

H. F. No. 451.

CHAPTER 87.

Amendment.
Corporation
dividends.

An act to amend section 2921 of the General Statutes 1894, relating to dividends of corporations other than those for pecuniary profit.

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

SECTION 1. That section two thousand nine hundred twenty-one (2921) of the General Statutes 1894, be amended so as to read as follows:

"Section 2921. No dividend or distribution of property among the members or stockholders is lawful until the dissolution of the corporation except dividends upon the capital stock out of the net annual receipts after payment of all outstanding indebtedness."

SEC. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

Approved March 26, 1901.

H. F. No. 9.

CHAPTER 88.

Amendment.
Elections.

An act to amend chapter four (4), General Laws one thousand eight hundred and ninety-three (1893), entitled "An act to regulate elections," and subsequent acts amendatory thereof.

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

SECTION. 1. That section twenty-seven (27), of chapter four (4), of General Laws one thousand eight hundred and ninety-three (1893), be amended so as to read as follows:

Back of ballot
to contain.

"Section 27. On the back of each ballot shall be printed in plain type, not smaller in size than great primer, the words 'Official Ballot,' the date of the election, and a fac-simile of the signature of the officer under whose direction the ballot is printed, together with his official title, and a space for the initials of two judges of election. Said printing to be so done as to be plainly visible when the ballot is properly folded and ready for deposit."

SEC. 2. That section twenty-eight (28), of chapter four (4), General Laws one thousand eight hundred and ninety-three (1893), be amended so as to read as follows:

"Section 28. Whenever a constitutional amendment or other proposition is submitted to be voted on by the

people, the substance of such amendment or proposition shall be clearly indicated at the top of the ballot and upon the proper ballot, and two spaces shall be left upon the margin, one for votes favoring the amendment or proposition, to be designated by the word 'Yes' at the left of said space, and one for votes opposing the amendment or proposition, to be designated by the word 'No' at the left of the second space. Any such constitutional amendment shall be headed by the words 'Constitutional Amendment to be voted on by the people,' printed in bold type. Said constitutional amendment or other proposition shall be printed at the top part of the ballot, separated from other printing by a blank space at least one-half inch in width. The elector shall designate his vote by a cross mark (X) opposite the word 'Yes' or 'No,' as the case may be, in the small square space provided therefor."

Constitutional amendments at top of ballot.

SEC. 3. That section twenty-nine (29), of chapter four (4), General Laws one thousand eight hundred and ninety-three (1893), be amended by adding at the end thereof the following words: "In every case where more than one candidate is to be voted for, for the same office, it shall be the duty of the officer charged with the direction of the printing, preparing and distributing of the ballots, under this act, after having fixed the position which the candidates of the different political parties are to have upon the ballot, as herein provided, to first make up a form with the names of the candidates of the different political parties arranged, under the proper party office division, in the order in which their fees are paid, accompanied by the filing of the proper certificate of nomination, and then to make up as many other forms, alternating the positions of the names of candidates thereon under each political party's office division, as there are names of candidates in the office division upon the ballot in which there are the most names. As nearly as possible an equal number of ballots of each of such forms shall be printed. In making the change of position of the names of candidates from that in said first form of ballot the printer will take the line of type containing the first name in each political party's office division upon the last previous form arranged by him and place it at the bottom of the names of the candidates for such political party in that office division, shoving up the column, so that the name which was second in the last previous form made up shall be the first after the change, and shall then continue to alternate the positions of candidates upon the dif-

Rotation of names of candidates for same office.

ferent forms of ballot until every candidate in the different office divisions shall have held alternately different numerical order under each political party's office division as nearly as possible an equal number of times; the provisions of this section for the alternating of the names of candidates shall not apply to candidates for presidential electors, and the sample and official ballots, required by law to be printed previous to the day of election, shall also be printed from said first form of ballot only. After the ballots from such forms are printed, before being cut, they shall be kept in separate piles, one pile for each change of position, and shall then be piled in another pile made up by alternately taking one ballot or sheet of ballots of the same form from each of said first piles and placing it upon the said other pile, so that every other ballot in the latter shall have the names of the candidates thereon in a different position. After the last mentioned pile is so arranged, the ballots shall be cut and placed in blocks as hereinbefore in this act provided."

SEC. 4. That section one hundred ninety-four (194), of chapter four (4), of General Laws one thousand eight hundred and ninety-three (1893), be amended so as to read as follows:

"Section 194. Whoever writes, prints, posts or distributes or causes to be written, posted, printed or distributed a circular or poster or other written paper, which is designed or tends to injure or defeat any candidate for nomination or election to any public office by reflecting on his personal character or political actions, unless the same shall be published in a newspaper avowedly responsible therefor, or unless there appears upon such circular, poster or paper in a conspicuous place either the names of the chairman and secretary, or at least the names of two officers, of the political or other organization issuing the same, or the name of some duly registered elector, with description of his election district, as responsible therefor, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by fine not exceeding one hundred dollars or by imprisonment in jail not exceeding six months, or both, and if the statements are untrue the person so offending shall also be deemed guilty of libel and may be prosecuted in the civil or criminal courts, or both, therefor."

SEC. 5. All acts and parts of acts inconsistent herewith are repealed.

SEC. 6. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

Approved March 27, 1901.

Prohibits
circulars
and posters
under cer-
tain condi-
tions.

Penalty.