

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ACTS AND RESOLVES

OF THE

FORTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.

1869.

Published by the Secretary of State, agreeably to Resolves of June 28, 1820,
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1869.

PRIVATE AND SPECIAL LAWS

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.

1869.

CHAP. 218.When to be
voted upon.

thirds of said voters present and voting at said meeting shall be necessary for its acceptance. The acceptance of this act may be voted upon at the annual meeting of said corporation, or at a meeting of the same called by the supervisor and notified and held agreeably to law and the by-laws of said corporation, and if the act shall have been accepted as aforesaid, then after such acceptance all the provisions of this act shall take effect and be in full force thereafter.

Treasurer may
issue scrip.

When payable.

By whom signed.

When to take
effect.

SECT. 3. Upon the acceptance of this act as aforesaid, and upon being authorized thereto by a vote of two-thirds of the legal voters present at any meeting of said corporation, and voting thereon, yea or nay, by ballot, the treasurer of said corporation, for the purpose of raising the sum aforesaid, may issue the scrip of said corporation to the amount of fifty thousand dollars, in certificates of not less than one hundred dollars each, and payable to the holder thereof in such number of years from their date, as said voters may determine, with interest at a rate not exceeding six per centum per annum, with semi-annual warrants attached thereto; the said scrip to be signed by the said treasurer and countersigned by the supervisor of said corporation, but the coupons shall be signed by the treasurer only.

SECT. 4. This act shall take effect from and after its approval by the governor so far as to authorize the calling and holding of the meeting named in the second section.

Approved March 5, 1869.

Chapter 218.

An act to incorporate the Saco River Railroad Company.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in Legislature assembled, as follows:

Corporators.

Corporate name.
Powers and
privileges.

SECT. 1. Charles Hardy, Rufus P. Tapley, James H. McMullan, Joseph G. Deering, F. A. Day, Charles Hill, Thomas H. Cole, R. F. C. Hartley, Abel H. Jelleson, John Gains, Richard M. Chapman, Philip Eastman, John E. Butler, Cornelius Sweetser, Furguson Haines, Charles C. Sawyer, John M. Goodwin, Charles Twambley, Charles A. Shaw, James M. Burbank, E. H. Banks, Marshall Pierce, E. K. Smart, James M. Deering, J. N. Anthoin, William H. Field, William H. Hanson, and Joshua Moore, their associates, successors and assigns, are hereby made and constituted a body politic and corporate by the name of the Saco River Railroad Company, and by this name may sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, and shall have and enjoy all proper remedies at law and in equity to secure and protect them in the exercise and

use of the rights and privileges, and in the performance of the duties hereinafter granted and enjoined, and to prevent all invasions thereof, or interruptions in exercising and performing the same; and the said corporation is hereby authorized and empowered to locate, construct, and finally complete, alter and keep in repair, a railroad with one or more sets of rails or tracks, with all suitable bridges, tunnels, viaducts, turnouts, culverts, drains and all other necessary appendages, from some point in Biddeford or Saco, within the county of York, across the line of the Portland, Saco and Portsmouth Railroad, and to connect therewith, and to the line of the Portland and Rochester Railroad, by a general northwesterly course on either side of the Saco river; and for this purpose said corporation shall have the right to purchase, or to take and hold so much of the land and the real estate of private persons and corporations as may be necessary for the location, construction and convenient operation of said railroad and branch; and they shall also have the right to take, remove and use for the construction and repair of said railroad and appurtenances, any earth, gravel, stone, timber or other materials on or from the land so taken; *provided, however*, this said land so taken shall not exceed six rods in width, except where greater width is necessary for the purposes of excavation or embankment; *and provided also*, that in all cases, said corporation shall pay for such lands, estate or materials so taken and used, such price as they and the owner or respective owners thereof may mutually agree upon; and in case said parties shall not otherwise agree, the said corporation shall pay such damages as shall be ascertained and determined by the county commissioners for the county where such land or other property may be situated, in the same manner and under the same conditions and limitations as are by law provided in the case of damages by the laying out of highways; and the land so taken by said corporation shall be held as lands taken and appropriated for highways. And no application to said commissioners to estimate said damages shall be sustained unless made within three years from the time of taking such land or other property; and in case such railroad shall pass through any woodland or forests, the said company shall have a right to fell or remove any trees standing therein within four rods of such road, which by their liability to be blown down, or from their natural falling, might obstruct or impair said railroad, by paying a just compensation therefor, to be recovered in the same manner as provided for the recovery of other damages in this act.

