

this will remove much of the complaint relative to the transfer of licenses when new cars are bought in the counties during the year.

April 11, 1929.

(Chapter 497, Senate Bill 302)

**PROVIDING FOR THE REGULATION OF COMMISSION MERCHANTS
DEALING IN FARM PRODUCTS.**

Subject to certain exceptions, this bill applies generally to commission merchants who deal in farm products, such as vegetables, fruits, live stock, meats, marine food products, poultry, eggs, dairy products, wool, hides, tobacco, etc. It requires such commission merchants to secure a license, give bond for honest accounting and payments and submit their business and transactions to the supervision and regulation of the State Board of Agriculture or its agents or representatives.

The occasion for the bill appears to arise from the fact that in accounting for the proceeds of sales of the produce in question the commission merchants do not render any statement of the specific sales made or of the parties to whom the produce is sold. The commission merchants say that this cannot be done in the case of the produce covered by the bill, which is largely perishable. However this may be, and whether justly or unjustly, the fact that no such statements are rendered has created a feeling of distrust in the minds of the farmers, who feel that they frequently do not receive a correct accounting for their produce.

I would not hesitate to sign a bill requiring commission merchants to render whatever statements might be necessary and practicable to show that their accountings to the farmers are correct, but the present bill is so far-reaching in the authority it confers and so paternalistic in character that I do not feel justified in giving it my approval.

In addition to requiring a license and a bond, to which the commission merchants advise me they do not object, the bill authorizes the State Board of Agriculture, or any agent or representative it may select, irrespective of whether any complaint has been filed or not, to investigate all the books and all the business transactions of all the commission merchants covered by the act, and to revoke licenses whenever the Board, or its