

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ACTS AND RESOLVES

PASSED BY THE

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

A. D. 1848.

Published by the Secretary of State, agreeably to Resolves of June 28, 1820, February 26, 1840,
and March 16, 1842.

Augusta:

WILLIAM T. JOHNSON, PRINTER TO THE STATE.

1848.

PRIVATE AND SPECIAL LAWS

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

1848.

Chapter 184.

An act to establish the Androscoggin Rail Road Company.

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

Corporators.

SECT. 1. William Kilbourn, Joseph Additon, John E. Baxter, George Gage, Cyrus G. Morrill, Dimon Furnel, John F. W. Gould, Leavitt Lothrop, Ensign Otis, John Gillmore, Josiah Day, second, Samuel Marr, Thomas Francis, Isaac Boothby, George K. Stinchfield, Giddings Lane, Ozias Millett, Issachar Lane, Walter Foss, Uriah Foss, Lewis Hunton, David Benjamin, William B. Small, Francis F. Haines, Ezekiel Treat, junior, Cyrus Morrison, James Ford, Stillman Noyes, Aruna Holmes, Silas Jones, junior, Francis Lawrence, Elisha Hayes, Veranes Niles, John Wyman, Joseph N. White, Elisha H. Pettingill, Elisha Pettingill and Comfort Pettingill, their associates, successors and assigns, are hereby made and constituted a body politic and corporate by the name of the Androscoggin Rail Road Company, and by that 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 invasion thereof or interruption in performing the same. And the said corporation are hereby empowered and authorized to locate, construct and finally complete, alter and keep in repair a rail road with one or more sets of rails or tracks, with all suitable bridges, tunnels and viaducts, turnouts, culverts, drains, and all other necessary appendages from some point or place in the line of the Androscoggin and Kennebec Rail Road either in the town of Greene, or in the town of Monmouth, and thence running northerly through the towns of Monmouth or Greene and Leeds and East Livermore, Wayne, Fayette or either of said towns to Jay bridge in such a route as the directors of said corporation in the exercise of their best judgment or discretion shall judge most favorable and best calculated to promote the public convenience and carry into effect the intentions and purposes of this act. And said corporation are hereby invested with all the powers, privileges and immunities which are or may be necessary to carry into effect the purposes and objects of this act as herein set forth. And for this purpose said corporation shall have the right to purchase or to take and hold so much of the land and other real estate of private persons and corporations as may be necessary for the location,

Corporate name.

Powers, privileges and liabilities.

Authorized to locate and construct a rail road, &c.

Course and direction of route.

Authorized to take and hold land and other real estate.

construction and convenient operation of said rail road; and they shall also have the right to take, remove and use, for the construction and repair of said rail road and appurtenances, any earth, gravel, stone, timber or other materials on or from the land so taken; *provided however*, that said land so taken shall not exceed six rods in width except where greater width is necessary for the purpose of excavation or embankment; and *provided also*, that in all cases said corporation shall pay for said lands, estate or material so taken and used, such price as they and the owner or respective owners thereof may agree on; and in case said party shall not otherwise agree, then 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 public 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 rail road shall pass through any wood lands or forests the said company shall have a right to fell or remove any trees standing therein within four rods of said road, which by their liability to be blown down or by their natural falling might obstruct or impair said rail road, by paying a just compensation therefor to be recovered in the same manner as is provided for the recovery of other damages in this act. And furthermore said corporation shall have all the powers, privileges and immunities and be subject to all the duties and liabilities provided and prescribed respecting rail roads in chapter eighty-one of the revised statutes not inconsistent with the express provisions of this charter.

SECT. 2. 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 or estate aforementioned and give good and valid releases and discharges therefor.

SECT. 3. The capital stock of said corporation shall consist

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—to take and remove earth, gravel, and other materials from the land so taken.

Proviso.

Further proviso.

Damages, how ascertained and determined, if parties shall not agree.

Application for damages to be made within three years.

Right to fell and remove trees.

General powers, privileges and liabilities.

When land is taken of any infant, person non compos mentis or feme-covert.

