Penal Servitude for Life or for any Term not less than Three Years, or to be imprisoned for any Term not exceeding Two Years, with or without Hard Labour, and with or without Solitary Confinement.

Penalties on Persons engraving Plates, &c.

16. Whosoever, without lawful Authority or Excuse, the Proof whereof shall lie on the Party accused, shall engrave or make, upon any Plate, Wood, Stone, or other Material, any Stock Certificate or Coupon purporting to be a Stock Certificate or Coupon issued or made under and in pursuance of this Act, or to be a blank Stock Certificate or Coupon issued or made as aforesaid, or to be a Part of such a Stock Certificate or Coupon, or shall use any such Plate, Wood, Stone, or other Material for the making or printing any such Stock Certificate or Coupon, or any such blank Stock Certificate or Coupon, or any Part thereof respectively, or knowingly have in his Custody or Possession any such Plate, Wood, Stone, or other Material, or shall knowingly offer, utter, dispose of, or put off, or have in his Custody or Possession, any Paper upon which any such blank Stock Certificate or Coupon, or Part of any such Stock Certificate or Coupon, shall be made or printed, shall be guilty of Felony, and being convicted thereof, shall be liable, at the Discretion of the Court, to be kept in Penal Servitude for any Term not exceeding Fourteen Years and not less than Three Years, or to be imprisoned for any Term not exceeding Two Years, with or without Hard Labour, and with or without Solitary Confinement.

SCHEDULE.

Schedule of Fees.

On the Issue of a Stock Certificate, a Fee not exceeding Five Shillings on every Hundred Pounds of Stock included in the Certificate, and a proportional Sum for any less Sum.

If the Applicant is the registered Holder of an Amount of Stock divisible into several Sums of Fifty Pounds or Multiples of Fifty Pounds, he may require such Sums of Fifty Pounds or such Multiples of Fifty Pounds to be distributed amongst different Certificates, as he thinks fit; subject to this Proviso, that if the Number of Certificates required by him exceed the Proportion of Five to a Thousand Pounds he shall, in respect of each Certificate constituting that Excess, pay a Sum of Sixpence in addition to the Per-centage Fee.

On the Change of a Nominal Certificate for a Certificate to Bearer, or on the Registration in the Books of the Bank of the Stock included in a Nominal Certificate, there shall be charged a Fee not exceeding One Half the Fee that would be chargeable on the Issue of a new Certificate to Bearer.

On the Registration in the Books of the Bank of the Stock included in a Stock Certificate to Bearer there shall be charged a Fee not exceeding Five Shillings.

CAP. XXIX.

An Act to amend and continue the Law relating to Corrupt Practices at Elections of Members of Parliament. [8th *June* 1863.]

17 & 18 Vict. c. 102.

'WHEREAS the "Corrupt Practices Prevention Act, 1854," as amended by an Act of the Session holden in the Twenty-first and Twenty-second Years of Her Majesty, 'Chapter Eighty-seven, is limited to continue in force until the First Day of *September* 'One thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and from thence until the End of the next 'Session of Parliament; and it is expedient further to amend the said Acts and to continue 'the same in manner herein-after mentioned:' Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal,

Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, as follows:

1. The Expression "the Corrupt Practices Prevention Acts" shall include this Act and the said Act of the Twenty-first and Twenty-second Years of the Reign of Her present Majesty, and the Corrupt Practices Prevention Act, 1854, as amended by the said other Acts. Short Title.

Expenses of Elections.

2. No Payment (except in respect of the personal Expenses of a Candidate), and no Advance, Loan, or Deposit, shall be made by or on behalf of any Candidate at an Election, before, or during, or after such Election, on account of or in respect of such Election, otherwise than through an Agent or Agents whose Name and Address or Names and Addresses have been declared in Writing to the Returning Officer on or before the Day of Nomination, or through an Agent or Agents to be appointed in his or their Place as herein provided; and any Person making any such Payment, Advance, Loan, or Deposit, otherwise than through such Agent or Agents, shall be guilty of a Misdemeanor, or in *Scotland* of an Offence punishable by Fine and Imprisonment. It shall be the Duty of the Returning Officer to publish, on or before the Day of Nomination, the Name and Address or the Names and Addresses of the Agent or Agents appointed in pursuance of this Section. No Payment, &c. shall be made by or on behalf of Candidates otherwise than through authorized Agents.

