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# And Shall I Have a Parliamentary Vote?

Being a description of the  
Qualifications for the Women's  
Parliamentary and Local Gov-  
ernment vote in England and  
Wales, Ireland and Scotland,  
with particulars as to how  
to get on the Register.

————— By —————  
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## And Shall I Have a Parliamentary Vote?

Now that the Representation of the People Act is on the Statute Book, the question of the particular women who are to have the right to be registered as Parliamentary voters under it becomes interesting, not only to the Suffragist who has been helping to pilot the measure into port, but also to the ordinary woman, to the political agent, and even to the man in the street. It has been encouraging for Suffragists to note as the firstfruits of the reform the expression of pleasurable anticipation on the faces of women, hitherto quite uninterested, when they have asked: “And shall I have a Parliamentary vote?” This pamphlet seeks to give an answer to the question with respect to women electors throughout the United Kingdom.

### SUMMARY.

The Act extends the *Parliamentary* franchise to about 6,000,000 women of 30 or more, and also *adds* to the *local government* electorate about 5,000,000 married women of 30 or more. Marriage is not a disqualification.

While the basis of the men's Parliamentary franchise is simple residence, and quite different from the women's, the men's local government franchise is, *with certain important modifications*, the basis of both the Parliamentary and the local government qualifications for women, whether they qualify in their own right or through their husbands. Subject to these modifications, it may be said, broadly speaking, that the Parliamentary franchise is given to women of 30 or more who themselves have, or whose husbands have, a local government qualification; while the local government franchise is given to women of 21 or more who themselves have such qualification, and to women of 30 or more whose husbands have such qualification, where both reside together in the qualifying premises.

The basis of the *Parliamentary* franchise for women, which is described in Sections I. to XIV. below, is *the same in England, Wales, Ireland, and Scotland*.

The *local government* franchise is, on the other hand, *somewhat different from the Parliamentary in each part of the*

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*United Kingdom.* It is the same in Ireland as in England and Wales, and the points in which it differs from the Parliamentary in these three countries are given in Section B (2). Scotland has a special local government franchise of its own, and the points in which it differs from the Parliamentary are given in Section B (3).

### A. PARLIAMENTARY FRANCHISE.

#### I.—Age of Women Parliamentary Voters.

The first essential qualification for the Parliamentary vote is that—

#### A WOMAN MUST BE THIRTY YEARS OF AGE.

No woman under thirty can qualify as an elector, but a woman of thirty or over can qualify in nine different ways. In five of these nine ways she can qualify in her own right, whether she is married or single; while a married woman can become an elector in four ways in virtue of a qualification enjoyed by her husband.

#### II.—How a Woman Qualifies in Her Own Right.

A woman, married or single, can qualify in her own right as an occupier (either as owner, tenant, lodger, or service voter) or as a University graduate—that is to say, in any of the following five ways. The land or premises which qualify her to vote is called the “qualifying premises,” and the five franchises may be called the “ownership, tenancy, lodger, service, and University franchises.”

(a) If she, as OWNER, occupies, that is to say, herself makes use of, any land, house, shop or building of whatever kind: (i.) as a dwelling-house,\* however low the rental, or (ii.) for some other purpose, in which case the annual value must be £5 or more. “OWNERSHIP FRANCHISE.”

(b) If she, as TENANT, occupies any land, house, shop or building of whatever kind: (i.) as a dwelling-house,\* however low its rental, or (ii.) for some other purpose, in which case the annual value must be £5 or more. “TENANCY FRANCHISE.”

(c) If she rents a room or rooms as a LODGER\* of £5 annual value, but only when she has taken the room or rooms from the landlord in an unfurnished state and has herself provided the furniture. “LODGER FRANCHISE.”

A woman whether in the house of relatives or of strangers can become qualified, if she pays a rent for her room unfur-

\* Dwelling-house includes part of a house occupied separately as a dwelling-house. A lodging, however, is not a dwelling-house.

There is some doubt as to whether a lodger is not qualified however low the rent of her room, and the following question was

nished and herself supplies the furniture. It was a prevalent custom for sons to qualify as lodgers in their parents' houses under the old franchise laws. Now that there is a £5 limit of value for a lodger's room it becomes much easier.\* Indeed, it will be possible for any woman who pays £5 or more rent for her room unfurnished, and provides the furniture herself, to become a Parliamentary voter. This will be the case whether she lives on these terms with complete strangers or with her own relatives. It would not be applicable to domestic servants living in. Women who are anxious to have the Parliamentary vote and who have not houses of their own but live in lodgings or with their people, should buy their own furniture and rent an unfurnished room or rooms, whether in the house of their own people or with strangers.

