

in enforcing the law. One of the best proposals favored by the Committee originated with Mr. Charlton. The proposed amendment as recommended by the Committee was as follows:—

"A person offending against any provision of the next preceding section shall be a competent witness against any other person so offending and may be compelled to attend and testify on any trial, hearing, proceeding or investigation, provided that if such person has answered truly all questions which he is required by the court to answer he shall be entitled to receive a certificate of indemnity from the court which may be in the form F. F. and the testimony so given shall not thereafter be used in any prosecution or proceeding, civil or criminal, against him.

2. A person testifying and obtaining a certificate of indemnity shall not thereafter be liable to any action, indictment, prosecution or punishment for the offence with reference to which his testimony was given and may plead said certificate of indemnity accordingly in bar of such action, indictment or prosecution."

As was stated by the gentleman who introduced this amendment, under such a law the briber would be completely at the mercy of the person bribed, who, under another amendment, as an inducement to him to confess would be entitled to the penalty of \$500 to be recovered against the briber.

Of course, the objection at once suggests itself that such a provision would result in blackmail. But that objection applies to all laws where prosecutions may be instituted by private persons and yet, with proper safe-guards in respect to weight of evidence, such provisions are considered satisfactory, and indeed in many cases necessary for the proper enforcement of the law. In fact the proposed amendment is now a part of the Penal Code of the State of New York which deals with corrupt practices at elections, and, in order to ascertain how its operation is regarded there, the writer communicated with a friend who is a leading lawyer in New York, Mr. G. W. Schurman, brother of President Schurman of Cornell University. Mr. Schurman, who was formerly Assistant District Attorney in New York and is native of Canada, informed the writer that