

\* \* \* \* \*

Section 11 enacts that the Assembly shall have all the rights and privileges of a Court of Record, for the purpose of summarily enquiring into and punishing, as breaches of privilege, or as contempt of Court—without prejudice to the liability of the offenders to prosecution and punishment criminally or otherwise, according to law, independently of this Act—the acts, matters and things following:—

1. Assaults, insults or libels upon members during the Session of the Legislature, and twenty days before and after the same.

2. Obstructing, threatening or attempting to force or intimidate members.

3. The offering to, or acceptance of, a bribe by any member to influence him in his proceedings as such, etc.,

4. Assaults upon or interference with officers of the Assembly.

5. Tampering with any witness.

6. Giving false evidence, or refusing to give evidence or produce papers.

7. Disobedience to subpoenas or warrants.

8. Presenting to the Assembly, or to any Committee thereof, any forged or falsified documents.

9. Forging or falsifying any of the records of the Assembly, or of its Committees, or any petition, etc.

10. Bringing action against a member, or causing his arrest, for anything done by him in the House as a member.

11. Effecting the arrest of a member for debt or cause of a civil nature, during a Session of a House, or during the twenty days preceding or the twenty days following such Session.

The Assembly is declared to possess all such powers and jurisdiction as may be necessary for enquiring into, judging and pronouncing upon the commission of any such acts, and awarding and carrying into execution the punishment thereof provided for by this Statute.

Section 12 provides that every person, for any of the offences enumerated

above, in addition to any other punishment to which he may by law be subject, shall be liable to imprisonment, for such time during the Legislative Session then holding as the Assembly may determine.

Section 13 enacts that whenever the House finds any person guilty of a contempt for any of the acts, matters and things in Section 11 set forth, and directs him to be imprisoned, the Speaker shall issue his warrant to the Sergeant at-Arms or to the Keeper of the Common Jail to take such person into custody, and to detain him, in accordance with the order of the Legislative Assembly.

Section 14. The determination of the Legislative Assembly, upon any proceeding under this Act, and within the Legislative authority of this Province, shall be final and conclusive.

On the 18th of February, 1870, the following Act of the Quebec Legislature received the assent of the Lieutenant-Governor:—

‘An Act to uphold the authority and dignity of the House of the Quebec Legislature, and the independence of the members thereof, and to protect persons publishing Parliamentary Papers.’

The Act is also known as 33 Vict. cap. 5; and as ‘The Quebec Parliamentary Act.’

The Quebec Act contains thirteen Sections; the Ontario Act twenty-one. Both Statutes, however, are practically the same in respect to the power to compel attendance of witnesses, and the production of papers; and the protection of persons acting under the authority of the Legislature.

The matters declared to be infringements of the Acts, such as assaults upon members, threatening them, or offering them bribes, tampering with witnesses, and falsifying documents, are the same in both Statutes. Similar, also, are the enactments respecting freedom of speech, freedom from arrest, and exemption from jury service. Each Legislature takes upon itself the