

Competency of witnesses on trial, &c.

54. In all prosecutions by indictment or information against any person or persons for any offence punishable under this Act, no person shall be deemed an incompetent witness, in support of the prosecution by reason of any interest which such person may have or be supposed to have in respect of any deed, writing, instrument or other matter given in evidence on the trial of such indictment or information; but the evidence of any person or persons so interested or supposed to be interested shall in no case be deemed sufficient to sustain a conviction for any of the said offences unless the same is corroborated by other legal evidence in support of such prosecution.

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Proviso.

55. Whosoever, after the commencement of this Act, is convicted of any offence which has been subjected by any Act or Acts to the same pains or penalties as are imposed by the Act passed in the fifth year of the Reign of Queen Elizabeth, intituled "An Act against forgers of false deeds and writings," for any of the offences first enumerated in the said Act, is guilty of felony, and shall, in lieu of such pains and penalties, be liable to be imprisoned in the Penitentiary for any term not exceeding fourteen years and not less than two years, or to be imprisoned in any other gaol or place of confinement for any term less than two years, with or without hard labour, and with or without solitary confinement.

Other punishments substituted for those of 5 Eliz., c. 14.

56. Where by any Act now in force in any Province of Canada, any person falsely making, forging, counterfeiting, erasing, or altering any matter whatsoever, or uttering, publishing, offering, disposing of, putting away, or making use of any matter whatsoever, knowing the same to have been falsely made, forged, counterfeited, erased, or altered, or any person demanding, or endeavoring to receive or have anything, or to do or to cause to be done any act, upon or by virtue of any matter whatsoever, knowing such matter to have been falsely made, forged, counterfeited, erased, or altered; or where by any such Act now in force any person falsely personating another, or falsely acknowledging anything in the name of another, or falsely representing any other person than the real party to be such real party, or wilfully making a false entry in any book, account or document, or in any manner wilfully falsifying any part of any book, account, or document, or wilfully making a transfer of any stock, annuity or fund in the name of any person not being the owner thereof, or knowingly taking any false oath, or knowingly making any false affidavit or false affirmation, or demanding or receiving any money or other thing by virtue of any probate or letters of administration, knowing the will on which such probate shall have been obtained to have been false or forged, or knowing such probate or letters of administration to have been obtained by means of any false oath or false affirmation; or where by any such Act now in force any person making or using or knowingly having in his custody or possession any frame, mould or instrument for the making of paper, with certain words visible in the substance thereof, or any person making such paper, or causing certain words to appear visible in the substance of any paper, would, according to the provisions contained in any such Act, be guilty of felony and be liable to any greater punishment than is provided by this Act, then and in each of the several cases aforesaid, if any person after the commencement of this Act is convicted of any such felony as is hereinbefore in this section mentioned, or of aiding, abetting, counselling, or procuring the commission thereof, and the same is not punishable under any of the other provisions of this Act, every such person shall be liable to be imprisoned in the Penitentiary for life or for any term not less than two years, or to be imprisoned in any other gaol or place of confinement for any term less

All forgeries which were capital, or punishable more severely than under this Act, and are not otherwise punishable under this Act, shall be punished with imprisonment.