

[Published March 23, 1877.]

CHAPTER 293.

AN ACT relating to the invention and successful use of steam or other mechanical agents on highways, and amendatory of chapter 134 of the laws of 1875, as amended by chapter 183 of the laws of 1876.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter one hundred and thirty-four (134), of the laws of 1875, as amended by chapter one hundred and eighty two (182), of the laws of 1876, is hereby amended so as to read as follows: There is hereby appropriated the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, to be used as a bounty, and to be paid to any citizen of Wisconsin who has invented or shall invent a machine propelled by steam or other motive agent, which shall be a cheap and practical substitute for the use of horses and other animals on the highway and farm; *provided*, that said appropriation shall not be paid until a successful trial of said machine has been had, and award made as hereinafter provided.

Amended.

Bounty for invention of steam road wagon.

SECTION 2. It shall be the duty of the governor, on or before the first day of June, 1878, to appoint three commissioners, two of whom shall be practical and experienced farmers, and the other a practical and skillful machinist, to each of whom the governor shall execute and deliver a certificate of his appointment. It shall be the duty of said commissioners to examine and test, as hereinafter provided, all machines which shall compete for or claim said bounty; *provided*, the inventors have made at the time of trial, the statement and complied with the conditions hereinafter prescribed.

Appointment and qualification of commissioners.

SECTION 3. Every inventor who shall heretofore or at any time hereafter, prior to the first day of June, 1878, have filed with the secretary of state a statement of his intention to compete for the said bounty, and that he has made progress in the construction of a machine for the purpose aforesaid, shall have the right to exhibit his machine to such commissioners, to be by them examined and tried as hereinafter provided.

When inventor shall have right to exhibit invention to commissioners.

SECTION 4. The said commissioners shall meet in the city of Madison on the 10th day of June, 1878, and shall have power to adjourn from day to day, and to

Meeting of commissioners.

Inventors to appear before same.

such other time and place as they may see fit, not exceeding sixty days in all from said 10th day of June, 1878. All persons claiming to have invented a machine of the character and for the purpose herein mentioned shall appear before said commissioners on said 10th day of June, and file with said commissioners a description of the machine which they claim to have invented, with plans and specifications of the same, and the said commissioners thereupon shall enter the name of such claimant in a list to be entitled "Competitors for the bounty provided by law for the invention of a machine, propelled by steam or other motive agents, which shall be a cheap and practical substitute for the use of horses and other animals on the highway and farm." The said commissioners shall thereupon appoint a time and place and prescribe the manner of the trial of said machine or machines.

Tests of invention.

SECTION 5. At the time and place so appointed all persons who have complied with the provisions of this act may produce their machines, and the same shall be subjected to the examination of said commissioners, and to such experiments and tests as said commissioners may require; *provided*, that every machine entering the lists to compete for said bounty shall perform a journey of at least two hundred miles, in a continuous line, on the common road or roads, running as nearly as may be north and south within this state, to be designated by said commissioners and be propelled by its own internal power at the average rate or speed of at least five miles per hour working time. The said machine shall be of such construction and width as to conform to or run in the ordinary track of the common wagon or buggy, now in use, and be able to run backwards or turn out of the road to accommodate other vehicles in passing, and to be able to ascend or descend a grade of at least two hundred feet to the mile.

Award of bounty.

SECTION 6. Upon the conclusion of said trial, which shall commence within twenty days after the 10th day of June, 1878, and shall be concluded within ten days from its commencement, and shall take place within this state, the said commissioners or a majority of them shall determine which of the inventors of said machines, if any, are entitled to said bounty, and whether any of them are; and shall file their determination or award with the secretary of state within ten days after the conclusion of said trial.

Duty of secretary of state to draw warrant.

SECTION 7. It shall be the duty of the secretary of state, upon the filing of such determination, in case

such determination is to the effect that any such inventor is entitled to such bounty, to draw his warrant on the treasury for the sum of ten thousand dollars, which sum, on the presentation of such warrant to him, shall be paid by the state treasurer to the inventor of such successful machine; *provided*, that no money shall be paid under the provisions of this act or of the act to which this is amendatory, unless such payment shall be approved by the governor; *provided further*, that the commissioners appointed under the provisions of this act shall not receive any compensation for their services, but their actual expenses incurred while in the performance of their duties under this act shall be paid by the state.

SECTION 8. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and publication.

Approved March 8, 1877.

[Published March 20, 1877.]

CHAPTER 294.

AN ACT to amend chapter 449 of the private and local laws of 1869, entitled "An act to incorporate the city of Oconto," and the acts amendatory thereof.

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

SECTION 1. Section three of chapter four, of chapter 449 of the private and local laws of 1869 (on page 1124), is hereby amended by adding to said section three the following words: *Provided*, nothing in this section shall prevent the mayor and common council from appropriating a sufficient amount or sum of tax certificates held or owned by said city, to build a bridge or bridges across the Oconto river within said city. And said city is hereby authorized and empowered to erect and maintain new bridge or bridges across the Oconto river in said city, in place of any of the bridges heretofore maintained by said city across said river; *provided*, said bridge or bridges shall be so constructed as not to interfere with the navigation of said river any more than the bridge heretofore maintained at the same point, and all contract or contracts heretofore entered into by said city for the construction of any bridge across said river within said city, not in conflict with

Amended.

Building of
bridges across
Oconto river.