Capital stock.

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Directors.

President.

Clerk.

Treasurer.

Bond.

Books of sub-
scription to be
opened.Twenty days'
notice to be giv-
en.

First meeting.

By-laws.

Powers vested in
president and di-
rectors.

shares and the immediate government and direction of the affairs of said corporation shall be vested in seven, nine or eleven directors, who shall be chosen by the members of said corporation in the manner hereinafter provided, and shall hold their offices until others shall have been duly elected and qualified to take their places, 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 board who shall also be president of the corporation, and they 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 who shall likewise 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 subscription to the said stock, books shall be opened under the direction of the persons named in the first section of this act at such time as they may determine in the towns of Wilton, East Livermore, Leeds and Lewiston and in the cities of Bath and Portland in this state, and also in the city of Boston in the state of Massachusetts and elsewhere as they shall appoint, to remain open for ten successive days, of which time and place of subscription public notice shall be given in some newspaper printed in Lewiston, Portland and Boston, twenty days at least previous to the opening of said subscription, and in case the amount subscribed shall exceed five thousand shares the same shall be distributed among all the subscribers according to such regulations as the persons having charge of the opening of the subscription books shall prescribe before the opening of said books. 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 by giving notice in one or more newspapers published in the towns and cities last above named and of the time and place and the purpose of such meeting at least twenty days before the time mentioned in such notice.

SECT. 4. Said corporation shall have power to make, ordain and establish all necessary by-laws and regulations consistent with the laws and constitution of this state, for their own government and for the due and orderly conducting of their affairs and the management of their property.

SECT. 5. 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 purpose of locating, constructing, and completing said rail road and for the transportation of persons, goods, and property of all descriptions, and all such power 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 the progress of the work, and direct the same to be paid to the treasurer of the 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 as shall be prescribed by the by-laws of the 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 amount of the assessment due thereon with the interest and costs of sale; and shall be entitled to the overplus, if his share or shares shall 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 fifty dollars.

Assessments.

Notice to be given.
If subscriber or stockholder shall neglect to pay said assessments.

SECT. 6. 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 rate 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 forms of cars and carriages, the weights of loads, 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.

Toll granted.

Construction of wheels, forms of cars, carriages, &c.

SECT. 7. Said corporation is hereby authorized and empowered to connect, if it shall elect so to do, with the Androscoggin and Kennebec rail road at any point in either of the

Authorized to connect with the Androscoggin and Kennebec Rail Road.

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towns mentioned in the first section of this act which the directors of the said corporation may select; and said Androscoggin and Kennebec rail road shall receive and transport all persons, goods and property of all descriptions which may be carried and transported to its rail road on said Androscoggin rail road at the same rates of freight and toll on such passengers and goods and other property as may be prescribed by said Androscoggin and Kennebec rail road company so that the rates of freight and toll on such passengers, goods and other property, as may be so received from said Androscoggin rail road shall not exceed the general rates of freight and toll on its road received for freight and passengers at any of the deposits of said corporation; *provided also*, that the Androscoggin and Kennebec rail road, if they shall elect so to do, are hereby authorized to connect with the said Androscoggin rail road subject to the provisions of an act relating to rail roads, approved March seventh, one thousand eight hundred and forty-two.

Proviso.

Not to obstruct the safe and convenient use of any private way, canal, turnpike, or other highway.

SECT. 8. If the said rail road in the course thereof shall cross any private way, the said corporation shall so construct said rail road as not to obstruct the safe and convenient use of such private way, and if the said rail road shall in the course thereof cross any canal, turnpike, rail road, or other highway, the said rail road shall be so constructed as not to obstruct the safe and convenient use of such canal, turnpike, or other highway, and the said corporation shall have power to raise or lower such turnpike, highway, or private way, so that said rail road, if necessary, may conveniently pass under or over the same, and erect such gate or gates thereon as may be necessary for the safety of travelers on said turnpike, rail road, highway, or private way.

To maintain in good repair all bridges, &c., which they may construct.

