

The House met at 7½ o'clock P. M., and was called to order by the Speaker.
A quorum present.
Mr. Dilley moved that S. F. No. 89 be taken from general orders, and put upon its third reading.
Which motion did not prevail.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS.

The following communication was received from his Excellency the Governor:

STATE OF MINNESOTA,
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
St. Paul, February 19, 1877. }

HON. J. L. GIBBS,
Speaker of House of Representatives.

SIR: I return herewith, without my approval—

H. F. No. 215, "An act to provide for the discharge of indigent convicts within the State of Minnesota."

This act contemplates an invasion of the executive prerogative in a direction which seems to me to endanger the public welfare. I can see no good reason why the circumstances under which the discharge of convicts is proposed by this bill, should not be left to the discretion of the Governor, with the other facts to be considered in determining the wisdom of granting pardons.

In cases where the court, under the supposition that the convict is possessed of property, imposes a fine as its sole sentence, and prescribes imprisonment until such fine be paid, this act would furnish any easy mode of escape after an imprisonment of only six months, which in many cases would be a totally inadequate punishment for the crime committed.

While the exercise of the pardoning power might, as in some of the States, be safely entrusted to a board of careful and judicious men, and the Governor be thus willingly relieved of the sole performance of a difficult and painful duty, I cannot believe that a power involving such grave responsibility should be vested to any extent in such officers as Court Commissioners as is proposed.

Very respectfully,

J. S. PILLSBURY,
Governor.

On motion of Mr. Comstock,
H. F. No. 215 was laid on the table.

REPORTS OF SELECT COMMITTEES.

Mr. Hall A. R., from the special committee, to whom was referred S. F. No. 53, A bill to establish and maintain a system of public schools in the State of Minnesota,
Reports the same back with amendment, recommending that it do pass as amended.
Report adopted.
S. F. No. 53, A bill to establish and maintain a system of public schools in the State of Minnesota,