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and the number of the district and similarly returned.

The statements, ballot boxes and unused ballots shall be returned to the municipal secretary immediately upon the completion of the count, if practicable, and the municipal secretary shall keep his office open until midnight of each election day for the purpose of receiving the same and shall provide, at the expense of the municipality, facilities therefor. If by reason of the length of time required for the count, or the distance to the secretary's office, it shall be impracticable to return the same before midnight, they shall be retained by the chairman of the board and delivered unchanged and with the seals unbroken to the said secretary as early thereafter as practicable.

[1582-24; 2582.]

In case statements from all precincts are not filed the day after election, the municipal secretary shall notify the members of the delinquent boards of inspector to the file same.

[1582-25; 2582.]

SECTION 565. *Preservation of Boxes.* — The municipal secretary shall retain the box unopened in his possession until the final decision of any election contest, and in any event for six months, subject to the order of a court of competent jurisdiction or other officer specially authorized by law to open the same.

[1582-24.]

SECTION 566. *Canvass of Returns by Provincial Board.* — The provincial board shall meet as a board of canvassers as soon as practicable, but not later than thirty days after the elections, and the provincial treasurer shall then produce before it the statements filed with or delivered to him. If any statements be missing the board, by special messenger or otherwise, shall obtain such missing statement and shall direct the fiscal to institute criminal proceedings against the person or the persons, if any, criminal responsible for such delay.

The board shall also examine the statement on file, and if it clearly appears that the material matters of form are omitted, such statement shall be returned for correction to the board of inspectors by special messenger or in such manner as may be most expeditious. Such statements may not, however, be returned for a recount.

As soon as well statement are before it, the board of canvassers shall proceed to a canvas of all the votes cast in the province for Delegates to the