

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

HOUSE.

No. 128

STATE OF MAINE.

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE
HUNDRED AND FIVE.

AN ACT to empower the County of Aroostook to purchase and acquire title to lands adapted to agricultural purposes in said county.

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

Section 1. The county of Aroostook is hereby authorized
2 to purchase any township or tract of land in said county
3 adapted to agricultural purposes and desirable for settlement,
4 and for that purpose may issue bonds of said county to an
5 amount equal to one per cent of the valuation of said county
6 as established by the legislature or the State Board of asses-
7 sors in the year nineteen hundred and five.

Sect. 2. There shall be submitted to the voters of the sev-
2 eral towns and organized plantations in said county, within
3 ninety days after the approval of this act, the following prop-

4 osition: "Shall the county of Aroostook purchase lands and
5 open them up for settlement and for this purpose issue bonds
6 of the county to an amount equal to one per cent of the valu-
7 ation of the county?" And it is hereby made the duty of the
8 county commissioners of said county to appoint a day within
9 that time for meetings to vote thereon, and to notify the
10 selectmen of the towns and assessors of plantations thereof,
11 leaving sufficient time for calling said meetings in the usual
12 form for town meetings. Said commissioners shall cause to
13 be prepared printed forms for the warrants and returns of
14 said meetings, and transmit them with their notifications to
15 town and plantation officers, as above prescribed.

Sect. 3. The selectmen of towns and the assessors of
2 plantations in said county shall call meetings on the day
3 appointed, by issuing and posting warrants therefor as for
4 other town meetings. No such meeting shall be opened
5 before ten o'clock in the forenoon or later than one o'clock
6 in the afternoon, and the polls shall be kept open until five
7 o'clock in the afternoon and then be closed.

Sect. 4. At said meetings the vote shall be taken by printed
2 or written ballots, and those in favor of said proposition shall
3 vote "Yes," and those opposed shall vote "No," and the bal-
4 lots cast shall be sorted and counted and the vote declared
5 in open meeting. The municipal officers shall preside as at
6 State elections, and make returns thereof to the county com-
7 missioners by depositing in some postoffice in said county
8 within twenty-four hours after the close of said poll, their
9 return of the votes cast, post paid, directed to the clerk of
10 courts at Houlton in said county, to be transmitted by mail,
11 or personally delivered to said clerk within that time.

Sect. 5. The county commissioners of said county shall
2 meet at the court house at Houlton ten days after said meet-
3 ing and canvass the returns and declare the result, and the
4 result shall be recorded by the clerk of courts, and be certi-

5 fied on the record by said commissioners and clerk, and said
6 record shall be the only record required of the votes cast
7 under this act, and in case a majority of the ballots cast and
8 returned as aforesaid, are in favor of said proposition, said
9 commissioners shall carry out the provisions of this act, as
10 ratified by such vote, in manner hereinafter provided. But
11 if the majority of the ballots cast and returned as aforesaid
12 are opposed to said proposition, then after the expiration of
13 six months from the date of said first meeting, said commis-
14 sioners upon the written application of one hundred or more
15 legal voters residing in said county, shall appoint a second
16 day for meeting to vote upon said proposition, in the same
17 manner heretofore provided for, but no more than two votes
18 shall be thus taken upon this proposition.

Sect. 6. In case said proposition is adopted as hereinbefore
2 provided, the county commissioners of said county may pur-
3 chase for the county any township or tract of land in said
4 county that in their judgment is adapted to agricultural pur-
5 poses and desirable for settlement, the deed to run to the
6 inhabitants of said county.

Sect. 7. Whenever any land shall be purchased as author-
2 ized under this act, said board shall cause the same to be
3 explored, roads located and built, build all bridges that may
4 be required so as to best convene said lands, and cause the
5 same to be surveyed into lots, and an accurate map or plan
6 of all lands surveyed shall be returned to the State land office
7 and entered upon the plan book within three months after
8 the survey is completed, on which shall be laid down all
9 lakes, ponds, rivers, streams, falls, mill sites and roads. The
10 field notes of such surveys shall be deposited in the land office
11 and shall contain a description of the growth, soil, and gen-
12 eral character of each lot, said plan and field notes shall be
13 made in duplicate, one copy of which shall be kept at the land

14 office in Augusta, and one copy in the office of the register of
15 deeds for the district in which the land is located, open for
16 inspection at all times when the registry office is open, or
17 when the land agent or his assistant is there, and the county
18 commissioners shall furnish information about said land to all
19 who seek for it at their office.