(d) If she inhabits a dwelling-house\* or rooms as a dwelling-house by reason of her employment, unless her employer also lives in the same house. This is called the “SERVICE FRANCHISE.” For example, a school-mistress who has a

asked in the House of Commons to try to clear the matter up. The answer, however, misses the point, because it brings in the expression “separately,” which is not applicable to rooms used as lodgings. Rooms used “separately as a dwelling-house” would certainly qualify, however low the rent, because the Act specifies this with respect to a dwelling-house.

“MR. GULLAND asked the President of the Local Government Board whether, in making Regulations under the Representation of the People Act, he will make it clear whether, where a woman occupies unfurnished lodgings, the lodgings must be of a yearly value of £5, in order that she may be qualified as a Parliamentary elector?”

MR. DUDLEY WARD (Vice-Chamberlain of the Household): I have been asked to reply for my right hon. friend. I am not empowered to express any authoritative opinion, by Regulations or otherwise, on the question put by my right hon. friend. It would, however, appear to me, as at present advised, that a woman, who separately occupies unfurnished lodgings of any value, and who is otherwise qualified, would be entitled to be registered, both as a local government and Parliamentary elector.”

I have therefore put in the text above the limit of £5 for lodgings, which is my reading of the Act, and with which competent authorities agree. It may, however, be overturned by the Law Courts.

The question of whether or not dons at colleges, and matrons and nurses at hospitals, have the right to vote is one not easy to answer. It depends in each case on the particular bargain they have with their employer. In some cases, no doubt, the head of a college or hospital could prove that she inhabited a dwelling-house or rooms as a dwelling-house in virtue of her office or service. Failing this, she might be able to qualify as a lodger if she took her room unfurnished and it was of the annual value of £5. The same arguments are applicable to dons and nurses.

house to live in as part of her salary would be qualified to vote, while a woman caretaker of an employer's dwelling-house would not. On the other hand, a woman caretaker of an office would become a voter. This does not mean that a domestic servant would have a vote, because, as a rule, she does not occupy any room as a *dwelling-house*, and in most cases the employer lives on the premises.

(e) If she is a graduate of any University in the United Kingdom granting degrees to women, or at Oxford or Cambridge "has been admitted to and has passed the final examination, and kept under the conditions required of women by the University the period of residence necessary for a man to obtain a degree." This period of residence required of a man, both at Oxford and Cambridge, is nine terms after matriculation.\* Honorary graduates are not qualified to be electors, since the degree which entitles to a vote must have been secured by examination. This "UNIVERSITY FRANCHISE" entitles a woman to vote for special University members only.

### III.—How a Married Woman Qualifies Through Her Husband.

A married woman, whether she herself has or has not any of the above qualifications (a) to (e) is entitled to be registered as a Parliamentary elector, if her husband has any of the first four qualifications (a), (b), (c), or (d), mentioned above—that is, if he has the owner, tenant, lodger, or service qualification as defined above. The wife of a University graduate, however, does not become an elector in virtue of her husband's degree.

### IV.—Registers of Electors and Qualifying Periods.

In England, Wales, and Scotland (for Ireland, see below) two Parliamentary registers for county and borough (burgh) constituencies are to be made up each year: one called the "Spring Register," and one called the "Autumn Register." A woman will be entitled to be registered in the Spring Register of any year, if she or her husband has occupied the qualifying premises, as described in II. (a), (b), (c), and (d) above, for the six months ending January 15th; and in the Autumn Register, if her own or her husband's occupation has been for the six months ending July 15th. Either of these periods of six months is called a "qualifying period." The Spring Register will be used for any election taking place between April 15th and October 15th, and the Autumn Register for an election falling between October 15th and April 15th. (See also XI. below.)

\* For those taking the B.Sc. or D.Litt. Examinations, six terms' residence only is required; for the Mus.Bac. Examination no residence is necessary.

In Ireland only one Parliamentary Register will be made up each year, for which the "qualifying period" is the six months January 16th to July 16th, and it will be in force for a year from the following October 15th. (See also XI. below.)

For "naval and military" voters (see VI. below) the "qualifying period" is reduced to one month, namely, the month ending January 15th or July 15th, as the case may be.

