



1914

c 18 Public Inquiries Act

Ontario

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CHAPTER 18.

An Act respecting Inquiries concerning Public Matters.

HIS MAJESTY, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario, enacts as follows:—

Short title.

1. This Act may be cited as *The Public Inquiries Act*. 8 Edw. VII. c. 8, s. 1.

Power to receive evidence on oath.

2. Whenever the Lieutenant-Governor in Council deems it expedient to cause inquiry to be made concerning any matter connected with or affecting the good government of Ontario, or the conduct of any part of the public business thereof, or of the administration of justice therein, and such inquiry is not regulated by any special law, he may, by commission appoint a person or persons to conduct such inquiry, and may confer the power of summoning any person and requiring him to give evidence on oath, and to produce such documents and things as the Commissioner or Commissioners deem requisite for the full investigation of the matters into which they are appointed to examine. 8 Edw. VII. c. 8, s. 2.

Power to compel attendance of witnesses.

3. The Commissioner or Commissioners shall have the same power to enforce the attendance of witnesses, and to compel them to give evidence and produce documents and things, as is vested in any Court in civil cases. 8 Edw. VII. c. 8, s. 3.

Application of Act.

Elections.

4.—(1) This Act shall include inquiry into matters connected with elections to the Assembly, and with the proceedings in any such election; but a commission shall not issue where a petition has been presented complaining of the return within the time prescribed, or until the proceedings thereon have terminated.

Corruptions.

(2) This Act shall apply to all attempts, or alleged attempts, to corrupt a candidate at any such election, or a member of the Assembly, after his election, and notwithstanding that the person charged with such attempts may be liable to criminal prosecution in respect thereof, or that criminal proceedings against him may have been commenced or concluded.

Power to take action on evidence. Rev. Stat. c. 11.

(3) The Assembly, upon the evidence taken under the commission being submitted, may take, under *The Legislative Assembly Act*, or under any other authority belonging to the

Assembly, such action as may be deemed proper, as fully as ^{Rev. Stat.} if such evidence had been given at the Bar of the Assembly. _{c. 11.}

(4) No such action shall be taken against any person so charged founded upon evidence given by any witness unless it appears that he had an opportunity of appearing before the Commissioner or Commissioners and cross-examining the witness either at the time that he was examined in chief or subsequently, and that he had also an opportunity of calling witnesses on his own behalf. ^{Circumstances under which no action to be taken.}

(5) A Commission for an inquiry under this section shall not be issued during a Session of this Legislature without the consent of the Assembly. 8 Edw. VII. c. 8, s. 4. ^{Commission not to be held during a Session without leave.}
