

tion or inducement whatever, not specified in the policy contract of insurance.

Insurance commissioner may revoke authority of agent guilty of violation of law.

SECTION 2. Whenever it shall appear to the satisfaction of the insurance commissioner, after a hearing held by him upon due notice, that any agent, sub-agent, broker or solicitor has, directly or indirectly, violated the provisions of this act the said insurance commissioner shall thereupon revoke the certificate of authority of said agent, sub-agent, broker or solicitor to transact business in this state; and no other certificate shall thereafter be issued to said person for a term of three years from the date of said revocation.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and publication, and shall apply to all policies of life insurance companies written or issued by them in this state after this act takes effect.

Approved April 17, 1891.

No. 333, A.]

[Published April 27, 1891.

## CHAPTER 268.

AN ACT to enable religious and church corporations to form fire insurance companies for the purpose of insuring church property.

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

Organization of insurance companies to insure church property.

SECTION 1. Any number of persons, not less than nine, who are residents of this state, who are regular members of any church congregation, conference, presbytery or synod of said church may form corporations for the insuring, upon the plan of mutual insurance, of church, parsonage and school property, including furniture, fixtures and household goods and personal property of ministers, against loss or damage by fire and lightning. The first nine persons signing such articles of organization, shall be directors of such corporation, until the first annual meeting, or until others are elected,

and shall possess the usual powers given such officers in similar corporations. When such articles have been filed with the commissioner of insurance, and proof that policies in the required number and amount have been applied for, said articles shall be examined by the attorney general, and if found in conformity with the law, the attorney general shall issue his certificate to the commissioner of insurance to that effect, and the commissioner of insurance shall issue his certificate that said corporation is duly organized, and is entitled to do business under the laws of this state.

SECTION 2. Such corporation, in addition to the powers given by chapter 85, of the revised statutes, shall have power: Powers.

First. To make contracts of insurance in this state, with any church board of trustees, or official board of any religious denomination, against loss by fire and lightning, on any property, real or personal, held by said church or the official representatives thereof, for said church, or held or owned by its pastor or minister, for his use as such pastor or minister, for such premium or consideration, and under such regulations or restrictions, as such corporation may provide by its by-laws; provided, that no single risk shall exceed the maximum of two thousand dollars.

Second. To purchase, receive, hold, possess and convey all such real estate and personal property as may be necessary for the accommodation, and the convenient transaction of the business of said corporation.

Third. To provide for the admission of members and the withdrawal of the same.

Fourth. To make all necessary rules and regulations for the payment of losses and also to make necessary by-laws for the transaction of business.

Fifth. To fix and appoint all other officers and their duties, and to require bonds for the faithful performance of their duties; to invest all funds in bonds secured by mortgages upon real estate, and in such municipal bonds, and upon such securities as shall appear acceptable to the directors; or to deposit in any bank, with or without interest, any funds not needed for the payment of losses and expenses sustained; and to order a certain percentage of any assessment, to be held as

a reserve fund, to be used in a case of extra loss or damage.

Sixth. To exercise such other powers as shall be necessary to effect the object of such corporation.

When organized insurance commissioner shall grant certificate.

SECTION 3. The commissioner of insurance shall issue a certificate to any such corporation, as soon as it shall have been properly organized, and have twenty five *bona fide* applicants for insurance, averaging at least one thousand dollars each, upon the payment of the license fee of ten dollars and the issuance of the certificate of the attorney general, as heretofore required, that all requirements of this act are complied with; and if at any time after any such corporation shall have been organized and begun business, the number of policies in force shall become less than twenty-five, of the average of at least one thousand dollars each, the commissioner of insurance shall be empowered to cancel the license, and cause the corporation to wind up its affairs in the manner provided by law in the case of other insurance companies organized in this state. But no resolution for the voluntary dissolution of this corporation shall be adopted or take effect, unless three-fourths of the members present at a regular or duly called meeting of the members, shall vote for its adoption.

Policy holders, members of corporation.

SECTION 4. Any church or church society, or church corporation, pastor, minister or priest, holding a policy in any such corporation, for the sum of five hundred dollars, shall be a member of such corporation for so long as such policy is in force, and shall be entitled to one vote, to be cast by its representative, for such church or church society for each five hundred dollars of insurance so held. But in case that for any reason such policy shall be forfeited or shall lapse, the holder of said policy shall not be entitled to any vote, unless such policy shall be again renewed.

Annual meetings.

