

Power to Ad-
minister Oath
of Allegiance.

XXI. And be it enacted, that every Deputy Returning Officer at any Election for a Member or Members to represent the people of this Province in Provincial Parliament, shall be and he is hereby authorized and empowered, during the period that his authority as Deputy Returning Officer shall continue, to administer the Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance to any person or persons who may be willing or desirous of taking the same, which Oath or Affirmation so taken, shall to all intents and purposes whatsoever have a like effect upon the civil and political rights of the party taking the same, as if the same had been administered by a Commissioner or Commissioners for that purpose specially appointed by the Crown.

Custody of
Poll Books.

XXII. And be it enacted, that it shall be the duty of the Returning Officer in all cases where a Poll shall have been taken, to keep copies of all the Poll Books returned to him by his several Deputies, and to transmit the original Poll Books with the Writ of Election and Return, to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, within at the least ten days after the closing of the Election for which the same shall have been taken; and that such original Poll Books, with the affidavits of the due taking of the same hereinbefore required to be made, in case the said Election shall be controverted, shall upon the trial thereof, without further proof thereof than the production of such original Poll Books from the files of the proper office, be taken and received as *prima facie* evidence of all that they contain.

Controverted
Elections.

Death of Re-
turning Officer
during Elec-
tion.

XXIII. And be it enacted, that in case any Returning Officer appointed to hold an Election, or take a Poll, after commencing the same, shall before the final termination of the same, die or become incapacitated by accident or sickness, it shall and may be lawful for his Election or Poll Clerk to act in his stead, who shall be authorized to appoint his Poll Clerk and finish the Election and make the Return, in the same way and manner as though he, the said Poll Clerk had been originally appointed the Returning Officer, or Deputy Returning Officer; Provided always, that such Election or Poll Clerk, before entering upon his duties as Returning Officer, or Deputy Officer, shall appoint his Poll Clerk, who with the said new or acting Returning Officer, or Deputy Returning Officer, previous to entering upon their duties respectively, shall take and subscribe the oaths prescribed by Law for Returning Officers, Deputy Returning Officers and Poll Clerks.

Fees and al-
lowances.

XXIV. And be it enacted, that every Returning Officer for the respective Counties, Ridings, Cities, Towns or Boroughs in this Province, shall be entitled to the following fees and allowances for the services and disbursements hereinafter specified respectively, that is to say: For attendance on the day of opening the Election, twenty-five shillings: For attendance on the day of closing the Election where Polls have been taken, twenty-five shillings: For an Election Clerk