The rules for the making up of University registers are left to the University authorities. Those of the English, Welsh, and Irish Universities are given power to charge a fee of not more than one pound for the registration of any woman graduate. Women who are already graduates of the Scottish Universities cannot be charged this fee for registration, but new graduates will, as heretofore, be required to pay one pound to be enrolled.\*

### V.—How Removal Affects Registration.

The safeguards for women with respect to removals are less adequate than those for men. If a woman, or the husband of a woman as the case may be, removes during the qualifying period from one qualifying premises (see II. (a), (b), (c), (d)) to another, the right of the woman to registration as a Parliamentary voter will be retained only if the *new* premises are in the same *county or county borough (burgh)* as the *old*. It is also necessary that the occupation of the different premises by the woman or her husband shall be continuous. That is to say, for example, if a woman or her husband is the occupying tenant of shop X from January 16th to April 15th, and of shop Y from April 16th to July 15th; and if the shop Y is in the same county or county borough (burgh) as shop X, the woman would be qualified to be registered as a Parliamentary elector. If, however, there was an interval of one or more days between the occupations of the two shops, or if shop Y were outside the county or county borough (burgh) where the shop X was situated, the right to registration on the next succeeding register would be lost.

There is one exception to this rule, that a woman may qualify for registration if she or her husband has occupied continuously in succession different qualifying premises in the area. That is the case where she or her husband enters on the occupation of one of the series of premises after December 16th or June 15th, and leaves these premises before January 15th or July 15th, as the case may be.

The fact that a house has been let furnished for four months of the qualifying period does not disqualify for registration.

For the purpose of a *man's* Parliamentary registration it is the position of the premises in the *Parliamentary county or Parliamentary borough (burgh)* which is considered.

\* See also page 16, Appendix I.

### VI.—Women Naval and Military Voters.

Women are entitled to be registered as "naval or military voters" if they would have had the necessary qualification but for their war service, and if they are

- (a) Serving, whether at *home, afloat, or abroad*, on full pay as members of the Navy, Army, or Air Force, or
- (b) *abroad or afloat* (not if at home) in connection with any British war, and are either—
  - (i.) on military or naval service for which payment is made by the British or any of its Dominion Parliaments, or in service as a merchant seaman, pilot, or fisherman, including the master or apprentice on board a merchant ship or fishing boat, or
  - (ii.) serving in any work of the British Red Cross Society, or the Order of St. John of Jerusalem in England, or any other body with a similar object, or
  - (iii.) in any other work recognised by the Admiralty, Army Council or Air Council as work of national importance in connection with the war.

Such naval or military voters are admitted to registration on easier terms than the ordinary woman in two different ways, as follows:—

(A) Such a woman may be registered as a Parliamentary elector for any constituency for which she would have been qualified but for her absence on war service. For example, a woman who had let, or given up, her house because she was away from home on war service would be registered under this provision, although she had not been "occupying" her house.

(B) A woman naval or military voter, or one who has been serving as a member of the Naval, Military, or Air Forces of the Crown **at any time during** the six months of the normal qualifying period, going into new premises does not in order to qualify require to have occupied them for more than one month, ending on January 15th or July 15th, as the case may be. For example, a woman doctor, who was a member of the Military Forces of the Crown, giving up her war service in April would be in a position to qualify as an unfurnished lodger by July 15th, if she took new lodgings any time up to June 16th, instead of requiring to have entered them by January 16th. For her the "qualifying period" is one month ending January 15th or July 15th, as the case may be.

### VII.—Women with Husbands on War Service.

A woman whose husband is in the Army, Navy or Air Force, or on any other war work as described in the preceding paragraph, is also provided with the safeguard described in (B) above. That is to say, to enable his wife to be registered as a Parliamentary elector a soldier or other war worker does not need to have occupied "qualifying premises" for the full six months. It is sufficient that he has occupied them for one month ending

on January 15th or July 15th, provided he has not given up his war work before the beginning of the normal qualifying period of six months ending January 15th or July 15th.

There is, however, no provision safeguarding the *wives* of war workers corresponding to (A) in the preceding paragraph, so that the wife of a man who by reason of his war service had ceased to occupy "qualifying premises" (II. (a), (b), (c) or (d) above)—that is to say, had given up his house, shop, lodging, or workshop—would not have any right to be registered *through her husband*. She might, of course, have acquired a qualification of her own.

The fact that a man is disqualified as a conscientious objector does not deprive his wife of her right to be registered and to vote.

### VIII.—Joint Occupiers.

The Act says that "not more than two joint occupiers shall be entitled to be registered in respect of the same land or premises unless they are *bona fide* engaged as partners in carrying on their profession, trade, or business on the land or premises." In order that joint occupation may qualify the annual value of the premises must be at least a total of £5 for each occupier, except that two joint occupiers of a dwelling-house may qualify, however low the rent.

Therefore, where a number of persons occupy premises or land for the purpose of a *profession, trade, or business*, every one of the women partners is entitled to a vote, provided that the annual rental is at least £5 for each joint occupier. For example, three dressmaker sisters carrying on business together as partners would all be entitled to vote for their business premises if the annual rent was £15. If the rent were less than £15, not one of the sisters would have a vote. Where the premises are occupied for some other purpose than a trade, profession, business or dwelling-house, only two joint occupiers could qualify to be registered if the annual value were at least a total of £5 for each of the whole number of joint occupiers.

