

No. 675, A.]

[Published May 29, 1903.]

CHAPTER 431.

AN ACT conferring additional powers on the railroad commissioner, and adding new sections to chapter 87 of the statutes of 1898, and making an appropriation therefor.

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

SECTION 1. There is hereby added to chapter 87 of the statutes of 1898 the several sections following, which shall read and be numbered as follows:

Depositions of non-resident witness, how taken. Section 1796a. The commissioner in any matter material to any examination herein provided for may cause the deposition of witnesses residing without the state or absent therefrom to be taken, upon notice to the railroad company interested, in like mode as the depositions of witnesses are taken in civil actions pending in the circuit court.

Report to governor to contain what. Section 1796b. The commissioner shall report to the governor the result of any examination made under the provisions of this chapter, setting forth a statement thereof in detail, and of all expenses incurred in conducting the same; such report shall also state whether in his opinion the company whose affairs have been examined has correctly set forth in its reports or any of them the facts required by law to be stated therein. Such report shall be transmitted by the governor to the next legislature at the beginning of the session.

Expert accountants; witness fees; duty of attorney general. Section 1796c. The commissioner is authorized to employ such expert accountants for such length of time and at such compensation as the governor may approve of to assist him in any such examination. Upon such examination witnesses shall be allowed the same fees for mileage and daily attendance as are allowed witnesses in proceedings in circuit courts. The attorney general upon the request of the commissioner, or by

the direction of the governor, shall attend upon any hearing before or examination by the commissioner, and conduct the examination of any witness whose deposition may be required by the commissioner.

Inspection of books, etc. Section 1796d. All officers, managers, agents or employes of any railroad company who shall be in possession of, or have access to, any books, papers, records or property which the said commissioner, or any person appointed by him may desire to inspect or examine, shall afford all reasonable facilities for examination thereof and for access thereto at all reasonable times.

Penalty, when. Section 1796e. Any person refusing to allow the examination of or to permit the commissioner, or any person appointed by him under the provisions of this chapter, to have access to any such books, papers, records or things which he may lawfully have the right to examine or inspect, or who shall refuse to furnish any information relative to such examination which may lawfully be required of him, or who shall, in any manner, hinder, delay or obstruct the thorough examination herein required, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be liable on conviction thereof to a fine of not less than one hundred dollars or more than five thousand dollars, or imprisonment in the state prison for the period of not less than one year or more than five years, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

Forfeiture, when. Section 1796f. Any railway corporation which shall wilfully hinder, delay, obstruct or otherwise interfere with the commissioner, or any person appointed by him, in the discharge of his duties under this chapter, or who shall refuse to permit the commissioner, or any person appointed by him, to have access to all books, papers or records which he may lawfully examine or inspect, or who shall refuse to obey any order or subpoena issued by him, shall forfeit to the state a sum of money equal to ten per cent. of the license fee or tax which such corporation was required to pay to the state during the year preceding the time of such forfeiture. Such forfeiture shall be recovered in an action brought in the name of the state, and such act shall also be a cause for the forfeiture of all the rights, privileges and franchises of such railroad corporation whether granted by special charter or obtained under general laws, and the attorney general upon such neglect shall col-

lect by action the pecuniary forfeiture herein imposed, and also proceed to have forfeiture of such rights, privileges and franchises duly declared.

Not to be excused from testifying. Section 1796g. No person shall be excused from testifying or from producing books and papers before the commissioner or any person conducting any proceeding for him or under his direction, or in any action based upon or growing out of any examination under this chapter on the ground or for the reason that the testimony or evidence documentary or otherwise required of him may tend to incriminate him or subject him to a penalty or forfeiture; but no person having so testified shall be liable to any prosecution or punishment for any evidence concerning which he is required to give his testimony or produce any documentary evidence, except a prosecution for perjury committed in giving such evidence.

Appropriation. SECTION 2. There is hereby appropriated out of the general fund, a sufficient sum of money to carry out the provisions of this act.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and publication.

Approved May 22, 1903.

No. 563, A.]

[Published May 29, 1903.]

CHAPTER 432.

AN ACT to provide the means of self-support to adult blind artisans and the means of instruction to those desiring to become artisans, and to appropriate money therefor.

Preamble. Whereas, There are many adult blind residents of this state who have learned trades, either at the state school for the blind or elsewhere, but who are greatly embarrassed by reason of their infirmity in securing employment and who find themselves quite unable to compete successfully with those having sight, who are engaged in the same trades; and whereas, the