In the event of the Death or legal Incapacity of any Agent appointed in pursuance of this Section, the Candidate shall forthwith appoint another Agent in his Place on giving Notice to the Returning Officer of the Name and Address of the Person so appointed, which shall be forthwith published by the Returning Officer.

3. All Persons who have any Bills, Charges, or Claims upon any Candidate for or in respect of any Election shall send in such Bills, Charges, or Claims within One Month from the Day of the Declaration of the Election to such Agent or Agents as aforesaid, otherwise such Persons shall be barred of their Right to recover such Claims and every or any Part thereof: Provided always, that in case of the Death within the said Month of any Person claiming the Amount of such Bill, Charge, or Claim, the legal Representative of such Person shall send in such Bill, Charge, or Claim within One Month after obtaining Probate or Letters of Administration, or Confirmation as Executor, as the Case may be, or the Right to recover such Claim shall be barred as aforesaid: Provided also, that such Bills, Charges, and Claims shall and may be sent in and delivered to the Candidate, if, and so long as, during the said Month, there shall, owing to Death or legal Incapacity, be no such Agent. Bills, &c. to be sent in within One Month to Agent, or Right to recover barred.

4. A detailed Statement of all Election Expenses incurred by or on behalf of any Candidate, including such excepted Payments as aforesaid, shall, within Two Months after the Election, (or in Cases where by reason of the Death of the Creditor no Bill has been sent in within such Period of Two Months, then within One Month after such Bill has been sent in,) be made out and signed by the Agent, or, if there be more than One, by every Agent who has paid the same (including the Candidate in case of Payments made by him), and delivered, with the Bills and Vouchers relative thereto, to the Returning Officer, and the Returning Officer for the Time being shall, at the Expense of the Candidate, within Fourteen Days, insert or cause to be inserted an Abstract of such Statement, with the Signature of the Agent thereto, in some Newspaper published or circulating in the County or Place where the Election was held; and any Agent or Candidate who makes default in delivering to the Returning Officer the Statement required by this Section shall incur a Penalty not exceeding Five Pounds for every Day during which he so makes default; and any Agent or Candidate who wilfully furnishes to the said Returning Officer an untrue Statement shall be guilty of a Misdemeanor, or in *Scotland* of an Offence punishable by Fine and Imprisonment; and the said Returning Officer shall preserve all such Bills and Vouchers, and during Six Months after they have been delivered to him permit any Voter to inspect the same, on Payment of a Fee of One Shilling. As to Publication of Statement of Election Expenses.

Legal Proceedings.

5. The Provisions of the Fourteenth Section of the Corrupt Practices Prevention Act, 1854, shall extend to a Misdemeanor or to any other Offence under the Corrupt Practices Prevention Sect. 14 of 17 & 18 Vict. c. 102. extended

to Misdemeanors, &c.

Prevention Acts not punishable by a Penalty or Forfeiture, as well as to Proceedings for any Offence punishable by a Penalty or Forfeiture.

General Allegations sufficient in Indictments.

6. In any Indictment or Information for Bribery or undue Influence, and in any Action or Proceeding for any Penalty for Bribery, Treating, or undue Influence, it shall be sufficient to allege that the Defendant was at the Election at or in connexion with which the Offence is intended to be alleged to have been committed guilty of Bribery, Treating, or undue Influence (as the Case may require); and in any Criminal or Civil Proceedings in relation to any such Offence the Certificate of the Returning Officer in this Behalf shall be sufficient Evidence of the due holding of the Election, and of any Person therein named having been a Candidate thereat.

Evidence of Witness on Election Committee and before Commissions.

