

No. 390, A.]

[Published April 24, 1897.]

## CHAPTER 297.

AN ACT to provide for the investigation of the natural resources of the state of Wisconsin, and providing an appropriation therefor.

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

SECTION 1. There is hereby constituted a geological and natural history survey of the state of Wisconsin.

SECTION 2. This survey shall have for its object:

1. The completion of the geological survey of the state, and especially the examination of the rocks, with reference to the occurrence of iron ores, building stones, and other valuable mineral products, and in reference to their value as material for road construction.

2. A study of the soils of the state.

3. A study of the plants of the state, and especially of the forests, with reference to their cultivation and preservation.

4. A study of the animal life of the state, and especially the occurrence, distribution and production of fish in the lakes and streams of the state, and a study of foods and enemies of fish.

5. The preparation of an account of the physical geography and natural history of the state, in such form as to serve as manuals for the public schools, and of special reports on subjects of economic importance, in such form as to be of direct service to the people.

6. The completion of the topographic map of the state begun by the United States Geological Survey; but no money shall be expended for topography unless an equivalent amount be

expended for this purpose in the state by the United States government.

SECTION 3. This survey shall be governed by a board of commissioners, consisting of the governor of the state, the state superintendent of public instruction, the president of the state university, the president of the commissioners of fisheries, and the president of the Wisconsin academy of sciences, arts and letters. The commissioners shall meet within thirty days after the passage of this act, and organize as a commission and adopt by-laws for their government, not inconsistent with law, and shall meet at such times and places as they may prescribe. A majority shall be a quorum. They shall receive no compensation, but each shall be reimbursed his expenses actually and necessarily incurred in the performance of his official duties, out of such appropriation as may be made by the legislature. They shall choose from their number, a president, secretary, and such other officers as their by-laws may prescribe; but no officer shall receive any compensation, except such as is herein provided for. The commissioners shall have general charge of the survey, and shall appoint a superintendent of the survey, and, on his nomination, such assistants and employes as they may deem necessary. They shall fix the compensation of all persons employed on the survey, and may remove them at pleasure.

SECTION 4. It shall be the duty of the commissioners to prepare a report before the meeting of each legislature, showing the progress and condition of the survey, giving an account of money spent, together with such other information as may be deemed necessary and useful. The superintendent shall transmit to the commissioners, from time to time, special reports, with necessary illustrations and maps, as these are completed. If approved by the commissioners they shall be transmitted to the commissioners of public printing, who are authorized to have the reports published in a suitable manner, as independent reports, as bulletins of the

state university, or in the transactions of the Wisconsin academy of sciences, arts, and letters, as the commissioners of the survey deem best. If published as independent reports, it shall be the duty of the commissioners of public printing to decide as to the number of copies in the edition of each particular report. Five copies of each report shall be delivered to each of the state officers, and to each member of the legislature. The number of copies provided by law for other public documents shall be furnished to the state historical society, the library of the state university and other state institutions. The remainder of the independent reports shall be distributed, used in exchange, or sold by the commissioners of the survey, as the interest of the state and of science demands. All moneys obtained by the sale of reports shall revert to the state treasury, as a part of the general fund. Volumes obtained in exchange for reports shall be added to the library of the Wisconsin academy of sciences, arts and letters. The superintendent of public property shall furnish, upon the requisition of the president of the commissioners of the survey, such stationery and postage stamps as may be necessary for the use of the commissioners and the superintendent of the survey in official business.

**SECTION 5.** After material collected shall have served the purposes of the survey, it shall be distributed to the state university, the colleges of the state, the state normal schools, and the free high schools of the state, under the approval of the commissioners of the survey, in such a manner as to be of the greatest advantage to education in the state.

**SECTION 6.** There is hereby annually appropriated for two years to the commissioners of the geological and natural history survey, out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, the sum of five thousand dollars, the first appropriation to be paid in the current fiscal year.

SECTION 7. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and publication.

Approved April 22, 1897.

No. 128, A.]

[Published April 24, 1897.

## CHAPTER 298.

AN ACT relating to newspaper publications, maintaining actions for libel thereon, and damages therefor.

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

Relating to an  
action for libel  
by newspapers.

SECTION 1. The proprietor, publisher, editor, writer or reporter upon any newspaper, whose chief office of publication is within this state, shall not be liable in any civil action for libel, for the publication in such newspaper of a true and fair report of any judicial, legislative or other public official proceeding authorized by law, or of any public statement, speech, argument or debate in the course of such official proceedings. This section will not be construed to exempt any such proprietor, publisher, editor, writer or reporter from liability for any libelous matter contained in any head-line or headings to any such report, or to libelous remarks or comments added or interpolated in any such report, or made and published concerning the same, which remarks or comments were not uttered by the person libelled or spoken concerning him in the course of such official proceedings by some other person.