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No. 142.

3rd Session, 5th Parliament, 20 Victoria, 1857.

BILL.

An Act to preserve the Legislature from improper influences.

Received and read, first time, Monday, 23rd
March, 1857.

Second reading, Monday, 30th March, 1857.

MR. MACKENZIE.

TORONTO:
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An Act to preserve the Legislature from improper influences.

WHEREAS it would tend to the maintenance and preservation of Legislative purity, if persons who attend the sittings of the Legislature, for hire or pay, with a view to influence the action of either House thereof, relative to measures under its consideration, were prevented from so doing; Therefore Her Majesty, &c., enacts as follows:

I. No person shall be employed for hire or pay to advocate or promote the passing or defeat of any measure pending before the Legislature, or in any manner to promote or advance, hinder or obstruct, the action of the Legislature, or of any Committee or any Member, upon or respecting any measure pending or under consideration in either House thereof; nor shall any person pay or receive any money, property or gift, or make or receive any promise of or for any such purpose; but this section shall not prevent the employment of Counsel to appear and argue any matter before a Committee, when such Committee shall have first obtained leave of the House of which they are members, for that purpose.

Preamble.

No person to be employed pay to advocate or oppose any measure.

Exception as to Counsel appearing by leave of the House.

II. Any violation of these provisions of the next preceding section shall be deemed a misdemeanor and punished by fine and imprisonment.

Contravention to be a misdemeanor.

III. Every person who shall give or offer, or promise to give, pay, or offer any money or other valuable consideration or thing, to any public officer or person holding or exercising any public trust or function, with intent to influence the official action of such person, shall be deemed guilty of bribery.

Giving money &c., to a public officer to influence his official action, to be bribery.

IV. No clerk or other officer of either House, nor any reporter, or person privileged on the floor of either House, shall receive any compensation or gratuity for the performance of any duty or service in any way connected with the duties or business of his office, for the purpose of influencing his conduct in respect to any measure pending in either House, or to induce him to aid in passing, advancing, defeating, retarding, or in any manner affecting any such measure; and any violation of any of the provisions of this section shall be deemed a misdemeanor, and punishable as such, and shall moreover be deemed a breach of privilege, for which the party offending shall forfeit his office or privilege, and may be punished as for a contempt.

Clerks and officers of either House receiving gratuities, to be guilty of misdemeanor, and to lose their office.