

county in which such lands are situated, on application of the person holding the certificate of such sale, to refund to such person, upon his surrender of such certificate, and the cancellation of the same, the amount of money mentioned therein, with interest from its date; and if a tax deed shall have been issued upon any such certificate, it shall be the duty of such board, upon the making and recording in the office of the register of deeds where such tax deed is recorded, by the party in whom the title conveyed by such deed purports to be vested, a release and quit-claim to the United States of all such title, to refund to such person all sums paid by him, or by any one through whom such tax title purports to be derived, for the certificate of tax sale, or for any deed or deeds, or the recording thereof, of said land, together with interest thereon from the date of such payment.

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

Approved March 23, 1867.

CHAPTER 36.

[*Published March 30, 1867.*]

AN ACT relating to the growth of forest trees.

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

SECTION 1. The state agricultural society and the state horticultural society are each authorized to appoint one person, and the persons thus appointed may appoint a third person, who shall constitute a commission, whose duty it shall be to inquire and make report in detail to the next session of the legislature :

Appointment of
commissioners
—their duty.

I. Whether the destruction of the forests of this state, now going on so rapidly, is likely to prove as disastrous to the future inhabitants of the state as is claimed by many.

II. Whether such destruction will tend to diminish the moisture of the atmosphere, to increase the de-

degrees of cold in winter and the heat in summer, or otherwise.

III. Whether, owing to the want of information in individuals and the shortness of their lives, it is the duty of the state to interfere [interpose] its authority to prevent an undue destruction of forest trees where they now exist, and to encourage their cultivation where they are deficient.

IV. Whether any and what scientific experiments or investigations should be made to ascertain the best methods of growing and managing forest trees.

V. Whether the growing of belts of timber along the public roads and highways would afford protection to the same from drifts of snow, and whether these and similar belts in the farms of the state, would be beneficial by affording shelter to crops, fruit trees, buildings and animals, and add to the health, comfort and prosperity of the people.

VI. Whether any and what convenient substitute for wood may be found in this state, and if by their use the demand for wood will be diminished.

VII. To report generally such facts, in a condensed form, as will be of the most practical use to persons desirous of increasing the growth and preservation of forest and other trees.

Report to be printed.

SECTION 2. The commissioners are authorized to furnish the copy of their report to the public printer, who is required to print three thousand copies of the same in pamphlet form, under his contract for doing the printing for the state, for the use of the legislature: *provided*, said report shall not exceed one hundred octavo pages.

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

Approved March 23, 1867.