

No. 720, A.]

[Published April 30, 1895.]

CHAPTER 315.

AN ACT to authorize the governor of the state of Wisconsin to appoint commissioners to examine certain lands in Polk county, Wisconsin, with a view to acquiring title to said lands; to be used as a public park, and owned by the state of Wisconsin, and to report their proceedings to the governor.

To acquire lands for a public park at head of St. Croix river.

Whereas, The Dalles of the St. Croix river, situated in Polk county, Wisconsin, at the head of navigation of the St. Croix river and the lands adjacent thereto, comprise the most picturesque and attractive scenery in the state of Wisconsin, attracting a great number of visitors from our own and other states, and constituting a source of happiness and recreation to the public generally, and

Private parties have acquired the title to adjoining lands.

Whereas, Private parties have been permitted to acquire the title to the adjoining lands commanding a view of the Dalles and scenery and the natural attractions of the place, and public interests require that said lands as well as the natural scenery and attractions, should be forever kept open for the occupation and use of the public, so that every citizen of Wisconsin and of the United States may equally participate in their enjoyment; therefore,

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

Governor is authorized to acquire for the state certain named lands.

SECTION 1. The governor of the state of Wisconsin is hereby authorized and empowered to acquire for and in the name of the state of Wisconsin in the manner hereinafter provided, and for the purposes hereinafter designated, the title to all those tracts, pieces and parcels of land lying and being in the county of Polk, state of Wisconsin, described as follows, to-wit: Lot

four (4) of section thirty (30), township thirty-four (34), range eighteen (18) west; the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter of section thirty-one (31), township thirty-four (34), range eighteen (18) west, the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter of section thirty-one (31), township thirty-four (34), range eighteen (18) west; lot five (5), section thirty-six (36), township thirty-four (34), range nineteen (19) west; lot six (6), section thirty-six (36), township thirty-four (34), range nineteen (19) west; the southeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section thirty-six (36), township thirty-four (34), range nineteen (19) west; and that portion of lot four (4), section thirty-six (36), township thirty-four (34), range nineteen (19) west, which lies north of the quarter line of said section; together with all streets, alleys and parks abutting on said property, containing two hundred and fifty (250) acres, more or less, said land and the title thereto to be held by the state of Wisconsin, and to be appropriated to public use as a public park for all time under such regulations as the legislature may from time to time prescribe, and in carrying such regulations into effect the governor of this state is authorized to confer and co-operate with the governor of Minnesota, in the event that said state appropriates an amount of land to public use for park purposes along the west bank of the St. Croix river opposite the lands herein described as now contemplated by the legislature of Minnesota, and such conference and co-operation may extend to all matters pertaining to acquiring, improving and preserving said park, and connecting such portions thereof as may lie in different states by such bridges or means as to them shall seem suitable and necessary.

SECTION 2. To acquire the title to said lands the governor is hereby authorized and empowered to appoint a commission composed of three persons, one of whom shall be a resident of St. Croix Falls, Polk county, to examine and determine the value of the land to be appropriated

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to public use, and to the purposes above designated, said commissioners shall qualify and organize as a commission by electing one of their members chairman, and one secretary, and shall proceed in all respects to determine the value of each tract of land and parcel appropriated, in the manner provided in sections 605, 606, and 607 of the annotated statutes of the state of Wisconsin, to make contracts for the purchase of such lands, receive and accept donations therefor. At least six months before the convening of the legislature of Wisconsin in 1897, said commissioners shall make out and file with the governor a report describing each tract and parcel of land taken, with all streets, alleys and other public property appropriated, and the value thereof as found or determined by them, with all contracts of purchase, evidences of donations, and results of all proceedings in condemnation together with a bill to be submitted to the legislature of 1897, for appropriate legislation to ratify and carry into effect the acts and proceedings of such commissioners.

State not to be obligated in the action of the commissioners has been ratified by the legislature.

SECTION 3. Nothing in this act contained shall be construed as in any manner obligating the state of Wisconsin to pay any money for the purchase of such lands or as divesting the title of the owners of such lands until the acts and proceedings of such commissioners shall have been ratified and approved by appropriate legislation and the necessary appropriations made therefor.

Shall have power to administer oaths.

SECTION 4. The commissioners appointed under this act shall have power to administer oaths, and to summon and examine witnesses.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and publication.

Approved April 19, 1895.