 1. Whereas, there is in the county of Traverse, Minnesota, a large body of land, equal to about one-fourth ( $\frac{1}{4}$ ) of the entire area of the county, and a large area in many other counties of the state, comprising the finest and choicest agricultural lands therein, which is known as "Indemnity Lands," and the title to which is claimed to be in dispute between the United States government and certain railroad companies.

Indemnity  
lands.

SEC. 2. Whereas, the said land has been and remained in the aforesaid uncertain condition as to title for more than ten (10) years past, without prospect of adjustment;

SEC. 3. Whereas, a large number of our best citizens have settled on said lands in anticipation of a speedy determination of said dispute in favor of the government, and have made improvements and established their homes thereon, and are living in a state of perpetual uncertainty as to their possessions and homes;

SEC. 4. Whereas, owing to such uncertainty as to title, a large proportion of said land still remains vacant, thus greatly retarding the progress and settlement of said counties;

SEC. 5. And whereas, a large proportion of said settlers have instituted suits to obtain title to said land, and have employed at great individual expense an attorney to prosecute their said cases and have asked and petitioned this

legislature to relieve them of such expense by providing for the prosecution of said actions to a final determination and by bringing about a speedy settlement of the question of title as to all such land;

Governor may  
appoint attorney to prosecute.

SEC. 6. Therefore, be it enacted by the legislature of the state of Minnesota, that the governor of this state be and he is hereby authorized and directed to appoint and employ in the name and at the expense of the state, counsel of suitable learning and ability, to prosecute in behalf of such of the aforesaid settlers as shall desire his services, the said actions to a final determination, to institute such other actions in respect to the title to said "Indemnity Land" in behalf of the settlers thereon as they shall desire and as shall in his opinion possess merit, and to bring about in the speediest possible manner a final settlement of the question of title to all of the said "Indemnity Land."

Proviso.

*Provided*, that said cases shall, if found practicable by the appointee herein provided for, be tried and submitted in three groups according to the questions involved, and each group of said cases shall be considered as one action in allowing compensation to such appointee for said services, and *Provided*, that such appointee shall present for approval his bill for the aforesaid services to the governor, and the governor shall submit the said bill with a report thereon, to the next legislature of this state for its allowance.

When act to  
take effect.

SEC. 7. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

Approved March 7th, 1887.