

after the statement has been delivered to the returning-officer; and until such declaration is made, the candidate elected may not sit and vote in the House of Commons, under a penalty of £100 a day, which may be sued for by anyone. Neglect to send in these declarations will constitute an illegal practice, and a false statement will be perjury and a corrupt practice. But the High Court or an Election Court may, for good cause shown, extend the time for sending in a return and declaration. The regulations as to the number of persons who may be employed at an election for payment, and the amount which may be expended, are contained in the first schedule to the Act. Thus in boroughs there may be one clerk and one messenger for every 500 electors. One clerk and one messenger may be appointed for every 5,000 voters for the central committee rooms in a county, and also one clerk and one messenger for every 500 electors in a polling district. The number of committee rooms is limited to one to every 500 electors, whether in a borough or a county. The total sum which may be expended, not including personal expenses and returning officer's charges, is fixed at £350 in boroughs if the number of electors on the register does not exceed 2,000, and at £380 if the register contains more than 2,000 names, an additional £30 being allowed for every additional 1,000 names on the register above 2,000. In counties the amount is fixed at £650 in England and Scotland, and £500 in Ireland, if the number of electors does not exceed 2,000. If the number exceeds 2,000, £710 may be expended in England and Scotland, and £540 in Ireland, an additional £60 being allowed in England and Scotland, and £40 in Ireland, for every 1000 electors above 2,000. Where there are two joint candidates the amounts are to be reduced by one-fourth, and if there are more than two joint candidates the maximum is to be reduced by one-third.

The disqualification of electors forms an important item in the measure, and the prohibitions of persons guilty of infringements of the Acts are severe and extensive. But, on the other hand, ample security is given to a person charged with an offence to defend himself. A justice of the peace found guilty of an offence under the Act will be reported to the Lord Chancellor; and, in the case of a barrister or a

solicitor, the offender may be dealt with as if he had been guilty of professional misconduct; while a publican who is guilty of bribery or treating, or has suffered these offences to be committed on his premises, will have his conviction endorsed on his license. A list of disqualified voters is also to be made out, and is to be published with the register of electors. After the provisions relating to disqualification come the sections and sub-sections relating to proceedings on an election petition, which, if illegal practices are charged, is required to be presented within 14 days after the return of election expenses has been made; but, if the petition alleges payment of money since that date, it may be presented within a lunar month after such payment. A petition can only be withdrawn on affidavits by the parties stating the grounds upon which it is sought to be withdrawn, that there has no unlawful agreement, and that the agreement, if there has been one, was lawful. Copies of these affidavits are to be sent to the Public Prosecutor, who may be heard against the application for withdrawal. The same officer is also empowered to be heard at the trial of any petition; he may, with the leave of the court, examine or cross-examine witnesses; and he may direct the prosecution of anyone who has not received a certificate of indemnity. Any person prosecuted for a corrupt practice will have a right to be tried by a jury; but a person charged with that offence, if he appears before an Election Court, may be dealt with summarily and sentenced to six months' imprisonment, and if convicted summarily of an illegal practice he may be fined. But if an accused person does not appear before an Election Court the court may order his prosecution; and any person whom the court deems to have been guilty of corrupt or illegal practices may be ordered to pay all the costs of and incidental to his offence and its detection. Among the miscellaneous provisions is a power given to the public prosecutor to institute inquiries and prosecutions in any case in which he may think fit; and an indictment for any offence may, at the instance of the Attorney-General, or by order of the High Court, be removed for trial to the Central Criminal Court, or to the High Court before a special jury. There are also numerous other provisions, relating to practice and procedure.