

No. 5, S.]

[Published April 2, 1897.]

CHAPTER 155.

AN ACT in relation to the labeling and marking of convict-made goods, wares and merchandise manufactured in states requiring the labeling and marking of such goods, wares and merchandise.

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

SECTION 1. All goods, wares and merchandise made by convict labor in any penitentiary, prison, reformatory or other establishment in which convict labor is employed in any state, except the state of Wisconsin, and imported, brought or introduced into the state of Wisconsin, shall before being exposed for sale, be branded, labeled or marked as hereinafter provided, and shall not be exposed for sale in any place within this state without such brand, label or mark.

Convict-made goods to be marked or labelled.

SECTION 2. The brand, label or mark hereby required, shall contain at the head or top thereof the words "convict-made," followed by the year and name of the penitentiary, prison, reformatory or other establishment in which it was made, in plain English lettering, of the style and size known as great primer Roman condensed capitals. The brand or mark shall in all cases, where the nature of the article will permit, be placed upon the same, and only where such branding or marking is impossible shall a label be used, and where a label is used it shall be in the form of a paper tag, which shall be attached by wire to each article where the nature of the article will permit, and placed securely upon the box, crate or other covering in which such goods, wares or merchandise may be packed, shipped or exposed for sale.

The brand or label to contain the words "convict-made" in plain English letters.

Said brand, mark or label shall be placed upon the outside of and upon the most conspicuous part of the finished article and its box, crate or covering.

Duty of commissioner of labor statistics and district attorney to enforce the law. —

SECTION 3. It shall be the duty of the commissioner of labor statistics and the district attorneys of the several counties to enforce the provisions of this act, and when, upon complaint or otherwise, the commissioner of labor statistics has reason to believe that this act is being violated, he shall advise the district attorney of the county wherein such alleged violation has occurred, of that fact, giving the information in support of his conclusions, and such district attorney shall at once institute the proper legal proceedings to compel compliance with this act.

Penalty for selling convict-made goods without the mark.

SECTION 4. A person knowingly having in his possession for the purpose of sale, or offering for sale, any convict-made goods, wares or merchandise, manufactured in any state, except the state of Wisconsin, without the brand, mark or label, required by law, or who removes or defaces such brand, mark or label, is guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine not less than one hundred dollars, nor more than five hundred dollars, in the discretion of the court.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and publication.

Approved April 1, 1897.