

Attorney General Childs' Opinion Is Wanted by All.

"The contract for the construction of the new capitol is all ready to be signed by me, and my signature will be appended to it as soon as Attorney General Childs gives his opinion," said Channing Seabury, vice president of the capitol commission, to a Globe reporter yesterday afternoon.

Mr. Seabury went on to say that he hadn't the least doubt as to how the attorney general would construe the law, but he had been advised to wait until the opinion was given. The contract has been drawn up and its various provisions have all been agreed upon by the board of commissioners and the contractors. The opinion will probably be forthcoming in a day or two.

Walter Butler, president of the Butler-Ryan company, the successful bidder, remarked that he wasn't worrying about the matter any, but the delay was a slight inconvenience to them, as they did not feel like going ahead and ordering the stone to be quarried until everything was settled. So far as he knew the St. Cloud people are well satisfied with the contract, as it has been let, for it would mean work for the granite cutters who are idle at present. The only opposition comes from one or two Minneapolis papers, which are trying to make a catspaw out of St. Cloud.

Attorney General Childs has not, as yet, prepared his final opinion as to the legal points involved in the awarding of the contract to Georgia marble contractors, but it is expected that the very important document will be forthcoming either today or tomorrow.

Questioned yesterday as to the rumor that he would not sign the certificates of indebtedness, State Auditor Dunn reiterated his former declaration not to get mixed up in the controversy until the certificates were submitted to him for approval, when, he intimated, he would "act in accordance with the law." This, of course, puts the matter off as far as he is concerned until the attorney general has passed upon the more immediate question as to the legal right of the board to award the contract on a Georgia marble basis.

The Minnesota Union Advocate, the official organ of the State Federation of Labor, throws the responsibility for the present situation, at least for the liberation of the state from its present difficulty, on the governor and auditor. It says:

If Gov. Clough and Auditor Dunn are as friendly to Minnesota as they declare themselves to be now is the time for them to act. They have it in their power to put an end to the fraud sought here to be perpetrated on the state. They should refuse to confirm the action of the commission and see that new bids are ordered. In this way only will the wishes and demands of the people of this state be respected.

Let us have new bids, gentlemen. The laboring and commercial elements of this state, the farmers and the manufacturers, all alike, demand this action. The Union Advocate has given repeated warning that this fraud was contemplated. Every action and failure to act on the part of that body indicated clearly that they were preparing to run to cover.

The purpose was to go outside of the state, and the purpose has been fulfilled. But its fulfillment has not been effected without a determined attempt to avoid the consequences. The plotting and counter-plotting, the half truths and the whole falsehoods, the delays, the demand for new bids, the repeated and lying assurances that Minnesota stone would be chosen—all this had for its object to tire out public feeling and enable the conspirators to consummate their scheme in quiet. This has failed, and the Union Advocate's prediction that all the scheming and procrastination would only intensify public sentiment has been fulfilled.

The situation now rests on the official attitude of the governor and state auditor.