

taxes have been heretofore collected, and upon the payment of the amount of such taxes in the several counties, cities, villages, towns and taxing districts wherein the property of any such company is situate, in the due course of proceedings for the collection thereof in the manner provided by law, all such payments are hereby authorized, legalized and confirmed as the payment of the taxes of every such company in lieu of the payment of taxes upon such company, or the property thereof, or the gross earnings thereon, for the years such taxes have been so assessed and levied, and for which the same are by this act authorized to be paid upon such advalorem basis.

Defense of companies.—Sec. 2. *Provided*, that nothing herein contained shall be held to deprive any such company of any defense to such taxes for the year 1908, which any person or corporation, taxable on the advalorem basis, could lawfully make thereto.

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

Approved February 26, 1909.

CHAPTER 31- H. F. No. 42.

In Act to secure the free public use of toll bridges.

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

Free public use of toll bridges.—Section 1. Any counties, towns, cities or villages interested may secure the free public use of any toll bridge now or hereafter built across any stream in this state, and may jointly or severally, together or separately enter into any contract with the owner of such bridge, or with each other, or with each other and the owner of such bridge, as they shall deem proper to secure such free public use of such bridge, whether by purchase, lease or otherwise.

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

Approved February 27, 1909.