Location and route.

May take land for location, construction, &c.

May take, remove and use earth, gravel, stone, timber, &c.

Proviso.

Width of road.

Land damages, how ascertained and determined.

Damages, application for payment of, to be made within 3 years.

Trees, removal of, and compensation to owners thereof.

SECT. 2. The capital stock of said corporation shall consist of not less than one thousand nor more than twenty thousand shares, and the immediate government and direction of the affairs of said corporation shall be vested in seven directors, who shall be chosen

Capital stock and shares.

Directors, how chosen; number and powers.

CHAP. 218. by the members of said corporation, in the manner hereinafter provided, and shall hold their office until others shall have been duly elected and qualified to take their place, a majority of whom shall form a quorum for the transaction of business, and they shall elect one of their number to be president of the corporation, and shall have authority to choose a clerk, who shall be sworn to the faithful discharge of his duty, and a treasurer, who shall be sworn, and also give bonds to the corporation, with sureties to the satisfaction of the directors, in a sum not less than ten thousand dollars, for the faithful discharge of his trust; and for the purpose of receiving subscriptions to the said stock, books shall be opened, under the direction of the persons named in the first section of this act, at such times as they may determine, in the cities of Saco and Biddeford, and elsewhere as they shall appoint, to remain open for such a time as they shall direct, of which time and place of subscription public notice shall be given in the newspapers printed in the county of York ten days before the opening of such subscriptions; and any seven of the persons named in the first section of this act are hereby authorized to call the first meeting of said corporation, for the choice of directors and organization, by giving notice in the newspapers published as before named, of the time and place and the purposes of such meeting, at least fourteen days before the time mentioned in such notice.

Quorum.

President, clerk and treasurer.

Oath.

Bonds.

Subscription books, by whom and when opened.

Notice, how given.

First meeting, how called, &c.

Guardians of certain persons authorized to settle claims for damages.

SECT. 3. When said corporation shall take any land or other estate, as aforesaid, of any infant, person non compos mentis, or feme covert, whose husband is under guardianship, the guardian of such infant, or person non compos mentis, and such feme covert, with the guardian of her husband, shall have full power and authority to agree and settle with said corporation for damages or claims for damages by reason of taking such land and estate as aforesaid, and give good and valid releases and discharges therefor.

President and directors, powers of.

SECT. 4. The president and directors for the time being are hereby authorized and empowered by themselves or their agents, to exercise all the powers herein granted to the corporation, for the purposes of locating, constructing and completing said railroad and branch, and for the transportation of persons, goods and property of all descriptions, and all such powers and authority for the management of the affairs of the corporation, as may be necessary and proper to carry into effect the objects of this grant, to purchase and hold land, materials, engines and cars, and other necessary things in the name of the corporation, for the use of said road, and for the transportation of persons, goods and property of all descriptions, to make such equal assessment from time to time on all the shares in said corporation as they may deem expedient and necessary in the execution and progress of the work,

Assessments.

and direct the same to be paid to the treasurer of this corporation. And the treasurer shall give notice of all such assessments; and in case any subscriber or stockholder shall neglect to pay any assessment on his share or shares for the space of thirty days after such notice is given or shall be prescribed by the by-laws of said corporation, the directors may order the treasurer to sell such share or shares at public auction, after giving such notice as may be prescribed, as aforesaid, to the highest bidder, and the same shall be transferred to the purchaser, and such delinquent subscriber or stockholder shall be held accountable to the corporation for the balance, if his share or shares shall sell for less than the assessments due thereon, with the interest and costs of sale; and shall be entitled to the overplus, if his share or shares sell for more than the assessments due, with interest and costs of sale; *provided, however,* that no assessment shall be laid upon any shares in said corporation of a greater amount in the whole than one hundred dollars.