On the other hand, where a house is occupied jointly *as a dwelling-house* by two or more persons, two are able to qualify as joint occupiers, however low the rental, but not more than two. If four sisters were the joint tenants of their home, they would have to arrange among themselves which two should be registered as occupying tenant Parliamentary electors. It will no doubt be asked whether in such a family of four living together in the same house it would not be possible for two to be tenants and the other two to rent unfurnished rooms, provide their own furniture, and become qualified for registration as lodgers. If the four were all joint tenants only two could vote, because

# KEY TO THE FRANCHISES FOR WOMEN.

	PURPOSE OF OCCUPATION.	RENT.
1. Occupier as OWNER or TENANT (or one of any number of joint occupiers as owners or tenants) of any land, shop, house or building	for the purpose of carrying on a business, trade or profession	and the total rent is at least £5 when there is one owner or tenant, £10 when there are two, and so on.
2. Occupier as OWNER or TENANT (or one of two joint occupiers as owners or tenants) of any land, shop, house or building	for the purpose of a dwelling-house	however low the rent.
3. Ditto	for any purpose other than that of carrying on a profession, trade or business, or of a dwelling-house	and the total rent is at least £5 when there is one occupier, £10 when there are two.
4. Inhabitant OCCUPIER, by virtue of any office, SERVICE or employment, of a dwelling-house which is not inhabited by the person in whose SERVICE she or he is	for the purpose of a dwelling-house	and has the use of the house as part of her (his) wages or salary.
5. One of two joint inhabitant OCCUPIERS, by virtue of any SERVICE, office or employment, of a dwelling-house which is not inhabited by the person in whose service they are	for the purpose of a dwelling-house	and have the use of the house as part of their wages or salary.
6. LODGER who OCCUPIES (or one of two lodgers who jointly occupy) a room or rooms let to her (or him) in an unfurnished state	for the purpose of a lodging	and the annual rent is at least £5 for one lodger, or £10 for two.*
7. OWNER, whether or not she or he is also the OCCUPIER, or the OCCUPIER as TENANT (or one of any number of such joint owners or tenants), of any land, shop, house or building	for any purpose except a dwelling-house	and the total rent is at least the amount produced by multiplying £10 by the number of joint owners or tenants.
8 One of more than two joint owners, or joint occupiers as tenants of a house	for the purpose of a dwelling-house	and the annual rent is at least £20 for 2 occupiers, £30 for 3, £40 for 4, and so on.
9. LODGER who occupies (or one of two lodgers who jointly occupy) a room or rooms, whether let furnished or unfurnished	for the purpose of a lodging	and the annual rent is at least £10 for one lodger, or £20 for two lodgers.
10. GRADUATE (other than an honorary graduate) at one of the following Universities: Dublin, Queen's University, Belfast; National University of Ireland; St. Andrews, Glasgow, Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Durham, London, Wales, Manchester, Liverpool, Leeds, Sheffield, Birmingham or Bristol, or a Scholar or Fellow of the University of Dublin, or a Professor or Member of the University Court of one of the Scottish Universities; or at Oxford or Cambridge "has been admitted to and has passed the final examination, and kept under the conditions required of women by the University the period of residence necessary for a man to obtain a degree."		

\* See footnote page 2.

PARLIAMENTARY FRANCHISE.		LOCAL GOVERNMENT FRANCHISE.			
England, Wales, Ireland & Scotland.		England, Wales and Ireland.		Scotland.	
A Woman of 30 or more, whether married or single has a Parliamentary vote if she is	A Woman of 30 or more has a Parliamentary vote if her husband is	A Woman of 21 or more, whether married or single, has a local government vote if she is	A Woman of 30 or more has a local government vote if her husband is	A Woman of 21 or more, whether married or single, has a local government vote if she is	A Woman of 30 or more has a local government vote if her husband is
Yes.	Yes.	Yes, and the premises would also qualify, however low the rent.	No.	See 7.	See 7.
Yes.	Yes.	Yes.	Yes, if both husband and wife reside there.	Yes.	Yes, if both husband and wife reside there.
Yes.	Yes.	Yes, and the premises would also qualify, however low the rent.	No.	See 7.	See 7.
Yes.	Yes.	Yes.	Yes, if both husband and wife reside there.	Yes.	Yes, if both husband and wife reside there.
Yes.	Yes.	Yes.	Yes, if both husband and wife reside there.	No.	No.
Yes.	Yes.	Yes, and the premises would also qualify, however low the rent.	Yes, if both husband and wife reside there and however low the rent.	See 9.	See 9.
See 1, 2 and 3	See 1, 2 and 3.	See 1, 2 and 3.	See 1, 2 and 3.	Yes.	No.
No.	No.	No.	No.	Yes.	Yes, if both husband and wife reside there.
See 6.	See 6.	See 6.	See 6.	Yes.	Yes, if both husband and wife reside there.
Yes.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.