SECTION 5. An annual meeting shall be held on the first Tuesday succeeding the first Monday in January of each year, at the office of the secretary of such corporation, for the purpose of electing officers, at which meeting the secretary and treasurer shall make an annual report, setting forth the condition of the corporation, the number of

policies in force, the number of new, and the number of cancelled policies, and the total amount of risks written during the year just past, the amount of losses paid, the number of assessments levied, the condition of the treasury, and the financial condition of the corporation, and what changes there have been made in the reserve fund, if there be one.

SECTION 6. The president or the vice-president and the secretary of such corporation, shall annually, within the month of January, prepare and deposit in the office of the commissioner of insurance, a statement, verified by their oaths, of the business of the corporation during the year and its condition on the thirty-first day of December, then next preceding, and containing such items and facts in regard to its business and condition as the commissioner of insurance may require.

Verified statement of business to be filed in office of insurance commissioner.

SECTION 7. Every member of any such corporation who may sustain a loss under a policy issued by said company, shall immediately notify the secretary, in writing, who, with the president, shall proceed as soon as practicable, to determine the loss or damage, and if possible make a settlement. If the parties sustaining the loss shall not acquiesce in the decision, the claim shall be submitted to referees mutually agreed upon whose award shall be final; provided, the corporation shall have the privilege of paying such appraisal or of making the loss good in repairing or rebuilding the property injured or destroyed.

Losses, how appraised.

SECTION 8. Whenever the condition of the treasury is such that an assessment is necessary, the secretary, under the direction of the directors, shall proceed to levy such assessment according to the amount for which each several policy is issued, taking into consideration the rate of premium which has been paid therefor or which is to be paid thereon. When any such assessment shall have been completed, the secretary shall notify every policy holder by its representative, belonging to such corporation, by letter sent to his usual postoffice address, of the amount of the assessment that is then due, the time within which, and to whom such assessment has to be paid; but such time of payment shall not exceed sixty days from the time of the

Assessments.

mailing said notice. If the assured neglects the payment of any assessment, for more than sixty days from the time of mailing said notice, said policy shall, at the option of the directors, be null and void, unless such assessment is paid and accepted by the corporation. And the directors shall have power, in the name of such corporation, to sue and collect any such assessments, and when said assessments are collected the policy shall be revived.

**Withdrawals.**

**SECTION 9.** Any member of any such corporation may withdraw therefrom by giving notice in writing to the secretary thereof, and paying up all dues upon a basis of the usual short rate cancellations in vogue among stock companies. The president or secretary shall have power to cancel any policy, by giving five days' notice in writing, to the holder thereof and paying any sum which may be due from the corporation to said member.

**Assessments payable in cash**

**SECTION 10.** All assessments shall be paid in cash, and the first one shall be paid at the time of issuing the policy, together with the costs of issuing the policy; and all losses shall be payable within sixty days after adjustment thereof. Such corporation shall have power to transact business upon the same plans as is general among all mutual insurance companies, and shall have power to issue policies for cash payment of premium when desired; and holders of such policies shall be exempt from further liability. Instead of making assessments upon members in case of loss, such corporations may provide by their policy for the taking of premium notes upon which assessments may be made to such an amount as may be needed. Such premium note to be for the whole amount of the premium, which shall be payable on account of any policy of insurance.

**License fee shall exempt from further taxation.**

**SECTION 11.** After the payment of the fee to the commissioner of insurance, for the license under which such corporations shall act, no other fees, dues or taxes shall be required from them.

**SECTION 12.** All acts and parts of acts in conflict with the provisions of this act are hereby repealed.

**SECTION 13.** This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and publication.

Approved April 17, 1891.

No. 421, A.]

[Published April 20, 1891.

## CHAPTER 269.

**AN ACT** relating to the election of officers of villages, and amendatory of section 875, of the revised statutes, as amended by chapter 16, laws of 1889.

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

**SECTION 1.** Section 875, of the revised statutes, as amended by chapter 16, of the laws of 1889, is hereby amended by inserting after the word "provided," where the same occurs in the tenth line of section 1, of chapter 16, laws of 1889, the following: "Provided, that in every village in this state which shall embrace parts of two or more towns, whether such village shall be incorporated under general or special law, or both, the president and trustees may, by resolution to be adopted and published at least fifteen days before the annual charter election in any year, fix the term of office of the trustees at two years, and until their successors are elected and qualified; and may therein provide, that there shall be chosen, at the first annual charter election thereafter, three trustees to serve for a term of one year, and three trustees to serve for a term of two years, and until their successors are elected and qualified. Upon the adoption and publication of such resolution, the election of trustees, at the annual charter election thence next ensuing in such village, shall be had in accordance with such resolution, and thereafter, at each annual charter election there shall be chosen three trustees, who shall hold their office for the term of two years, and until their successors are elected and qualified," so that said section when amended shall

Amends section 875, revised statutes 1878.

Village officers.