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PHONE:  
ATLANTIC 14 51

*Co Board*

August 29, 1946

E.A. Carlson, County Auditor,  
Anoka County  
Anoka, Minn.

Dear Mr. Carlson:

I expect that the petition for Ditch 54 will soon be filed. Today I am leaving for Wisconsin. Upon my return next week I will ask the Board to bring up for action the matter of County Ditch 57.

This morning I talked to Ass't Attorney General Houston, and he advised me that there was no question but that under the late statute where it is a fact that a ditch is out of repair and needs cleaning, it is mandatory on the part of the Board to order the job of cleaning done.

May I suggest that if there be any question about this that you ask for an opinion from the County Attorney or the Attorney General's office, as you may be advised.

I am very much interested in having action taken in this matter. On a part of my peatland, through which I ran two large ditches, I was able to get rid of considerable water; I raised sufficient alsike and timothy so that today my barn is full of hay, and I have two large stacks outside the barn in addition to which I still have a fine stand of timothy and alsike which I could cut, but which I am permitting my cattle to cut for me. As contrasted to the brown pastures now prevalent, this peat is covered with green, lush clover and timothy.

I realize that some people complain about spending a dollar even though they later will receive five in return. My own experience has taught me the value of this peat, and if the ditch can be cleaned to prevent overflowing in the spring, a great benefit will be conferred upon the community.

Of course, this is all beside the point in view of the fact that the engineer has made his report that the ditch is in need of cleaning, and in view of the

E. A. Carlson, County Auditor

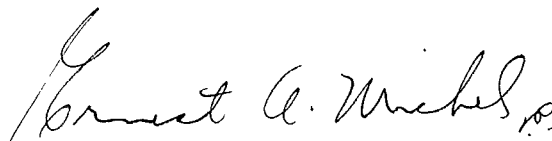
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fact that the Board has also found as a fact that the ditch is out of repair and in need of cleaning. Under these circumstances there is no question but that under the recent law, it is the duty of the Board to let the contract.

Manifestly, I am not asking that my word be accepted on this, but I am writing you to the end that you or the Board, as you or they may be advised, seek the opinion of the county attorney or the attorney general's office to the end that ~~the~~ action may be taken promptly.

If this cleaning can be started this fall, it will mean thousands of dollars in the pockets of farmers next year.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ernest A. Michel". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

EAM:VLP