SECT. 5. A toll is hereby granted and established for the sole benefit of said corporation, upon all passengers and property of all descriptions which may be conveyed or transported by them upon said road, at such rates as may be agreed upon and established from time to time by the directors of said corporation. The transportation of persons and property, the construction of wheels, the form of cars and carriages, the rights of roads, and all other matters and things in relation to said road, shall be in conformity with such rules, regulations and provisions, as the directors shall from time to time prescribe and direct.

SECT. 6. The legislature may authorize any other company or companies, to connect any other railroad or railroads with the railroad of said corporation, at any point on the route of said railroad. And said corporation shall receive and transport all persons, goods and property of all descriptions, which may be carried and transported to the railroad of said corporation, on such other railroads as may be hereafter authorized to be connected therewith, at the same rates of toll and freight as may be prescribed by said corporation, so that the rates of freight and toll of such passengers and goods and other property as may be received from such other railroads so connected with said road as aforesaid, shall not exceed the general rates of freight and toll on said railroad, received for freight and passengers at any of the deposits of said corporation.

SECT. 7. If said railroad, in the course thereof, shall cross any private way, the said corporation shall so construct said railroad as not to obstruct the safe and convenient use of such private way; and if said railroad shall, in the course thereof, cross any canal, railroad, or the highway, the said railroad shall be so con-

CHAP. 218.

Notice in such cases. Delinquent, shares of, may be sold.

If shares sell for less than assessment balance may be collected.

Proviso.

Tolls granted.

Construction of wheels, form of cars and carriages, the rights of roads, and all other matters relating to road, to be regulated by directors.

Connections with other roads.

Transportation of persons and property.

Private ways not to be obstructed.

Canal or highway, same.

CHAP. 218. structured as not to obstruct the safe and convenient uses of such canal or highway; and the said corporation shall have power to raise or lower such highway or private way, so that the said railroad, if necessary, may conveniently pass over or under the same, and erect such gate or gates thereon as may be necessary for the safety of travellers on said railroad, highway or private way, and shall keep all bridges and embankments necessary for the same in good repair.

Gates and bridges.

Fences.

SECT. 8. Said railroad corporation shall erect and maintain substantial, legal and sufficient fences on each side of the land taken by them for their railroad, where the same passes through enclosed or improved lands, or lands that may be hereafter improved.

U. S. mail, transportation of, and compensation.

SECT. 9. The said corporation shall at all times, when the postmaster general shall require it, be holden to transport the mail of the United States from and to such place or places on said road as may be required, for a fair and reasonable compensation; and in case the corporation and the postmaster general shall be unable to agree upon the compensation aforesaid, the legislature of the state shall determine the same; and the said corporation, after they shall commence the receiving of tolls, shall be bound at all times to have said railroad in good repair, and a sufficient number of suitable engines, carriages and vehicles for transportation of persons and articles, and be obliged to receive at all proper times and places, and carry the same, when the appropriate tolls therefor shall be paid or tendered; and a lien is hereby created on all articles transported for said tolls, and said corporation fulfilling on its part all and singular the several obligations and duties by this section imposed and enjoined upon it, shall not be held or bound to allow any engine, locomotive, cars, carriages or other vehicle, for the transportation of persons or merchandise, to pass over said railroad, other than its own, furnished and provided for that purpose, as herein enjoined and required; *provided, however*, that said corporation shall be under obligation to transport over said road the passenger and other cars of any other incorporated company that may hereafter construct a railroad connecting with that hereby authorized, such other company being subject to all the provisions of the fifth and sixth sections of this act, as to rates of toll and all other particulars enumerated in said sections.

In case of disagreement, how determined.

Condition of road and facilities for transportation, &c.

Lien.

Track, use of, by other roads.

Proviso.

