

any criminal prosecution against such party or witness, under any of the provisions of this act; nor shall any party or witness refuse to testify or furnish evidence in any civil action by reason of any of the provisions of this act. .

SEC. 10. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage. .

Approved March 9, 1885.

CHAPTER 179.

AN ACT RELATING TO THE RECORDS IN THE OFFICES OF THE REGISTER OF DEEDS.

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

What records may be admitted as *prima facie* evidence of the contents of the original instruments.

SECTION 1. That in all cases where deeds or other conveyances of real estate within this state, or letters of attorney authorizing the same, have heretofore been actually recorded in the office of the register of deeds, for the county where the real estate thereby affected was at the time of the making of such records, or is situate, whether such deeds, conveyances and letters of attorney were duly and properly admitted to record or otherwise, all such records may nevertheless be read in evidence in any court within this state, and shall be received as *prima facie* evidence of the contents of the original instruments of which they purport to be the records, and all such records shall in all respects have the same force and effect as they would have if such original instruments at the time they were so recorded had been legally entitled to record.

Duly authenticated copies may be read in evidence.

SEC. 2. That duly authenticated copies of aforesaid record may be read in evidence in any court within this state, with the same effect as the records themselves aforesaid; *Provided*, That nothing in this act shall be held to affect any vested rights nor apply to any action commenced or now pending in any of the courts of this state.

Cases now pending not to be affected.

When act to take effect.

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

Approved February 27, 1885.