

to apply to bills, notes, and cheques, from the date on which the original Act came into force.

Chapters 18, 19 and 20 relate to the electoral franchise and procedure at elections, and are therefore of a political as well as of legal interest. The amendments to the Franchise Act are unimportant, and require no special notice. Those familiar with the working of this important measure, and especially the revising officers, have made many suggestions whereby it might be greatly simplified, and its cost reduced, but, so far, little attention has been paid to them. Some future Secretary of State may, perhaps, be more willing to deal with this important subject, and to adopt the views of those best qualified to give advice, than the present holder of that position.

Chapter 19, relating to Dominion elections, settles some disputed points as to the right of deputy returning officers and poll clerks to vote, the method of endorsing ballots, the care of ballot boxes, the procedure in case of the loss of boxes, and confers power on a judge to review the action of the returning officer. It further gives the right of appeal to a judge of the Superior Court, and the method of procedure in case of such appeal, in the event of neglect or refusal to act on the part of the judge of the County Court. The Act then goes on to deal with the difficulty which has arisen from the alleged partiality of returning officers in making their returns to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, and of the clerk in publishing the same, whereby it has been complained that unfair advantage has been given to one party over another in the filing of petitions. It provides that the returning officer shall make his return immediately after the six days allowed for a recount, or, where there has been a recount, immediately thereafter, to the Clerk of the Crown, who shall immediately publish the returns in the order in which they have been received. Stricter provision is made for the case of bribery by way of loan or promise of loan, or promise of office or employment, from or on behalf of any candidate for election. The method of folding ballot papers is revised, and a new schedule of fees is established.

Chapter 20 makes some very important changes in the Controverted Elections Act. The jurisdiction of the Court of Appeal for Ontario in election trials, and of the Chief Justice of Ontario in arranging the *rota*, is withdrawn, and all trials must now be held before two judges. Petitions for the trial of elections must be accompanied by an affidavit from the petitioner that he has good reason to believe, and does believe, the truth of the allegations in his petition. It is also provided that in the case of elections where no poll has been demanded, the petition must be presented not later than thirty days after the nomination, and, where a poll has been demanded, not later than forty days after the day of polling, except in cases of alleged acts of bribery after the election, in which case the petition may be presented within thirty days after the alleged commission of such acts of bribery. The object of these amendments is obviously to check the presentation of petitions, except where there are good grounds for doing so, and, *bonâ fide* intention of prosecuting them. A limitation as to counsel fees, and as to costs generally, is provided, the former not to exceed \$50 and the latter \$300, exclusive of witness fees. In case of the two judges before whom a