

More Certain Punishment

Under the old law the above acts were not "corrupt practices" in the sense that if proven the party in whose interests they had been committed would lose his seat. This is altered. If these acts are committed, the seat may be vacated. Thus it is the interest of the candidate to see that nothing which promotes fraud is done.

Under the old law, also, corrupt practices were not punishable unless they had been exposed at the trial of an election petition. This is altered. No matter how the offence is discovered the offender can be pursued. The aggrieved party, instead of having to wait for months, can take the offender before the Summary Trial Court composed of any two judges of the Supreme Court, which has been constituted for the trial of corrupt practices, and of offences punishable by imprisonment.

While election offences that are punishable by imprisonment can be tried before the Summary Trial Court, other offences punishable by pecuniary penalties may be taken to any court of competent jurisdiction, the Division Court for example, and the penalties can be recovered there.

Some of the Penalties

The old law dealing with offences against the ballot and the ballot-box made the returning officer only liable to imprisonment. Now the deputy returning officer, or any other officer engaged in the election, and concerned in the frauds, is liable to three years in prison.

To prevent personation the penalty on a person who votes knowing that he has no right to do so is raised from \$100 to \$200.

To make sure that the election officials shall not be election crooks it is provided that no person who has been reported for corrupt practices shall act as returning officer, deputy returning officer, election clerk, or poll clerk.

No More Corruption

The law against different forms of corruption has been strengthened by the addition of the following provisions:

Any person who applies to a candidate for a loan or for any office on account of his voting for or agreeing to assist the candidate, is guilty of a corrupt practice.

Any person who agrees to give to or to procure any office for a person in order to induce such person to be nominated or to refrain from becoming a candidate, is guilty of a corrupt practice.

The hiring of rigs for the carrying of voters to the poll is a corrupt practice.

The transportation of voters free of charge or at a diminished rate to a polling place, by whatever means, is a corrupt practice.

These latter provisions strike at such frauds as those committed in the Sault election, through the hiring of the Minnie M., and the carriage of persons out to distant polls to vote.

Abolition of the Gerrymander

The law against ballot frauds has been accompanied by the abolition of the gerrymander which, for many years, prevented the fair representation of the people in the Legislature. How the gerrymander worked is made clear from the following facts. In 1883 the popular vote stood thus:

Conservatives.....	130,941
Liberals.....	127,804

Conservative majority..... 3,137