

fastened to well set posts not more than rod apart; all fences, consisting of not less than four barb wires with at least forty barbs to the rod the wires to be firmly fastened to posts not more than one rod apart, the top wire to be not more than 48 inches high and the bottom wire not less than twelve inches nor more than sixteen inches from the ground; and all fences consisting of rails, timbers, wires, boards, stone walls, or any combination thereof, or of streams, lakes, ditches, or hedges, which shall be considered by the fence viewers as equivalent to any of the fences herein described—shall be deemed legal and sufficient fences. In all cases where adjoining land owners disagree as to the kind of fence to be built on any division line, the matter shall be referred to the fence viewers who shall determine what kind of fence shall be built on such line and shall order such fence built according to law.

Approved April 23, 1915.

CHAPTER 283—H. F. No. 431.

An Act to authorize the reception of abstracts of title as evidence in actions wherein the title to land is in controversy.

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

Section 1. Abstracts of title to be received in evidence.—In any action wherein the title to real property is in controversy, any abstract of title thereof, duly certified by any bonded abstractor or by any Register of Deeds of any county wherein said real property is situated, shall be received as prima facie evidence of all instruments therein referred to, together with the records thereof as recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds of such County.

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

Approved April 23, 1915.

CHAPTER 284—H. F. No. 585.

An Act defining slander, and fixing the penalty therefor.

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

Section 1. Definition of slander and same declared to be a misdemeanor.—Every person who, in the presence and hearing of another, other than the person slandered, whether he be present or not, shall speak of or concerning any person, any false or defamatory words or language which shall injure or impair the reputation of such person for virtue or chastity or which shall

expose him to hatred, contempt or ridicule, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. Every slander herein mentioned shall be deemed malicious if no justification therefor be shown and shall be justified when the language charged as slanderous, false or defamatory was true and was spoken with good motives and for justifiable ends.

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

Approved April 23, 1915.

CHAPTER 285—H. F. No. 644.

An Act authorizing cities having a population of ten thousand or less excepting any such city organized under the provisions of Section 36, Article 4 of the Constitution of the State of Minnesota, to maintain or improve their streets and public highways by sprinkling, oiling, curbing, or gutters and to provide for the cost thereof and for assessment to, and payment of such costs or part thereof by the abutting property owner.

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

Section 1. **Cities of 10,000 or less authorized to sprinkle with oil.**—In any city of this state having a population of ten thousand or less, the City Council shall have power and may cause any street or public highway therein or any part thereof to be improved or maintained by sprinkling, oiling, curbing, or building gutters upon a petition therefor signed by three-fourths of all owners of real estate bounding both sides of such street or highway and by the owners of at least one-half of the frontage of such street or highway or part thereof to be improved; or may order any curb or gutter to be built on one side of a street or highway or part thereof upon like petition if signed by the owners of at least one-half the frontage on such side of said street, highway, or part thereof, to be so improved; and without any petition it may order any curb or gutter previously built to be put in repair when necessary; and it may, upon such petition so providing, cause such sprinkling, or oiling to be done annually at such time or times as shall be required by said petition, the cost of such improvement, sprinkling, or oiling or any part thereof not less than one-half, may be assessed and levied by resolution of the council upon the lots or parcels of ground fronting on the street, public highway, or side thereof so improved, sprinkled, or oiled and most benefited thereby; and if such petition provides for sprinkling or oiling annually the council may make such assessment or levy for such amount as will be required for such purpose during any such year, until a petition for the discontinuance of said sprinkling or oiling, similarly executed, is presented to the council.