7. No Person who is called as a Witness before any Election Committee, or any Commissioners appointed in pursuance of the Act of the Session holden in the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Years of the Reign of Her present Majesty, Chapter Fifty-seven, shall be excused from answering any Question relating to any corrupt Practice at, or connected with, any Election forming the Subject of Inquiry by such Committee or Commissioners, on the Ground that the Answer thereto may criminate or tend to criminate himself: Provided always, that where any Witness shall answer every Question relating to the Matters aforesaid which he shall be required by such Committee or Commissioners (as the Case may be) to answer, and the Answer to which may criminate or tend to criminate him, he shall be entitled to receive from the Committee, under the Hand of their Clerk, or from the Commissioners, under their Hands (as the Case may be), a Certificate stating that such Witness was, upon his Examination, required by the said Committee or Commissioners to answer Questions or a Question relating to the Matters aforesaid, the Answers or Answer to which criminated or tended to criminate him, and had answered all such Questions or such Question; and if any Information, Indictment, or Action be at any Time thereafter pending in any Court against such Witness for any Offence under the Corrupt Practices Prevention Acts, or for which he might have been prosecuted or proceeded against under such Acts, committed by him previously to the Time of his giving his Evidence, and at or in relation to the Election concerning or in relation to which the Witness may have been so examined, the Court shall, on Production and Proof of such Certificate, stay the Proceedings in such last-mentioned Information, Indictment, or Action, and may, at its Discretion, award to such Witness such Costs as he may have been put to in such Information, Indictment, or Action: Provided that no Statement made by any Person in answer to any Question put by or before such Election Committee or Commissioners shall, except in Cases of Indictments for Perjury, be admissible in Evidence in any Proceeding, Civil or Criminal.

Election Committees.

Regulations as to Proceedings of Election Committees.

8. The following Regulations shall be made with respect to the Proceedings of Select Committees appointed to try Election Petitions:

1. On any Charge of Treating being brought before any Election Committee, it shall not be necessary, unless the Committee should otherwise decide, to prove Agency in the first instance before giving in Evidence the Facts whereby the Charge of Treating is to be sustained:
2. Where any Person who has voted at any Election is found by any Committee to have been guilty of Bribery or Treating at such Election, his Vote shall be void, and may, upon a Scrutiny, be struck off the List of Voters, notwithstanding that the Name of such guilty Person has not been included in the List of Voters to be objected to:
3. Where any Election Petition complains that Bribery, Treating, or other Corrupt Practices have been committed at any Election, the Committee to whose Determination such Petition is referred shall report to the House of Commons whether or not Corrupt Practices have, or whether there is reason to believe Corrupt Practices have, extensively prevailed at such Election in the Place to which the Petition refers.

9. Where

9. Where an Election Committee has reported to the House of Commons that certain Persons named by them have been guilty of Bribery or Treating, and where it appears by the Report of any Commission of Inquiry into Corrupt Practices at any Election made to Her Majesty and laid before Parliament that certain Persons named by them have been guilty of the Offences of Bribery or Treating, and have not been furnished by them with Certificates of Indemnity, such Report, with the Evidence taken by the Commission, shall be laid before the Attorney General, with a view to his instituting a Prosecution against such Persons if the Evidence should, in his Opinion, be sufficient to support a Prosecution. Prosecutions for Bribery.

Repeal.

10. There shall be repealed the several Acts of Parliament mentioned in the Schedule hereto to the Extent specified in the Third Column of the said Schedule, but such Repeal shall not affect the Punishment of any Offence or the Recovery of any Penalty or Forfeiture incurred under any of the Provisions hereby repealed. Acts as mentioned in Col. 3. of Schedule repealed.

11. The Corrupt Practices Prevention Acts shall continue in force for a Period of Five Years from the Date of the passing of this Act, and from thenceforth until the End of the then next Session of Parliament. Continuance of Corrupt Practices Prevention Acts.

The SCHEDULE.

Date of Act.	Title of Act.	Extent of Repeal.
15 & 16 Vict. c. 57. A.D. 1852.	An Act to provide for more effectual Inquiry into theExistence of Corrupt Practices at Elections for Members to serve in Parliament.	Sections 9 and 10.
17 & 18 Vict. c. 102. A.D. 1854.	An Act to consolidate and amend the Laws relating to Bribery, Treating, and undue Influence at Elections of Members of Parliament.	Sections 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, and 34.
21 & 22 Vict. c. 87. A.D. 1858.	An Act to continue and amend the Corrupt Practices Prevention Act, 1854.	So much of Section (1) as provides that a full, true, and particular Account of all Payments made for such Conveyance, signed by the Candidate or his Agents, shall be delivered to the Election Auditor, with the Names and Addresses of the Persons to whom such Payments have been made, and the Amount of such Account shall be included in the General Account of the Expenses incurred at any Election to be made out and kept by such Election Auditor. And Sections 2, 4.