

No. 646, A.]

[Published May 6, 1897.

## CHAPTER 367.

AN ACT to provide for the estimating, appraising and sale of certain state lands and making an appropriation therefor.

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

Estimate of state lands to be made by land commissioners.

SECTION 1. The commissioners of the public lands shall, with the advice and approval of the governor, as soon as practicable after the passage of this act, cause an estimate to be made of pine and other timber as to quantity and quality and value, and land as to quality of soil and value, by single descriptions of lot or tract according to government survey, of all the lands now owned by the state of Wisconsin in towns forty, forty-one, forty-two, forty-three and forty-four north, of ranges four, five, six, seven and eight east, of the fourth principal meridian, commonly known as the state park lands, and all of the state lands heretofore withdrawn from sale by the commissioners, and cause to be prepared and kept in the office of the said commissioners of the public lands, a book containing a list of all lands so estimated and appraised, with amount and value of pine timber thereon, and value of all the other timber thereon, and the value of the land exclusive of the timber thereon, in columns prepared therefor.

Shall advertise in six or more newspapers.

SECTION 2. Upon the completion of the records provided for in section 1, of this act, the commissioners of the public lands shall advertise in six or more newspapers, published in the lumbering centers of the state, for at least four weeks, that said timber and lands will be offered for sale by single government descriptions of lot or tract, to the highest bidder over and above the appraised value set by the com-

missioners. The sale of the lands in the state park shall be held at Rhinelander, Oneida county, and all lands withdrawn from market, at Spooner, Washburn county; the dates of said sale to be fixed by the commissioners at least three months after the first publication of notice, and said sales shall continue until all lands are offered for sale, and lands remaining unsold shall be subject to private sale at a price not less than the appraised value.

SECTION 3. The commissioners of the public lands shall have full power and authority to contract or employ, with the approval and consent of the governor, all the necessary labor to expeditiously complete the work provided in section 1, of this act; but all persons employed by contract or otherwise, as estimators or appraisers of said timber and lands, must be experienced woodsmen duly sworn, and if deemed necessary by the commissioners, to give bonds for the honest and faithful performance of their work and the scaling and reporting of trespass found, without delay, and shall receive a compensation to be fixed by the said commissioners of public lands, not to exceed five dollars per day, including all expenses; or if work is performed under contract, the cost shall not exceed one dollar and seventy-five cents per single government subdivision.

Authority given to employ necessary labor.

SECTION 4. The moneys received for the sale of lands shall be covered into the general fund, except when otherwise disposed of by constitutional provision.

Moneys for sale of lands to be covered into the treasury.

SECTION 5. For the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this act, the commissioners of the public lands shall have full power and authority to make rules and regulations under which the said work shall be done, and shall furnish blanks for estimating and appraising said timber and lands, and shall prepare and distribute to intending buyers a detailed statement of the estimates and appraisals provided for in section 1, of this act, and shall require

Commissioners have full power to make rules and regulations.

said estimators to make weekly reports, giving each lot or tract estimated, with the amount and quality of timber on such lot or tract.

Lands patented to the state since 1880, also to be examined.

SECTION 6. The commissioners of the public lands shall cause all lands patented by the United States to the state of Wisconsin, subsequent to the tenth day of December, 1890, or which may hereafter be so patented, to be examined in the manner hereinbefore provided for, at such times and places as shall by them be deemed to the best interest of the state.

Appropriation for the purpose.

SECTION 7. There is hereby appropriated out of the general fund, not otherwise appropriated, a sum sufficient to carry out the provisions of this act. The cost of estimating the swamp, school and other land shall be apportioned according to the cost of estimating each class of lands, and the cost of estimating said lands shall be repaid to the general fund out of the several funds in proportion to the cost of estimating each class.

Repealing section.

SECTION 8. All acts and parts of acts conflicting with the provisions of this act, are hereby repealed.

SECTION 9. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and publication.

Approved April 27, 1897.