it is not possible to be lodger and landlord at the same time. But, if two only were joint tenants, there is no reason why the others should not become the lodgers. If the third and fourth sisters each took a room unfurnished and provided her own furniture, all four sisters could become voters. In one house it would be possible to have as Parliamentary voters, besides two joint tenants, two lodgers for each room let as a lodging in an unfurnished state of the annual value of £10.\*

#### IX.—Can Women Vote in More than One Constituency?

If a woman is registered in two or more constituencies she would be able to vote at a bye-election in any one of them. At a General Election, on the other hand, while the Act has made it comparatively easy for a man to vote in two constituencies, no woman except a University elector will be able to have two votes, one for her University candidate and one in a constituency where she or her husband is an owner, tenant, lodger, or service voter, as described in II. (a), (b), (c), and (d) above.

#### X.—How to Get upon the Register.

It is the business of the registration officers set up under the new Act to place on the register the names of all women qualified to be Parliamentary electors, whether as ordinary or as naval and military voters, except that in a University constituency the authorities are given power—which may or may not be exercised—to require women who had taken their degrees before the passing of this Act to make a claim before being registered.

The list of electors for the Spring Register in any area will be published and open for inspection at the office of the registration officer (see XII.) of the area on February 1st; that for the Autumn Register on August 1st. Besides the copy of the register kept for inspection in his own office, the registration officer must arrange for copies of different parts of the register to be open for inspection either at the principal Post Office or at some other convenient place in the corresponding part of the registration area. He must make a public announcement as to where these parts of the register may be seen. A woman finding her name omitted can make a claim to the registration officer not later than February 18th for the Spring Register or August 18th for the Autumn Register. The making of a claim is quite a simple matter, because the registration officer supplies a form on which the claim can be made, and has power without elaborate formality to accept it as good.

\* See footnote \* on page 2.

In Ireland, where there is only one register, the date for its publication is August 1st and the last day for claims August 18th.

These dates, however, are not applicable to the first Register made up in 1918, particulars of which are given in XI. below.

#### XI.—The First Register.

For the first register, however, the above dates do not apply. For it the qualifying period is October 16th, 1917, to April 15th, 1918, for ordinary voters, and from March 16th to April 15th, 1918, for women who qualify by reason of the shortened qualifying period for naval and military voters. This register will come into force on October 1st, 1918.

THE LISTS OF ELECTORS FOR THIS FIRST REGISTER WILL BE PUBLISHED ON JUNE 29TH, 1918, AND THE LAST DAY FOR CLAIMS IS JULY 25TH, 1918.

Since this first register will have to be compiled without any old register to act as a guide, it is very important that any woman who believes that she is qualified, or who even thinks there is a possibility that she might be qualified, should ascertain whether, in fact, her name has been registered. This she can find out by inspecting the register of her constituency after June 29th, 1918. If her name is omitted she should at once put in her claim.

Because of the provision authorising Universities to require their electors to make a claim, it is important that a woman who is a University elector should ascertain whether her University does require that such claim should be made.\*

It is specially important also that a woman naval and military voter should make sure that she has been enrolled, because it will be very difficult for the registration officer to ascertain what women have, by reason of their war service, failed to acquire the ordinary qualification.

Women who are qualified as naval and military voters under VI. (A) above, since they will be in practically every case away from the constituency for which they are qualified, cannot inspect the voters' list. Such a woman, therefore, should write to the registration officer (*see below*) of her constituency stating her qualification, and asking to have her name entered on the "Absent Voters' List"; or, failing that, to have sent to her the form on which she can make a formal claim. She should, at the same time, name a proxy (*see below*) if she expects to be far from the United Kingdom at the time of the election.

It is also important that a woman naval or military voter, or a woman whose husband is a naval or military voter, qualified by reason of the reduced qualifying period of a month, as described in VI. (B) above, should inspect the register and, if necessary, make a claim to be enrolled.

\* See page 16, Appendix I.

### XII.—Registration Officers.

In England and Wales the registration officer is the Clerk of the County or Borough Council in Parliamentary Counties and Parliamentary Boroughs which are coterminous with or wholly contained in the corresponding administrative County or County Borough. In any other case he is such Clerk to a County Borough or Urban District Council as the Local Government Board may decide.

