

Prosecutions—
how conducted.

SEC. 3. All prosecutions under the provisions of this act shall be carried on in the name of the state, and be prosecuted under the direction of the attorney general.

When act to
take effect.

SEC. 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after September first, eighteen hundred and seventy-five.

Approved March 4, 1875.

CHAPTER LXXXIX.

AN ACT FOR THE PROTECTION OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND READING ROOMS.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota :

Penalty for de-
facing or injur-
ing books of
public libra-
ries.

SECTION 1. Any person who shall willfully cut, mutilate, mark, tear, deface, or otherwise injure or destroy, in whole or in part, any book, map, document, picture, or written or engraved or printed paper, belonging to any public library or reading room in this state, shall, upon conviction thereof before any city justice, or justice of the peace, having jurisdiction in criminal offenses, be fined for each and every such offense, a sum not less than ten nor more than one hundred dollars, and in default of the payment of such fine, be committed to the county jail of the county in which the said offense was committed, not less than thirty nor more than ninety days. And such conviction shall not act as a bar to a civil suit against the party committing the injury or damage, to recover the value of the property so injured or destroyed, which suit may be brought by any competent officer of the library owning said property.

What constitu-
tes a public
library.

SEC. 2. A "public library" shall, for the purposes of this act, be construed to mean any collection of books, documents or papers belonging to the state or to any of its institutions, or to any incorporated society, association or literary institution, for the use of the public or of the members of said society or institution.

When act to
take effect.

SEC. 3. This act shall take effect from and after its passage.

Approved February 19, 1875.