

8 OF 1881.

TO MAKE PROVISIONS FOR DETERMINING THE LIMITS OF FORESTS UNDER THE PROTECTION, CONTROL, AND MANAGEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT.

ROBERT BIDDULPH.]

[June 27, 1881.

Definition.

1. The expression "Forest Land" wherever used in this Law means all uncultivated land bearing forest trees, whether standing in masses or scattered about, or which is covered with scrub and brushwood which may serve for the purposes of fuel or for making charcoal or for any like use, and all land on which are plantations of young forest trees, grown either naturally or by the hand of man.

Forest lands not private property are state forests.

2. All forest lands in the Island, except such as are the private property of any person or body corporate, are under the protection, control, and management of the Government and are in this Law referred to as "State Forests." Provided that the net revenue arising from any forest land hereby defined to be a state forest which may not actually be the property of the Government of the Island, shall be accounted for and paid to the persons or communities (if any) who are the actual owners of such forest land.

Any question arising as to whether any forests or parts of forests belong to any community shall be decided in the same manner as is provided for the delimitation of state forests under this Law.

State forests under protection of Government.

3. All state forests shall be deemed to be lands declared to be under the protection, control, and management of the Government under the provisions of the Forest Law, 1879.

Reservation of rights of individuals.

Provided that nothing in that Law or in this Law contained shall hinder any person from doing any act or exercising any rights which he might have been lawfully entitled to do or exercise in or over any forest at any time prior to the passing of the Forest Law, 1879.

No future right to be acquired over state forests without grant.

4. No right shall hereinafter be acquired in or over any state forest except under a grant or contract made by or on behalf of the Government.

Commission to determine limits.

5. As soon as conveniently may be after the passing of this Law, there shall be appointed one or more commissions to ascertain and determine the limits of the state forests.

Every such commission shall be appointed by the High Commissioner, and shall consist of not less than three persons.

Powers of Commission.

6. For the purpose of delimiting state forests every such commission shall have all the powers and authorities which by the Revenue