In Scotland the registration officer is the County or Burgh Assessor of the area, or where there are more than one assessor, the one appointed for the purpose of Parliamentary elections.

In Ireland the registration officer is the Clerk of the Crown and Peace for the area, except that in Dublin and Belfast they shall be the Town Clerks as long as the present holders are in office.

The authorities of each University themselves appoint their own registration officer of Parliamentary electors.

### XIII.—Absent Voters' Lists and Proxies.

Any *ordinary* woman elector, who by reason of her occupation, service, or employment is likely to be debarred from voting in the ordinary way may *claim*, before February 18th or August 18th, as the case may be, to be put on the Absent Voters' List, and if so registered will receive her ballot paper and vote by post, and she will not be allowed to vote except by post.

FOR THE FIRST REGISTER SHE MUST CLAIM BEFORE JULY 17TH, 1918.

It is the duty of the registration officer to put the name of any woman *naval or military* voter on the Absent Voters' List, unless she gives notice before February 18th or August 18th, as the case may be, that she does not wish to be placed on the list. She will then vote either by post or by proxy according to where she is stationed at the time of the election.

Naval and military voters are given the right to vote by proxy in the following circumstances, but the right of proxy voting does not extend to the ordinary electors. The Act provides that an Order in Council shall define the areas abroad to which proxy voting is applicable, and a woman on the Absent Voters' List in any of these areas may vote by proxy. The proxy, who must have been appointed by the woman beforehand, may be her husband, father, or mother, a brother of 21 years or more, a sister of 21 years or more, or an elector of a constituency in which she is entitled to vote. On the other hand, a woman on the Absent Voters' List, in the United Kingdom or abroad, but not in one of the proxy-voting areas, shall vote by post on a ballot paper sent to her by the Returning Officer of her constituency, and not otherwise.

### XIV.—Disqualifications.

A woman is disqualified if she or her husband is not a British subject. She is not disqualified if her husband is a conscientious objector, and she is not disqualified if she or her husband has failed to pay the poor rates. The wives of peers and peeresses in their own right are not disqualified.

### B. LOCAL GOVERNMENT FRANCHISES.

#### 1.—CONDITIONS APPLICABLE THROUGHOUT THE UNITED KINGDOM.

The local government franchises throughout the United Kingdom are on the same basis for men as for women, married or single. Women qualify in their own right from the age of 21. In addition, wives of 30 or over, whose husbands are local government electors and who live together with their husbands in the premises which qualify him, are also entitled to be registered as local government electors. Even if the husband is not actually residing with his wife because he is absent as a naval or military voter, he is counted as residing with her for the purpose of his wife's local government vote, if he is registered as a Parliamentary voter with a residence qualification which he would have had but for his war service.

There is no Absent Voters' List for local government electors, and therefore it is not possible to vote by post. It is, however, possible for women who themselves, or whose husbands, as naval and military voters, have been qualified by the short qualifying period of one month, as described in VI. (B), to be registered as local government electors. Women naval and military voters, as described in VI. (A), and University electors do not vote in local government elections.

Women have the right to vote in every local government constituency in which they may be qualified. If they are qualified in two or more wards of a local government area, they cannot vote in more than one at any ordinary election, although they might vote in any ward at a bye-election.

#### 2.—SPECIAL CONDITIONS IN ENGLAND, WALES AND IRELAND.

Local government electors in England, Wales, and Ireland vote for the members of Town, County, Rural District, Urban District and Parish Councils, for the London Borough Councils and the London County Council.

The following are the differences between the Parliamentary and local government franchises.



The women who have local government votes include all women who have Parliamentary votes *except*—

- (a) University graduates.
- (b) Naval and military voters as described in VI. (A).
- (c) Wives whose husbands are qualified as local government electors otherwise than in respect of premises in which they both reside.\*

In *addition* to the women who are Parliamentary electors, the women local government electors include:—

(a) Women, married or single, between 21 and 30 who are occupiers (as owners, tenants, lodgers or service voters) as defined in II. (a), (b), (c), (d).

(b) Since the £5 annual value limitation mentioned in II. (a), (b), and (c) above, with respect to the ownership, tenancy, and lodger franchises, does not apply to women local government electors, all women excluded by that limitation from the Parliamentary vote, whether qualified in their own right or through their husbands, are included among the local government electors. Neither does this £5 limitation apply to women between 21 and 30 with respect to their ability to qualify as local government electors. Nor is there any limit of value in the case of joint occupation.

### 3.—SPECIAL CONDITIONS IN SCOTLAND.

In Scotland women have *the Parliamentary vote on the same terms as English women*.

