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# POST AND GAZETTE.

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THURSDAY, MAY 21, 1885.

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## Adirondaek Forest Preservation.

A bill comprising the following provisions has been passed by both branches of the legislature. Three forest commissioners to be appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate, and at their first meeting they shall divide themselves, by lot, so that the term of one shall expire in two years, one in four years and one in six years from the first day of February next ensuing, after which their terms of office shall be six years, one to be appointed in January, 1888, and one every second year thereafter. The commissioners to serve without compensation, except for actual expenses incurred.

The Forest commission to have power to appoint a Forest Warden, Forest Inspectors, Clerk, Foresters and Agents, as they may deem necessary.

"All the lands now owned or which may hereafter be acquired by the State of New York, within the counties of Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Herkimer, Lewis, Saratoga, St. Lawrence, Warren, Washington, Greene, Ulster, Delaware and Sullivan, shall constitute and be known as the forest preserve. The lands now or hereafter constituting the forest preserve shall be forever kept as wild forest lands. They shall not be sold, nor shall they be leased or taken by any person or corporation, public or private."

The Forest Commission to have sole charge of this forest preserve, with power to prescribe rules for its care and administration. The wardens, inspectors, foresters, &c., may arrest trespassers without warrant, and full provision is made for special legal proceedings in such cases, and attorneys may be employed to act in the name of the attorney general. In cases where the State owns undivided interest with any persons action may be brought for partition. The Forest Commission shall make a report in January of each year to the Legislature.

The supervisor of each town in these counties shall by virtue of his office be the protector of lands in such town, subject to instructions from the Forest Commission, and it is his duty to report to the district attorney for prosecution all cases of spoliation or injury on such property. Supervisors may also be required to appoint forest guards, who shall have such powers and perform duties and receive such pay as the Forest Commission may determine.

The Commission shall take measures, by approval of the regents of the university, and superintendent of public instruction, for awakening an interest in behalf of forestry in the public schools, academies and colleges of the State, and for imparting instruction on the subject; and shall also prepare tracts giving information and advice on the subject.

Every supervisor in these counties is constituted, *ex-officio* fire warden of his town, and in towns particularly exposed to damage by fire the supervisor may divide his town into two or more districts, and appoint one resident in each, and upon discovery of a forest fire the warden must take measures for its extinction, and persons on whom he calls must help, under penalty of \$5 to \$20 fine, and in cases of forest fires wardens shall have the power of justices of peace with reference to ordering of persons to assist in extinguishment of fires, and no action for trespass shall be brought, on account of entry made upon premises in going to or extinguishing such fires, and fences may be destroyed, furrows plowed, and back fires set under direction of the fire wardens; and in case of forest fires the supervisor shall report to the Forest Commission the area burned over, damage, etc.,

Every railroad whose road passes through waste or forest land shall twice each year cut and burn off or remove all brush, etc., and all locomotives running through forest lands shall be provided with arrangements for preventing the escape of fire from their ash pans, also with spark arresters on their smokestacks, and no coals or ashes must be deposited on the track in the vicinity of woodlands, and railroad employes must help extinguish forest fires near the line of their road. The Forest Commission must post rules for the prevention and suppression of forest fires in school houses, inns, saw mills, lumber camps, etc., For the carrying out of these provisions \$15,000 is appropriated.—*Plattsburgh Rep.*