Sect. 8. When any township or tract of land has been pur-
2 chased for settlement the county commissioners shall have
3 authority to locate and build all roads that may be required
4 across any adjoining towns, township or townships for the
5 purpose of connecting with the roads or highways located
6 to accommodate any lands purchased as authorized by this
7 act. Roads so located shall be built under the direction of
8 the county commissioners and at the expense of the county.

Sect. 9. The county commissioners shall sell and convey
2 any of the lots that have been surveyed, at a price fixed by
3 them, not less than the cost of said land together with the
4 expense of surveys, to actual settlers, and no more than two
5 hundred acres shall be sold to any one person. The pur-
6 chaser shall pay in cash at the time of the purchase not less
7 than two dollars per acre for each acre purchased, and give
8 his note or notes for the balance, payable in not more than
9 six years, with interest annually, and shall establish his resi-
10 dence on his lot within two years from the date of the cer-
11 tificate, and within four years from such date shall clear on
12 each lot not less than fifteen acres, ten at least of which shall
13 be well laid down to grass, and build a comfortable dwelling
14 on said lot, and the commissioners shall give him at the time
15 of purchase a certificate stating that he has become a pur-
16 chaser of lot or lots therein described, and that he will be
17 entitled to a deed thereof when he has complied with the
18 requirements of the law.

Sect. 10. If the purchaser or his heirs or assigns fail to
2 perform any of the duties required, and to pay his notes, the

3 land shall be forfeited to the county and said commissioners
4 may dispose of it to another person.

Sect. 11. Said commissioners may appoint some suitable
2 person in the vicinity to superintend the location of settlers
3 and the performance of their several duties.

Sect. 12. Said commissioners are hereby authorized to
2 convey by deed in the name of the inhabitants of said county,
3 to any purchaser of land as aforesaid. Before giving a deed
4 to any purchaser of the land, they shall ascertain whether
5 the requirements of the law have been complied with by such
6 purchaser, his heirs or assigns, and for this purpose the cer-
7 tificate of the person appointed by them to superintend the
8 location of settlers under such regulations and modes of
9 proof as they may prescribe shall be evidence, or they may
10 make personal examination of the land, and when such con-
11 ditions have been complied with, each purchaser, his heirs
12 or assigns shall be entitled to an absolute deed of said land.

Sect. 13. Any lawful holder of the said commissioner's
2 certificate of a lot of land purchased of the county under the
3 provisions of this act, may commence and maintain in his
4 own name, any action relating to the same, against any party
5 except the county or any person claiming under the county,
6 by a subsequent title the same as if he held a deed conveying
7 to him the county's title in the land described in the certifi-
8 cate at the date thereof.

Sect. 14. The actual settler who has purchased land of the
2 county under the provisions of this act, may cut thereon any
3 timber he needs for building or fencing thereof, and the
4 county commissioners may permit the purchasers to cut any
5 timber or lumber on said lot by paying to the county the mar-
6 ket price per thousand feet for the same, to be allowed in
7 payment of the notes given in payment for said land, and said
8 commissioners are authorized to issue permits for the cutting

9 of timber or lumber upon lots that in their opinion are not
10 suitable for settlement, or upon such lots as remain unsold.

Sect. 15. Any purchaser of land under this act having a
2 wife, shall not convey the same by deed unless his wife joins
3 therein and acknowledges it to be her free act and deed before
4 a proper magistrate.

Sect. 16. In case such proposition is adopted and accepted
2 as hereinbefore provided, then the treasurer of Aroostook
3 county is hereby authorized to procure by loan on the faith
4 and responsibility of said county, money for the use of said
5 county to carry into effect the provisions of this act, and for
6 that purpose notes or obligations signed by said treasurer,
7 and countersigned by the chairman of the board of county
8 commissioners, shall be issued with interest-bearing coupons
9 attached, for the payment thereof at such times as they, the
10 said commissioners, shall deem expedient, but such loan shall
11 not exceed one per cent of the valuation of the county as
12 established by the legislature or the State Board of Assessors
13 in nineteen hundred and five, and the proceeds of said bonds
14 together with all sums received from the sale of lands to
15 settlers and receipts from the cutting of timber or lumber,
16 collected by the commissioners, shall be held by said treas-
17 urer as a fund for carrying out the purposes of this act. And
18 said commissioners are authorized to draw warrants on the
19 treasurer of the county in such sums as may be required from
20 time to time to be paid from said fund.

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

STATE OF MAINE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Augusta, February 15, 1905.

Tabled pending reference to a committee by Mr. POWERS of
Houlton and ordered printed.

E. M. THOMPSON, *Clerk.*