

No. 430, S.]

[Published May 22, 1901.

**CHAPTER 432.**

AN ACT to repeal chapter 258 of the laws of 1899 and to amend sections 170-186-187-189-212-238-1636b-1636e of the statutes of 1898 relating to the state land office.

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

**Repealed law.** SECTION 1. Chapter 258 of the laws of 1899 is hereby repealed.

**Salaries of clerical force.** SECTION 2. Section 170 of the statutes of 1898 is hereby amended by adding after the words "one thousand dollars," in line fifteen on page 262, the words "the chief clerk in the office of the commissioners of public lands, eighteen hundred dollars; the assistant chief clerk in the office of the commissioners of public lands, sixteen hundred dollars; the other clerks and employes in the office of the commissioners of public lands, such sums as the commissioners shall determine, provided, that not more than six thousand five hundred dollars (\$6,500) shall be expended for salaries, including the chief clerk and assistant chief clerk, in any one year.

**Duties of commissioners; records, etc.** SECTION 3. Section 186 of the statutes of 1898 is hereby amended to read as follows: Section 186. Said commissioners shall keep their office at the capitol. They shall conveniently arrange and preserve therein all records, books, reports, surveys, maps, field-notes, plats and other papers pertaining to the public lands heretofore, now or hereafter owned by the state, including all such as have been or shall be received from the United States or any officer thereof. They may perfect such records, books, reports, surveys, maps, field-notes, plats and other papers when incomplete, and cause fair copies thereof to be made when, from injury, loss, use or accident, it shall become necessary; and any such copy, when certified by the chief clerk of the land office, under his hand and the official seal of said office, to have been made for any of the causes herein specified, and to be a correct copy thereof, shall have the same force and effect in all courts and places as the original; and any copy from said original records, books, reports, surveys, maps, field-notes, plats and other papers, or from any record or paper required by law to be kept in their

office, or any copy from said certified copy thereof, when certified by the secretary of state under the great or lesser seal, shall be received in evidence with the same effect as the original. All records, books and files kept by the commissioners shall at all business hours be open, under proper regulations made by them, to the inspection of any person free of charge; provided, however, that no expenditure be made for employes other than that provided for in section 2 of this act.

**Appointment of clerks; oath of.** SECTION 4. Section 187 of the statutes of 1898 is hereby amended so as to read as follows: Section 187. The commissioners shall appoint a chief clerk and assistant chief clerk who shall in the absence of the chief clerk have all the authority given by law to the chief clerk; and such other clerks as provided in section 2 of this act. Such appointments shall be filed in the office of the secretary of state. Every such clerk shall, before entering upon the discharge of his duties take and subscribe the following oath, to-wit: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm, as the case may be) that I will support the constitution of the state of Wisconsin; that I will not be engaged, either directly or indirectly, in the purchase for my own benefit of any public lands of the state of Wisconsin so long as I remain a clerk in the land bureau thereof, and that I will faithfully discharge to the best of my ability the duties of clerk in said bureau, so help me God," which oath shall be filed in the office of the secretary of state.

**Fees for certificates and patents.** SECTION 5. Section 189 of the statutes of 1898 is hereby amended so as to read as follows: Section 189. The said commissioners shall collect, as fees, fifty cents on every certificate and fifty cents on every patent issued by them, to be paid by the purchaser. Such fees shall be paid into the state treasury and credited to the \_\_\_\_\_ fund. The chief clerk may take the acknowledgment of said commissioners to all certificates and patents, and no fees shall be charged therefor.

**Applications for private sale.** SECTION 6. Section 212 of the statutes of 1898 is hereby amended so as to read as follows: Section 212. Every person making application for the purchase at private sale of any such lands shall file in the office of said commissioners an application in writing, describing the lot or tract which he proposes to purchase by the proper number of the section, township, and range, and the subdivision of the section, with his name subscribed thereto. The commissioners shall, if the land applied for may then be sold, enter on books kept for

that purpose a note of every such application, specifying the day when made, the name of the applicant, and the description of the land applied for, and shall also give to such applicant a memorandum, stating such application and describing the lot or tract applied for, and stating the price at which the same may be sold and the amount to be paid at the time of the sale, which memorandum shall be signed by the chief clerk.

**Examination of lands; duty of chief clerk.** SECTION 7. Section 238 of the statutes of 1898 is hereby amended so as to read as follows: Section 238. It shall be the duty of the chief clerk of the commissioners of public lands from time to time, as shall be found necessary, to examine the public lands and to protect them from trespass, and to aid in collecting damages for trespasses committed. Said clerk shall be paid his actual expenses incurred in the performance of such duty. The commissioners may, in their discretion, award to any person furnishing information to them of trespasses committed upon the public lands, a sum not to exceed twenty per centum of the amount collected from such trespassers by means of the information so furnished as aforesaid.

**Chief clerk to be forest warden; assistant; duties of.** SECTION 8. Section 1636b of the statutes of 1898 is hereby amended so as to read as follows: Section 1636b. The chief clerk of the state land office shall be the state forest warden, and may appoint a clerk in such office as his deputy. It shall be their duty to see that the provisions of law for the prevention and extinguishment of forest fires are faithfully executed, and for that purpose to formulate all proper and necessary rules and regulations for the government of the several fire wardens and to supervise them in the performance of their duties. Whenever the forest warden or any fire warden shall have good reason to believe that an offense has been committed by any person or persons against any of such provisions, it shall be his duty to immediately notify the district attorney of the proper county of the facts upon which such belief is founded, and he shall immediately and thoroughly investigate the fact. If, after such investigation, he shall have good reason to believe that an offense has been committed, it shall be his duty forthwith to institute proper proceedings for the arrest and conviction of the person whom he believes guilty of having committed the same.

**Auditing of accounts of forest warden.** SECTION 9. Section 1636e of the statutes is hereby amended so as to read as follows: Section 1636e. The commissioners of public lands shall audit

all accounts of the state forest warden and his deputy for expenses incurred in the performance of their duty, and when so allowed by them and approved by the governor, shall be audited by the secretary of state and issue his warrant therefor; but in no case shall such expense exceed three hundred dollars per annum.

**Conflicting laws repealed.** SECTION 10. All acts and parts of acts inconsistent with the provisions of this act are hereby repealed.

SECTION 11. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after June first 1901.

Approved May 15, 1901.

No. 429, S.]

[Published May 22, 1901.

## CHAPTER 433.

AN ACT to provide a central system of accounting for all state officers and state institutions.

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

**Duty of governor in establishing system.** SECTION 1. It shall be the duty of the governor to take such action, and to employ such assistants as in his discretion he may deem necessary to effectively establish in this state a central system of state accounting so that said system when established shall apply to all departments of the state and to all charitable, penal, reformatory and educational institutions of the state, and to the state board of control, the board of regents of the normal schools, the regents of the university of Wisconsin, the state historical society and to the officers, agents and employes of the same, and to each and every board, society, commission, association, and to every officer, agent or employe thereof or of the state who by virtue of his office receives, collects or disburses any money.

**Reports from boards, officers, etc.** SECTION 2. All persons boards, officers and agents mentioned in section one of this act shall make reports in such form and of such facts as may be required by the governor in order to put said system into practice.