

CHAPTER 397.

[Published April 26, 1864.]

AN ACT to authorize Stephen Marston and his associates to build and maintain a bridge across the Chippewa river, an Eau Claire.

(See supplement to local laws.)

CHAPTER 398.

[Published April 26, 1864.]

AN ACT to authorize certain counties and towns therein named, to vote a tax to aid in the construction of a railroad therein.

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

Towns of certain counties may vote on proposition of aiding railroad.

SECTION 1. Any town in the counties of La Crosse, Vernon, Richland and Iowa, is hereby authorized and empowered to vote a tax upon the taxable property of such towns, for such sum or sums as they may see fit, to aid in the construction of a railroad through or in said counties, or either of them, which sum or sums so raised, shall be paid to any railroad company who shall be actually engaged in building or constructing a railroad in or through either of said counties, in the manner hereinafter provided.

When question may be submitted.

SECTION 2. Said towns shall have the power and privilege to vote said aid at any annual election, or at any special election called for that purpose, as provided in this act.

Notice of vote at general election.

SECTION 3. If the vote for said aid shall be taken at any annual election, notice of said vote shall be given by posting notices thereof in five public places in such town, for at least ten days previously to such election. It shall be the duty of the town clerk, or two members of the town board of supervisors of such town, to give and post such notices, when required as herein provided. Said notices shall contain the fact, that such vote is to be taken, the time and place of such election, and the amount proposed to be raised by such vote.

SECTION 4. A special election may be called to vote said aid by ten freehold voters, residents of the town when [where] such election is to be held, signing a petition requesting such election to be held, and presenting the same to the clerk or two member of the town board of supervisors, whose duty it shall be to immediately thereafter give the required notice for such election, as provided in the third section of this act.

How special election may be called.

SECTION 5. When such vote is taken, whether at any annual election or at a special election called and held for that purpose, it shall be conducted in the usual forms of conducting elections, as prescribed by law. In voting, the electors shall vote by ballot, on which shall be written or printed, "for aid to railroad," or "against aid to railroad." If the vote is taken at an annual election, then the ballot shall be deposited in a separate box, which shall be provided by the judges of the election for that purpose. But if the vote is taken at a special election, then the polls shall be opened, a poll list shall be kept, the votes counted and returns made, as the law provides.

How election to be conducted.

Form of ballots, &c.

SECTION 6. In all cases when towns shall vote aid as provided in this act, such towns shall have power to issue their bonds for the amount of such aid so voted, signed by the town clerk and chairman of the town board of supervisors, for the benefit and aid of such railroad company, payable in ten years or less, bearing interest at the rate of seven per cent. per annum, which interest shall be payable annually, on the first day of June, of each year: *provided*, such bonds shall not be issued or paid to said railroad company until an amount equal to double the amount of the bonds so voted, shall have been actually expended in the construction of said road over and above the cost of surveying, procuring the right of way, payments for services of the officers and employees, and all other merely incidental expenses, by said railroad company, in the respective counties in which the towns are situated which have voted said aid.

If vote favorable, towns may issue bonds.

Proviso.

SECTION 7. Either or any of the beforenamed counties of La Crosse, Vernon, Richland and Iowa, is hereby authorized to vote aid for the construction of said railroad, and upon the presentation to the supervisors of either of the above counties, of a petition signed by twelve freeholders, voters, residents of said county,

Counties may vote on question.

Election there-
for.

Form of ballots.

If vote favor-
able, bonds may
be issued, &c.

Proviso.

Certain towns
exempt from
tax.

the supervisors shall order the clerk of their board to give thirty days' notice in some paper printed in the county, or by posting up notices in ten public places in the county, of an election to be held at the usual places of holding election in the several towns. Said notices shall contain the object of election and the amount proposed to be voted for, and at the election so ordered the proceedings, in all respects, shall be the same as at a general election, and the returns shall be made in the same manner to the clerk as in other elections, and the ticket shall be written or printed, "for aid to the railroad," or "against aid to the railroad;" and if aid shall be voted, then bonds shall be issued for the amount those [thus] voted, signed by the clerk and chairman of the county board of supervisors. Said bonds may be drawn payable one-third the amount in five years, one-third in ten years, and the remaining one-third in fifteen years, bearing interest at seven per cent. per annum, which interest shall be payable annually: *provided*, said bonds of county indebtedness shall not be issued nor paid to said railroad company until an amount equal to said bonds shall have been actually expended by the company in the construction of said railroad in the county so voting aid; *and provided, further*, that all the aid to said railroad by either of the above named counties, shall be expended in the counties which have voted it and issued bonds for it.

SECTION 8. It is hereby provided, that if an election to vote aid to said railroad shall be ordered in the county of Richland, the towns of Richwood, Eagle and Westford therein shall be exempted from said tax, and shall not be required to vote on the proposition of a county tax, as herein provided.

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

Approved April 4, 1864.