

of Cass county, to submit the question of a removal of the seat of justice of said county to the qualified voters thereof, at the next April election.

Majority &c.

§ 2. That if it shall be found upon a canvass of the votes, that a majority are for a removal, then the seat of justice shall be located under the direction of Peter Hedge, Barton

Com'rs ap'nt'd.

Garvin, and Jeremiah Bradshall, of Cass county, who are hereby appointed commissioners to locate the same.

Take effect.

§ 3. This act to be in force from and after its publication in the Iowa Capital Reporter, and Council Bluff Bugle: *Provided*, the State incurs no expense in the publication.

APPROVED January 25th, 1855.

The foregoing act was published in the Iowa Capital Reporter, February 7, 1855.

GEO. W. McCLEARY Sec y of State.

## CHAPTER 153.

### STATE LAND OFFICE.

AN ACT to establish a State Land Office, with a Register thereof, and to define his duties.

Established,

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa*, That for the purpose of preserving a proper record of all lands belonging to the State, and of their final disposition, and of transacting business in relation thereto, there shall be a State Land Office established at the Seat of Government, with a Register thereof, who shall be elected by the people on the first Monday in April next, and shall hold his office for two years, and until his successor is elected and qualified.

Election of Register.

Furniture and books.

§ 2. The State Land Office shall be furnished by the Secretary of State with a suitable room, and with the necessary furniture and stationery, and a sufficient number of tract books, and other necessary books for records; said tract books to be ruled in a manner similar to those used in the United States Land Offices, so as to record each tract

by its smallest legal subdivision, its section, township, range, and to whom sold, and what price per acre, to whom patented, and when.

§ 3. Separate tract books shall be kept for the University lands, the saline lands, the half million acre grant, the sixteenth sections, the swamp lands, and such other lands as the State now owns, or may hereafter own, so that each description of State lands shall be kept separate from all others, and each set of tract books shall be a complete record of all the lands to which they refer. Separate tract books.

§ 4. The Governor of the State, together with the Register and Receiver of the United States Land Office in Iowa City, are hereby appointed commissioners to assist in arranging with said Register the plan on which the books and records of the State Land Office shall be kept, so that they may present and preserve an accurate chain of title from the General Government to the ultimate purchasers of each smallest legal subdivision of land, and to preserve a permanent record in books, suitably indexed, of all correspondence with the General Government, or any of its departments, in relation to State lands, and to preserve, by proper records thereof, copies of the original lists furnished by the State selecting agents, and of all other papers in relation to State lands, which are of permanent interest. Commissioners to arrange plan.

§ 5. The Register of the State Land Office, immediately after being qualified, as hereinafter provided, shall proceed to take possession of all books, papers, plans, or maps, now in the possession of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, which relate to the selection, or compose a part of the records of any description of State lands, and of the records of patents issued by the State, in the office of the Secretary of State; and if any dispute should arise between said Register of the State Land Office and any officer of whom books or other documents are demanded, under the provisions of this section, the Governor of this State, and the Register and Receiver of the Land Office in Iowa City, as commissioners as aforesaid, shall determine the same, and their decision shall be final. Duty of Register.

§ 6. All patents for State lands shall issue from the Patents.

State Land Office, and shall be signed by the Governor, and recorded by the Register, and each patent shall contain therein a marginal certificate of the book and page on which it is recorded, shall be signed by the Register, and all patents shall be delivered to the patentees free of charge.

Requisition of  
S. P. I.

§ 7. No patents for any portion of the State lands now set apart for educational purposes shall issue, except upon the written requisition of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, which requisition the Register of the State Land Office shall file and record.

Commissioner  
of D. R., I. &c.

§ 8. In like manner no patents or conveyances of Des Moines Improvement lands shall issue, except on the written requisitions of the Commissioner thereof; and no patent shall issue for any other lands belonging to the State, except upon the written requisition of the person or persons specially charged with the custody of the same, or in pursuance of law: *Provided*, that all patents issued for any of the Des Moines River Improvement lands, shall contain the

Saving clause

following clause: "Nothing in this patent shall be construed into a warrant by the State against any claim or claims to said lands arising out of any pre-existing contract in relation to said lands, made or entered into by the State or any of its agents, nor as intended to interfere with any of the rights of any person or company, to any of said lands accruing by virtue of any law of this State, or any contract under the provisions of any of said laws.

Salary.

§ 9. The salary of the Register of the State Land Office shall be \$1000 per annum, and he is hereby authorized to employ a clerk in said office, by the advice and consent of the Governor of the State.

Clerk.

Business hours

§ 10. The State Land Office shall be kept open for business during business hours of every day, and shall have the personal attendance of the Register; the documents therein shall be subject to inspection, in the presence of the Register, by parties having an interest therein, and certified copies thereof, signed by the Register, shall be deemed *prima facie* evidence of the fact to which they relate, in all courts in the State, and they shall be furnished by the Register for a reasonable compensation, an account of

Inspection.

Copies

which shall be kept, and the amount thereof paid quarterly into the treasury.

§ 11. The Governor and the Register and Receiver of the Land Office at Iowa City, acting as commissioners as aforesaid, shall have power to make all needful rules and regulations, not inconsistent with this act, for giving to the State Land Office a proper efficiency and correctness, and for rendering it a public convenience; and for this purpose they shall enter and sign their orders in this respect in a minute book, to be kept in said Land Office, and the orders so signed by a majority of them, shall be binding on the Register.

§ 12. This act to be in force from and after its publication in the Iowa Capital Reporter and Republican.

APPROVED January 25th, 1855.

I certify that the above act was published in the Iowa Capital Reporter and Iowa Republican, on the 9th day of February, 1855,

GEO. W. McCLEARY, Secretary of State.

## CHAPTER 154.

### ESCHEATS.

AN ACT to provide for the relinquishment of escheated lands.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa*, That if any person within five years after an inquisition found vesting any lands in this State as an escheat, shall appear and claim said land vested in the State aforesaid, may file their petition in the District Court, as a Court of Chancery of the county where said claimed estate shall be, setting forth the nature of his claim, and praying that said estate may be relinquished to him.

§ 2. A copy of the petition shall be served on the At-Service.