

MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS.

Mr. Anderson moved that the foregoing invitation be accepted.
Which motion prevailed.

EXECUTIVE AND OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS.

STATE OF MINNESOTA,
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT.
St. Paul, March 18, 1927.

Hon. W. I. Nolan, President of the Senate.

Sir: I have the honor to inform you that on March 17th, I approved and signed and on March 18th deposited in the office of the Secretary of State the following Senate Files:

S. F. No. 245: An Act to amend Section 3386, General Statutes of Minnesota 1923, relating to reinsurance of individual risks by domestic life companies. (Received March 16, 1927.)

S. F. No. 411: An Act to amend Sections 41, 53 and 74 of Chapter 415, Laws 1925, relating to the establishment, construction and repair of public drainage systems. (Received March 15, 1927.)

S. F. No. 866: An Act to fix the salary of county auditors in counties in this State containing twenty-four (24) congressional townships with an acreage of not to exceed five hundred fifty-five thousand (555,000) acres and not less than five hundred fifty thousand (550,000) acres. (Received March 17, 1927.)

Respectfully yours,

THEODORE CHRISTIANSON,
Governor.

STATE OF MINNESOTA,
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT.
St. Paul, March 17, 1927.

Hon. W. I. Nolan, President of the Senate.

Sir: I herewith return without my approval Senate File No. 187, A bill for "An Act to legalize certain payments of salary heretofore made to Auditors in certain counties."

By reason of a reduction of taxable valuation of certain counties, the salaries of county auditors therein were decreased under the provisions of Section 837, General Statutes 1923. The Legislature thereupon enacted Chapter 146, Laws 1925, in which it was provided that said Section 837 should "not reduce the salary or clerk hire in the office of the county auditors during the term for which he is or was elected."

The Attorney General, on April 30, 1925, held that a county auditor whose salary had been so decreased under the provisions of said Section 837, prior to the passage of said Chapter 146, by a decrease in the taxable valuation of his county, was still left in the same class and was entitled to receive only the compensation provided for such lower class.

Thereafter the Public Examiner forwarded copies of said opinion to the auditors of counties, the valuations of which had dropped them into a lower classification, and advised such auditors that the lower salaries would be effective.

The auditors of three of the counties affected have, despite said ruling of the Attorney General and said instructions from the Public Examiner, continued to draw a salary higher than that allowed by law.

My veto of the present bill, which seeks to legalize the salaries so paid, is based on two grounds:

1. I deem it of questionable public policy to legalize acts done in violation of existing statutes as interpreted by the Attorney General. If there had been any disposition to question the Attorney General's opinion, the proper recourse should be to the courts and not to the Legislature.

2. Inasmuch as the payment of such salaries as have been made in violation of existing statutes, would, under the terms of this bill, be validated only in the counties where such salaries had actually been paid, there would be a serious discrimination against those county auditors who chose to observe the statutes in favor of those who elected to disregard them.

Respectfully submitted,

THEODORE CHRISTIANSON,
Governor.

MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS—CONTINUED.

Mr. Mangan moved that S. F. No. 187, with the veto message from His Excellency, the Governor, accompanying it, giving the reasons for his veto, be laid on the table.

Which motion prevailed.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS.

Mr. Adams introduced—

S. F. No. 980, A bill for an act to amend Sections 1327 and 1329, General Statutes 1923, relative to the deposit of funds of cities not under home rule charters.

Which was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Cities of the First Class.

Mr. Hanson introduced—

S. F. No. 981, A bill for an act to amend Subdivision 2, Section 2571, General Statutes 1923, relating to public highways.

Which was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Public Highways.

Messrs. Adams, Morin, Hanson and Bessette introduced—

S. F. No. 982, A bill for an act relating to the crossing of public highways by logging railroads.

Which was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Public Highways.

Mr. Landby introduced—

S. F. No. 983, A bill for an act relating to proceedings for repair of public drainage systems and providing for appeal, and trial by jury in connection therewith.

Which was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Drainage.