The local government vote, that is, the vote for Town, County, and Parish Councils, and for School Boards, however, is on a basis slightly different from that of the English local government franchise, and also of the women's Parliamentary franchise.

The Scotch local government qualifications for men and women qualifying in their own right are the same as the women's Parliamentary ownership, tenancy, lodger, and service qualifications described in II. (a), (b), (c), (d), and the conditions for joint occupancy are the same, except for the following modifications:—

(a) An owner of land or premises need not also be an occupier, provided the total annual value is at least as much as £10 for each owner.

(b) An owner or occupying tenant while qualified as the occupier of a dwelling-house, however low its rental, is not qualified for premises used for other purposes unless the premises or land is of the annual value of £10.

\* A naval or military voter who by reason of his war service is not resident in the same house as his wife is for the purpose of his wife's vote deemed to be resident there if he is registered there as a Parliamentary elector on a residence qualification.

(c) There may be any number of joint owners or tenants provided that the share of annual value of each be not less than £10.

(d) Qualifying lodgings may be taken either furnished or unfurnished, but they must be of the annual value of £10 in an unfurnished state.

The latest information on this question will always be published in *The Common Cause*, and the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, 62, Oxford Street, London, W. 1, will be glad to answer inquiries on the subject.

CHRYSTAL MACMILLAN.

### REVISED LIST OF DATES FOR REGISTRATION.

#### ENGLAND AND WALES.

	Autumn Register.	Spring Register.
Qualifying period ends .. .. .	15th June	15th Dec.
Publication of electors' lists .. .. .	15th July	17th Jan.
Last day of notice of objection .. .. .	4th Aug.	4th Feb.
Last day for claims .. .. .	10th Aug.	10th Feb.
Last day for claims as absent voter .. .. .	24th Aug.	24th Feb.
Publication of list of objections to electors' list .. .. .	16th Aug.	16th Feb.
Publication of list of claimants .. .. .	16th Aug.	16th Feb.
Last day for objections to claimants .. .. .	24th Aug.	24th Feb.
Publication of list of objections to claimants as soon as possible after .. .. .	24th Aug.	24th Feb.
Register comes into force .. .. .	15th Oct.	15th April

#### SCOTLAND.

Qualifying period ends .. .. .	15th June	15th Dec.
Publication of electors' lists .. .. .	1st Aug.	1st Feb.
Last day of notice of objection .. .. .	15th Aug.	15th Feb.
Last day for claims .. .. .	15th Aug.	15th Feb.
Last day for claims as absent voter .. .. .	25th Aug.	25th Feb.
Publication of list of objections to electors' list .. .. .	22nd Aug.	22nd Feb.
Publication of list of claimants .. .. .	22nd Aug.	22nd Feb.
Last day for objections to claimants .. .. .	27th Aug.	27th Feb.
Publication of list of objections to claimants .. .. .	27th Aug.	27th Feb.
Register comes into force .. .. .	15th Oct.	15th April

#### IRELAND.

In *Northern Ireland* the new Register comes into force on December 15th, 1922. The dates for Northern Ireland are all slightly different from those given above, and care should be taken to ascertain them precisely.

Nothing in this pamphlet applies to *Southern Ireland*.

#### IMPORTANT.

The above dates correct all registration dates given in this pamphlet.

## APPENDIX I.

## WOMEN UNIVERSITY VOTERS.

## English and Welsh Universities.

All the English and Welsh Universities require that women shall make a claim to be registered as Parliamentary electors. Claim forms are being issued by the Universities to those whose addresses are available. Every woman graduate, or Oxford or Cambridge woman, with the necessary qualifications, *who has not yet received a claim form, should make application for the same to the registration officer of her University.*

Since the Act makes no provision for charging a fee to the Oxford and Cambridge University electors, the women of these Universities are not charged any fees for registration. At the other Universities the following fees are charged for Parliamentary registration: Birmingham, members of Guild of Graduates 10s., others £1; Bristol, 7s. 6d.; Cardiff, 5s.; Durham, for members of Convocation no charge, for non-members £1 for Parliamentary registration, and £2 for registration as a Parliamentary elector and member of Convocation; Leeds, 5s. for a member of Convocation, for non-members 10s. 6d.; London, for a member of Convocation no charge, for non-members £1; Manchester, £1, or 5s. for persons who have graduated before the passing of the Representation of the People Act, 1918; and Sheffield, 10s. 6d.

For Oxford women "residence" is to be understood in the ordinary sense of keeping terms by sleeping in term, for a specified number of days within a mile and a-half of Carfax—the centre of the town.