SECT. 9. Said rail road corporation shall constantly maintain in good repair all bridges with their abutments and embankments, which they may construct for the purpose of conducting their rail road over any canal, turnpike, highway, or private way, or for constructing such private way or turnpike over said rail road.

Authorized to bridge any rivers, lakes, &c.

SECT. 10. If said road shall cross any lakes, ponds, rivers, or streams, the said corporation are hereby authorized and empowered to erect for the safe and exclusive travel on the said rail road, a bridge across each of said rivers, lakes, ponds or streams.

Fences to be erected.

SECT. 11. Said rail road corporation shall erect and maintain legal and sufficient fences on each side of the land taken by

them for their rail road when the same passes through enclosed lands or lands improved, or lands that may be improved hereafter, and for neglect to erect and maintain such fence, said corporation shall be liable to be indicted in the district court for the county where such fence shall be insufficient, and be fined in such sum as shall be adjudged necessary to repair the same, and such fine shall be expended for the erection or repair of said fence under the direction of an agent appointed by the court as in case of fines imposed upon towns for deficiency of highways.

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Penalty for neglect.

SECT. 12. The said corporation shall at all times when the post master general shall require it be holden to transport the mail of the United States from and to such place and places on said road as required, for a fair and reasonable compensation. And in case the corporation and post master general shall be unable to agree upon the compensation aforesaid the legislature of the state shall determine the same. And said corporation after they shall commence receiving of tolls, shall be bound at all times to have said rail road in good repair and a suitable number of suitable engines, carriages and vehicles for the transportation of persons and articles and be obliged to receive at all proper times and places and convey the same when the appropriate tolls therefor shall be paid and tendered; and a lien is hereby created on all articles transported for said tolls. And the said corporation fulfilling on its part all and singular the obligations and duties by this section enjoined and imposed 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 rail road, 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 rail road connecting with that hereby authorized, such other company being subject to all the provisions of the sixth and seventh sections of this act as to rates of tolls and all other particulars enumerated in said sections.

Holden to transport U. S. mail.

Bound to keep said rail road in good repair, &c.

Lien created for toll.

Said corporation by compliance with requisitions of this act may control their said road.

Proviso.

SECT. 13. If any person shall willfully and maliciously, or wantonly and contrary to law obstruct the passage of any carriage on said rail road, or in any way spoil, injure or destroy said rail road or any part thereof or any thing 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

Malicious mischief and trespass.

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Forfeiture.

forfeit and pay to said corporation for every such offense treble such damages as shall be proved before the justice, court or jury, before whom the trial shall be had, to be sued for before any justices 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 has been committed for any offense or offenses 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.

Fine and penalty on conviction.

Books of receipts and disbursements to be open to governor and council, &c.

SECT. 14. 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 net profits derived from the income of said rail road.

Annual return.

Taxation of real estate.

SECT. 15. All real estate purchased by said corporation for the use of the same under the fifth section of this act shall be taxable to said corporation by the several towns, cities 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 real estate 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 of such other portion as the legislature may from time to time determine of the net income of said rail road accruing thereafter over and above ten per centum per annum, first to be paid to the stockholders, shall annually be paid over by the treasurer of said corporation as a tax into 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 re-

Valuation.

Shares deemed as personal estate.

When net income exceeds ten per cent, a certain portion of the overplus to accrue to the state.

cover the same. But no other tax, than herein is provided, shall ever be levied or assessed on said corporation on any of their privileges or franchises.

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No other tax to be levied on said road.

SECT. 16. The annual meeting of the members of said corporation shall be holden on the first Monday of August, or such other day as shall be determined by the by-laws, at such time and place 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.

Annual meeting

Directors, how chosen.

Special meetings.

SECT. 17. 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, but not to impose any other or further duties, liabilities or obligations.

Power of legislature to inquire into the doings of said corporation.

SECT. 18. 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 or counties through which the same shall pass on or before the first day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-three, or if said corporation shall fail to complete said rail road on or before the first day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-eight, in either of the abovementioned cases this act shall be null and void.

Time for location and completion of said road.

[Approved August 10, 1848.]