

No. 15, A.]

[Published December 20, 1905.

CHAPTER 8.

AN ACT relating to the determination of the tax commission of the general property of the state for the purpose of fixing the tax rate to be applied to railroads.

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

General property, valuation of. SECTION 1. Whenever in determining and reviewing the valuation of the general property of the state under the provisions of sections 9 and 10 of chapter 315, laws of 1903, for the purpose of ascertaining the tax rate to be applied to railroads, the tax commission shall change the valuation last made by it of the general property of the state under chapter 237 of the laws of 1901. It shall designate the class of property in each county the valuation of which is changed and the amount of such change.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and publication.

Approved December 19, 1905.

No. 14, A.]

[Published December 20, 1905.

CHAPTER 9.

AN ACT to provide for a committee of the legislature to investigate life insurance corporations in this state, and making an appropriation therefor.

WHEREAS, The legislature has by a joint resolution provided for a committee to investigate life insurance corporations in this state:

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

Investigation authorized; committee, powers of. SECTION 1. Such committee of the legislature is hereby authorized to in-

investigate and examine into the expenditures of life insurance corporations in this state in all matters, including their expenditures, actual or incurred, in the employment of legislative and municipal lobbies, in making payment of contributions to candidates for public office, committees or others, to be used for political or campaign purposes, in paying salaries and expenses of officers, agents, attorneys, and employes; to examine into and investigate the methods employed by insurance corporations in securing business and in paying commissions and other compensations to agents, officers, and employes; to examine into and investigate the nature and condition of the investments of said corporations, their methods of making such investments, and the manner in which their funds, securities, and assets are safe-guarded. The mention of any particular line of inquiry herein shall not limit in any measure the field of investigation which such committee is empowered to enter. The said joint committee and a majority of the members thereof are hereby invested with plenary powers to perform and discharge the duties by this act and said resolution enjoined, and in the exercise of said power, among other things, they may by subpoena, issued over the signature of the chairman, or acting-chairman of said committee, and served in the manner in which circuit court subpoenas are served, summon and compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of all books, papers, documents, and records necessary or convenient to be examined or used by them as evidence. They may also, either as a committee, or through a proper person, authorized by them, examine all books, papers, documents, and records of insurance corporations, or of those corporations or persons dealing with them, and may do all other things which may to them appear necessary or convenient, to make full examination and investigation as directed herein. Said committee shall have power to employ such counsel, stenographers, clerks, and assistants, as they may find necessary.

Witnesses; access to records authorized. SECTION 2. If any witness subpoenaed to appear before said committee shall refuse to appear or to answer inquiries propounded, or shall fail or refuse to produce books, documents, papers, and records, within his possession or control when the same are demanded by said committee, such committee shall report the facts to the circuit court of the county in which such examination is being conducted and it shall be the duty of such court

to compel obedience to such subpoena by attachment proceedings for contempt, as in case of disobedience of the requirements of a subpoena issued from such court, or a refusal to testify therein.

Appropriation. SECTION 3. A sum of money sufficient to carry out the provisions of this act is hereby appropriated out of any money in the state treasury not otherwise appropriated. All bills for expenses of the committee, including witness fees and compensation for counsel, clerks, stenographers, and assistants, shall be approved by the committee, certified by the chairman thereof, and audited by the governor and by the secretary of state, who shall issue his warrant therefor upon the state treasurer.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and publication.

Approved December 19, 1905.

No. 12, A.]

[Published December 20, 1905.]

CHAPTER 10.

AN ACT to amend chapter 328 of the laws of 1905, entitled, An act to provide a remedy for an accounting and discovery of all license fees due the state from railroad companies, and the enforcement of the collection thereof.

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

Actions to be commenced in Dane county; no change of venue. SECTION 1. Section 1 of chapter 328 of the laws of 1905 is hereby amended so as to read as follows: Section 1. The attorney general is hereby authorized and directed to commence civil actions in the circuit court, for Dane county in the name of the state for the recovery of unpaid license fees against every railroad company or person now or heretofore or hereafter operating a railway or railroad in this state, which has failed or neglected to pay the state all license fees