SECT. 10. If any person shall wilfully and maliciously, or wantonly and contrary to law, obstruct the passage of any carriages on such railroad, or in any way spoil, injure or destroy said railroad, or any part thereof, or anything belonging thereto, or any materials or implements to be employed in the construction of, or for the use of said road, he, she or they, or any person or persons assisting, aiding or abetting such trespass, shall forfeit and pay to said corporation, for every such offence, treble such damages as

Malicious obstruction and damage of corporate property, how punished.

shall be proved before the justice, court or jury before whom the trial shall be had, to be sued for before any justice, or in any court proper to try the same, by the treasurer of the corporation, or other officer whom they may direct, to the use of said corporation; and such offender or offenders shall be liable to indictment by the grand jury of the county within which trespass shall have been committed, for any offence or offences contrary to the above provisions; and upon conviction thereof before any court competent to try the same, shall pay a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars to the use of the state, or may be imprisoned for a term not exceeding five years, at the discretion of the court before whom such conviction may be had.

Penalties.

SECT. 11. Said corporation shall keep in a book for that purpose, a regular account of all their disbursements, expenditures and receipts, and the books of said corporation shall at all times be open to the inspection of the governor and council, and of any committee duly authorized by the legislature, and at the expiration of every year the treasurer of said corporation shall make an exhibit, under oath, to the legislature, of the profits derived from the income of said railroad.

Disbursements and receipts, account of, to be open to inspection, &c.

SECT. 12. All real estate purchased by said corporation for the use of the same under the fourth section of this act, shall be taxable to said corporation by the several cities, towns and plantations in which said land lies, in the same manner as lands owned by private persons, and shall in the valuation list be estimated the same as other adjacent lands of the same quality in such city, town or plantation, and not otherwise; and the shares owned by the respective stockholders, shall be deemed personal estate, and be taxable as such, to the owners thereof, in the places where they reside and have their homes. And whenever the net income of said corporation shall have amounted to ten per centum per annum upon the cost of the road and its appendages and incidental expenses, the directors shall make a special report of the fact to the legislature, from and after which time, one moiety, or such other portion as the legislature may from time to time determine, of the net income of said railroad accruing thereafter over and above ten per centum per annum first to be paid to the stockholders, shall annually be paid over to the treasurer of said corporation, as a tax in the treasury of the state, for the use of the state; and the state may have and maintain an action against said corporation therefor, to recover the same; but no other tax than herein is provided shall ever be levied or assessed on said corporation or any of their privileges or franchises.

Real estate of corporation, when taxable.

Shares, where taxable.

Income and report of same.

SECT. 13. The annual meeting of the members of said corporation shall be holden on the first Monday in January, or such other day as shall be determined by the by-laws, at such time and place

Annual meeting.

CHAP. 218. as the directors for the time being shall appoint, at which meeting the directors shall be chosen by ballot, each proprietor by himself or proxy being entitled to as many votes as he holds shares; and the directors are hereby authorized to call special meetings of the stockholders, whenever they shall deem it expedient and proper, giving such notice as the corporation by their by-laws shall direct.

Legislature may inquire into doings of corporation.

SECT. 14. The legislature shall at all times have the right to inquire into the doings of the corporation, and into the manner in which the privileges and franchises herein and hereby granted may have been used and employed by said corporation, and to correct and prevent all abuses of the same, and to pass any laws imposing fines and penalties upon said corporation which may be necessary more effectually to compel a compliance with the provisions, liabilities and duties hereinbefore set forth and enjoined.

Charter to be void unless road is located and completed within certain time.

SECT. 15. If the said corporation shall not have been organized, and the location, according to actual survey of the route, filed with the county commissioners of the county through which the same shall pass, on or before the first day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-two, or if the said corporation shall fail to complete said railroad to the line of the Portland and Rochester Railroad on or before the first day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-four, in either of the above mentioned cases, this act shall be null and void.

Connections and provisions relating thereto.

SECT. 16. Other railroad companies now incorporated or hereafter to be incorporated in this state, shall have the right to connect their railroads with the railroad of the Saco River Railroad Company, in any town along the line of its road; and no discrimination in the rates of freight or passengers shall be made by said company, nor by any party who may operate its line of railway or any part thereof, between railroads having the right to contract with its railroad as aforesaid; but all passengers and all freight coming from or going to any other road having such right to connect, shall be transported promptly and on terms alike favorable by said company over its own road, or by any party operating the same, and on terms as favorable as the like service is or shall be performed for transportation commencing and terminating on the line of railway of said company.

SECT. 17. This act shall take effect when approved.

Approved March 5, 1869.