

NEW ONTARIO ELECTION ACT.

election," or any other person "with intent to promote the election of such candidate," should furnish entertainment; the section as it now stands omits all reference to the intention of the candidate or other person furnishing entertainment. The word "drink" has also been added, as many electors appear to have held the idea that drink was not included under the term "entertainment," which was the only expression used in the original Act.

Section 3 repeals section sixty-nine of the Election Act of 1868, and section forty-six of the Controverted Elections Act of 1871, and the following is enacted in lieu of the latter section: "45 (1). When it is found upon the report of a judge upon an election petition that any corrupt practice has been committed by any candidate at an election, or by his agent, whether with or without the actual knowledge and consent of such candidate, the election of such candidate, if he has been elected, shall be void. (2.) When it is found by the report of a judge upon an election petition that any corrupt practice has been committed by or with the actual knowledge or consent of any candidate at an election, in addition to his election, if he has been elected, being void, he shall, during the eight years next after his being so found guilty, be incapable of being elected to and of sitting in the Legislative Assembly, and of being registered as a voter, and of voting at any election, and of holding any office at the nomination of the Crown, or of the Lieutenant Governor in Ontario, or any Municipal office." This section is intended to remove any misapprehension as to the effect upon the seat of a candidate of corrupt practices committed by his agents without his knowledge or consent. It does not introduce any new principles, but merely states in a connected form those principles which have been already acted upon in this Province, and

which have been in force in England from time immemorial.

Section 4 makes an addition to the oath to be taken by an assessor on returning his assessment roll. He was formerly required to make the general statement that he had assessed all persons correctly, but the present section requires him to state that he has not "entered the name of any person at too low a rate, in order to deprive such person of a vote, or at too high a rate, in order to give such person a vote, or for any other reason whatever."

Section 5 enacts that no person disqualified from voting by section two of the Election Act of 1868 shall act as the agent of a candidate, under the same penalty as if he had voted contrary to that section. That section disqualified certain persons holding official positions, specified therein, from voting, and imposed a penalty of two thousand dollars on any one violating its provisions.

The sixth section of the Act makes an addition to the oath which a person tendering his vote may be required to take, such addition being to the effect that he has not directly or indirectly paid or promised anything to any person, either to induce him to vote or to refrain from voting at the election. Formerly the person tendering his vote could only be required to swear that he had not received anything, but he was not obliged to make a statement as to whether he had given anything. It is to be hoped that the operation of this section will prove beneficial in tending to diminish bribery, for there are many persons, possessing a certain degree of respectability and great influence in election matters, who, although they would reject any bribe offered to themselves, yet can see no objection whatever to their own attempts to bribe others.

Sections 7-12 of the Act relate to the subject of election expenses and election accounts, and, as far as this Province is