

dog or dogs, except that in the open season herein provided for the taking, catching or killing of muskrats, muskrat houses, may for the purpose of placing traps therein, be opened in such manner only as will not destroy, damage or injure the same as a place of habitation for muskrats. Provided, that when any of the animals mentioned in this section, *excepting beaver*, are doing damage to or destroying any *private property or public highway*, or are likely to damage or destroy any such *private property or public highway*, the person whose *private property* is being or is likely to be damaged or destroyed, *or the town board of the town in which such public highway is situate that is being or is likely to be so damaged or destroyed*, may make complaint and report the facts to the *game and fish commissioner*, who shall either in person or by a deputy game warden, investigate the conditions complained of, and if it appears that the complaint is well founded, and the property of such complainant *or the public highway, as the case may be*, is being or is likely to be damaged or destroyed by any such animals, the *game and fish commissioner* may grant permission properly safeguarded to the complainant *in case of private property or in case of public highways to such person or persons as may be designated by the town board in question*, to kill such animals or destroy the houses, dams, or other structures erected by them.

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

Approved April 20, 1917.

CHAPTER 498.—H. F. No. 485.

An act to provide for the verification of vouchers presented to the state for payment, inquiry into the correctness of accounts and transactions with the state and to authorize the administration of oaths and for other purposes.

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

Section 1. **Accounts to be itemized.**—That before any charge, bill or expense account against the state of Minnesota shall be audited, it shall be itemized and verified as to the correctness thereof.

Sec. 2. **Auditor authorized to issue subpoena to verify bill for expenses.**—The state auditor is hereby authorized to issue subpoena to any person who has or shall hereafter render an account to the state, be the same in the nature of a bill for expenses for articles sold or purchased, or involving any other transaction between the state of Minnesota and any person, corporation or co-partnership; and he shall have the power to place any such individual under oath and to examine the said

person or individual as to the correctness of any account rendered and the state auditor is further empowered to subpoena such witnesses, to administer oath and to examine them under oath in any transaction entered into between the state of Minnesota and any person, co-partnership or corporation.

Approved April 20, 1917.

CHAPTER 499—H. F. No. 488.

An act to amend Sections 1, 2, and 3, Chapter 263, General Laws of 1907, being an act regulating employment and removals in public departments and upon public works in the State of Minnesota, and the counties, cities and towns thereof, relating to state, judicial, county, township, city and town officers.

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

Section 1. Preference in appointments and promotions extended to Spanish American and Philippine insurrection wars and China relief expedition.—That sections 1, 2, and 3 of the General Laws of the state of Minnesota for 1907, chapter 263, be and the same are hereby amended so as to read as follows:

Section 1. That in every public department and upon all public works in the state of Minnesota and the counties, cities and towns thereof, honorably discharged soldiers, sailors and marines from the army and navy of the United States in the late Civil and Spanish-American and Philippine Insurrection Wars and the China relief expedition, who are citizens and residents of this state, shall be entitled to preference in appointments, employment and promotion over other applicants therefor, and the persons thus preferred shall not be disqualified from holding any position hereinbefore mentioned on account of his age or by reason of any physical disability, provided such age or disability does not render him incompetent to perform properly the duties of the position applied for and when such soldier, sailor or marine shall apply for appointment or employment under this act, the officer, board or person whose duty it is or may be to appoint or employ such person to fill such position or place, shall before appointing or employing anyone to fill such position or place, make an investigation as to the qualifications of said soldier, sailor or marine for such place or position, and if he is a man of good moral character, and can perform the duties of said position applied for by him, as hereinbefore provided, said officer, board or person shall appoint said soldier, sailor or marine to such position or place of employment.

A refusal to allow the preference provided for in this and the next succeeding section to any honorably discharged soldier,