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Emergency Measures/Disciplinary Matters

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EMERGENCY MEASURES

The following legislation, carrying the emergency clause, became effective on the dates noted:

Senate Bills—17, appropriation for bridge on state highway 17 in Walsh County, Feb. 7; 82, limiting bond issues in cities, Feb. 11; 83, providing for municipal airports and landing fields, Feb. 11; 90, appropriation for Red River Bridge at Grand Forks, Feb. 11; 73, appropriation for Veterans Service Commissioner, Feb. 16; 77, appropriation for Fargo Bridge, Feb. 16; 57, appropriation for buildings at A. C., Feb. 18; 146, appropriation for mill and elevator fact finding committee, Feb. 18; 9, providing qualifications of abstracters of title, Feb. 21; and 78, providing compensation of assessors in unorganized townships and villages, Feb. 27.

House Bills—45, providing for distribution of seedlings by School of Forestry, Feb. 9; 50, validating certain acts of Highway Commission and Boards of County Commissioners, re Sec. 22, Chap. 159, 1927 Laws, Feb. 13; 51, validating certain acts re bridges across state lines, Feb. 13; 56, relates to extension of sewer assessments in cities, Feb. 13; 70, appropriation for Box Elder Bridge, Feb. 11; 72, appropriation for Wahpeton Bridge, Feb. 15; 24, appropriation for inspections and eradication of bee diseases, Feb. 15; 75, appropriation for Hospital for Insane, Feb. 15; 52, relates to foreclosure of mortgages held by Board of University and School Lands, Feb. 15; 57, relates to officers empowered to administer oaths, Feb. 15; 65, authorizes restriction on use of roads under certain conditions, Feb. 19; 108, relates to satisfaction and release of mortgages assigned by Bank of North Dakota to State Treasurer; and 80, relates to validation of certain special assessments in cities.

DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

The following is from the State Bar Board, in accordance with its new policy of giving publicity to disciplinary matters coming before it:

"In the fall of 1925 an attorney was retained to probate a foreign will and petition for probate was duly made and a date of hearing set, but the citation was never served on the respondents. Repeated letters were written to the attorney and left unanswered. Eighteen months later the matter was placed in the hands of attorneys in a western state, who immediately wrote the attorney, asking specific questions as to the status of the probate. No answer was returned.

"These attorneys then referred the matter, informally, to the Secretary of the Bar Board, who received a response from the local attorney, stating that the matter would have immediate attention. Nothing was done, however. During February, April and July, 1928, other letters were sent to the local attorney, which, again, were left unanswered. In September, 1928, formal charges were filed in the Supreme Court. The Court directed the Clerk (who is also Secretary of the Bar Board) to request an explanation from the local attorney, but even that request remained unanswered.

"The matter was then referred to the Bar Board, which made a thorough investigation. Thereupon, the attorney 'got busy,' served the citation, and proceeded with the probate. The Board, finding that the attorney was exceedingly negligent and exceedingly discourteous, not only to his clients and their outside attorneys, but to the Supreme Court, and that no reasonable excuse existed or was offered, recommended that the attorney be reprimanded. Such reprimand has been administered."