## Scottish Universities.

No fee is to be charged for the registration of women Parliamentary voters. The Universities of Aberdeen, Edinburgh, and Glasgow are registering women graduates as Parliamentary voters without requiring them to claim. St. Andrews has issued claim forms to all women graduates, and may omit from registration those women who fail to make a claim.

It is important that every woman graduate should *send her latest permanent address to the registrar*, as the Election is conducted by voting papers sent through the post.

## Irish Universities.

Dublin University does not require its women to make a claim, but requires them to pay a registration fee of £1 (if they are not already registered). *Every woman graduate should inform the registrar of her latest permanent address.* Belfast University requires women graduates to make a claim, but does not charge a registration fee.

English, Welsh, Irish, and St. Andrews University women electors, who have not received a claim form, should write to the Registrars of their respective Universities.

Scottish and Dublin University electors should send to the Registrars of their Universities their permanent addresses.

## APPENDIX II.

## LODGER AND SERVICE VOTERS.

As there is sometimes difficulty in determining when a woman is qualified as a Service or a Lodger voter, the following further explanations of these Franchises are given:—

## Lodger Vote for Parliament.

Complaints are being continually raised by unmarried daughters resident at home that their claims to a Parliamentary vote has been refused by their registration officer.

There is no doubt that the daughter resident at home is just as entitled to a Parliamentary vote as any other woman if she is over 30, if she owns the furniture of her room and if she has paid rent for her room from October 15th, 1917, to April 15th, 1918, and if its annual value, unfurnished, is at least £5.\* Even though the registration officer may refuse to enter her name on the register, she must persist in claiming her vote, for his position in refusing is quite untenable. Until this year, men were entitled to the Parliamentary vote on a lodger qualification, and always they have been recognised as so qualifying if they lodged at home. The lodger vote has always been intended for the *bona fide* lodger, no matter whether lodging in his father's house or elsewhere. There is no reason why the law should suddenly be otherwise interpreted when making applicable to women.

## Service Vote.

A man or woman is qualified for Local Franchises if he or she inhabits any dwelling-house, however low its rental, by virtue of any office, service, or employment, if the dwelling-house is not inhabited by the person in whose service he or she is; a "dwelling-house" under the Representation of the People Act includes any room or rooms occupied separately for purposes of residence.

Any woman service occupier over 21 is entitled to the **Local Government** vote.

Any woman (over 30) whose husband is a service occupier is entitled to the **Local Government** vote.

Any woman (over 30) herself a service occupier or whose husband is a service occupier is entitled to the **Parliamentary** vote.

Thus stated, the qualifications for the women's service vote appear comparatively simple, but many problems are likely to arise over the interpretation of the term "dwelling-house," where a decision will only be possible after consideration of individual circumstances. Thus in the case of the head of a college or school or the matron of a hospital, she should certainly be considered entitled to the service vote as occupying quarters set apart for her as part of the agreement for service, while a lecturer, assistant mistress, or a nurse in the same house may not be able to prove a contractual claim to any particular room as a separate dwelling. In some cases where it is impossible to claim as a service voter it might be possible to be recognised as a lodger voter.

## Importance of Making Claims.

It is of the greatest importance for all women properly entitled to claim the lodger or service vote at once and to have a clear understanding of their own right to claim. In many cases it may be possible for a woman to put her agreement with her employer or landlord upon a proper contractual basis, so that there will be no difficulty raised to the woman's being entered upon this or the next register.

\* See footnote, page 2.

# RECENT PUBLICATIONS.



## LEAFLETS.

Six Million Women can Vote, being a leaflet describing, in simple language, the qualifications of women under the Representation of the People Act, 1918 - - - 1/6 per 100

Mothers, You Must Vote - - - 1/6 „

Women in the Engineering Trades - - - 1/6 „

Women in the Teaching Profession - - - 1/6 „

Women in Business - - - - - 1/6 „

What is a Women Citizens' Association? - - - 1/9 „

The New N.U.W.S.S. - - - - - 3/- „

How Women use the Vote - - - - - 1d. each

The Solicitors' (Qualification of Women) Bill 1/2d. „

## PAMPHLETS.

And Shall I have a Parliamentary Vote? 3d. each

War Work of the National Union - - - 2d. „

Maisons Tolérées - - - - - 2d. „

The National Union and Reconstruction - - - 2d. „

## THE WOMEN CITIZENS' DIARY.

Containing directory of Women's and other organisations as well as qualifications of women for the Parliamentary and Local Government Franchises, etc. - - - - - 1/6 each

## AT LAST.

Being the reproduction, in post card form, of the cartoon appearing in "Punch" of January 23rd, by kind permission of the Proprietors 2d. each

To be obtained from the Literature Department,

**National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies,**

Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, W.