

trial is conducted differing, the member shall be held to have been duly elected; but when they agree as to the election being void, but differ as to the rest of the determination, the election shall be held to be void. The most important section, however, of this Act is the 19th, which provides that when the court decides that no corrupt practice was committed by the candidate personally, that he did not connive at any corrupt acts, and took all reasonable means to prevent them, and that the offences committed were of a trivial and limited character, and that generally the election was free from corrupt practices on the part of the candidate or his agents, it shall not be declared void. This provision is in harmony with the existing law of Ontario, and will greatly mitigate the severity with which the courts have hitherto dealt with corrupt practices in Dominion elections. It does not, however, apply to cases arising out of the last election. Agents may further be compelled to pay the costs of proving corrupt practices committed without the knowledge of the candidate.

The next Act of importance is that to amend the Act respecting the North West Territories. By this the powers of the Legislative Assembly of the Territories are greatly extended, and they are, to all intents and purposes, given the same jurisdiction as the various Provincial Parliaments, except that with regard to the important subject of education their powers are subject to the same limitation as at present. The clause relating to the use of the French language is modified, as regards the proceedings of the Assembly, by the resolution adopted in the House of Commons in the session of 1890. In other respects its use remains obligatory.

The next chapter is a new Act, providing, in very comprehensive terms, for the punishment of all such cases of fraud upon the Government, by bribes to public officers, or the acceptance of bribes by them, either for the procuring of contracts or offices, or any personal benefit, or in the shape of commissions, as were proved to have taken place by the investigations of last session.

The Supreme Court Amendment Act (c. 25) alters the time of the commencement of the October term, after 1891, from the fourth to the first Tuesday in October, and amends s. 29 as to appeals in cases relating to fees of office, duty, rent, revenue, or sum of money payable to Her Majesty in the Province of Quebec. The Act further repeals s. 37, authorizing the Governor to refer matters for the opinion of the Supreme Court, and provides that such reference may be of important questions of law or fact touching provincial legislation, or the appellate jurisdiction touching educational matters vested in the Governor in Council by the B.N.A. Act, or touching the constitutionality of legislation by the Parliament of Canada, or any other matters the Governor in Council may think proper to refer to the Supreme Court for opinion; which opinion, with the reasons for the same, shall be certified to the Governor. In constitutional cases, the Attorney-General of the Province, or, in the North West Territories, the Lieutenant-Governor shall be notified of the hearing. The court may direct any person or class of persons interested in the matter to be notified, or it may request counsel to argue as to any interest, and the reasonable expenses of such counsel are to be paid by the Receiver-General. The opinion of the court, though advisory