

LESSONS IN CITIZENSHIP.

Election Laws.

LESSON VII.

Are there many laws regulating elections in Pennsylvania?

Answer: Yes. They have been accumulating for more than a century and now make up a large and complicated mass.

Is it necessary for every voter to know them all?

Answer: It is not. Every voter needs to learn only the essentials, which may be grouped under four important headings.

What are these headings?

1. Registration of Voters.

2. Nominating or Primary Elections.

3. Final (General and Municipal Elections).

4. Computing the Vote.

What is the law in regard to registration of voters?

Answer: Every voter in Pennsylvania must be registered in advance of any election, whether living in City, Borough or Township.

Is the method of registration always the same?

Answer: It is not. The method of registration depends upon the place of residence.

What is the method of Registration in First Class Cities?

Answer: Under an act passed by the Assembly on July 10, 1919, a Registration Commission of five members is now constituted for First Class Cities (Philadelphia).

What are the duties of the Commission?

Answer: This Commission appoints four Registrars for each election district, only two of whom may be of the same political party.

What is the work of these Registrars?

Answer: These Registrars meet at the respective polling places of their districts on three designated days preceding the general election, to enroll the electors of their district. This is known as the Fall registration. These same electors meet on a designated day preceding the primary election, and this is known as the Spring registration.

Is there any provision made for a voter, who is prevented by illness or otherwise, from registering on one of the three days set apart for registration?

Answer: Yes. The Registration Commission holds sessions on special days between the last registration day and election day, when they consider applications for registration from any who were prevented from registering on one of the three regular days.

What does a voter have to do when he applies for registration?

Answer: The applicant who desires to register must swear or affirm, that he is a citizen of the Commonwealth and legally qualified to vote, and if he desires to vote a party ticket, at the primary, he must declare his party affiliations when registering.

Can an applicant for registration be challenged?

Answer: Yes. Any qualified elector of a district may challenge the right of any applicant to register.

If challenged as to his right to register, what does the applicant then have to do?

Answer: If challenged as to his right to register, the applicant must prove that he is legally qualified as a voter.

QUALIFICATIONS OF ELECTORS.

What are the qualifications of an elector?

1. He shall have been a citizen of the United States for at least one month.

2. He shall have resided in the State one year or having previously been a qualified elector, or a native-born citizen of the State and have removed therefrom and returned, then he shall have resided in the State six months immediately preceding the election.

3. He shall have resided in the election district, where he shall offer to vote, at least two months immediately preceding the election.

4. If twenty-two years and upward, he shall have paid within two years a State or a County tax, which shall have been assessed at least two months and paid at least one month before the election.

How are the registrars appointed in Second Class Cities and what are their duties?

Answer: Four registrars appointed the same way in First Class Cities, sit at the polling places in Second Class Cities on designated days for the Fall registration and on a designated day for the Spring registration. These Registrars also have power to administer oaths and examine applicants under oath and shall record on the register the names of those whom they shall determine as qualified to vote.

How are voters registered in the thirty-four Third Class Cities?

Answer: In Third Class Cities, two Registrars are appointed for each polling district, by the County Commissioners of the specific county.

These Registrars sit at each district polling place in even numbered years on the ninth Thursday, seventh Tuesday and fifth Saturday preceding the November election, which shall be known as the Fall Registration, and on the third Wednesday preceding the Spring primary, which shall be known as the Spring Registration and in odd numbered years on the tenth Thursday, ninth Tuesday and the eighth Saturday preceding the November election, which shall be known as the Fall registration and shall remain in open session from 8 a. m. until 1 p. m. and from 2 to 6 p. m., and from 7 p. m. to 10 p. m. of each registration day. They register the voters in the same manner as in the First and Second Class Cities.

What is the method of registration in Boroughs and Townships?

Answer: In Boroughs and Townships the list of enrolled registered voters is made up by the Assessor of the election district. It is the Assessor's duty to visit in person every dwelling house in his district on the

first Monday in May of each year or as soon thereafter as may be possible, and to make a list in a book prepared for that purpose by the County Commissioners, of all qualified voters he shall find to be bonafide residents of his district, together with the date when such house was visited by the Assessor. The persons thus found to be legally qualified voters, shall forthwith be assessed. What is this list called?

Answer: The list thus prepared is known as the Original Registry List.

It is the duty of the Assessor to enter opposite each name on this list, whether the citizen so registered is a housekeeper, and if he is, the number of his residence, also the occupation of the person at the date of the assessment and where he is not a housekeeper, the place of boarding, and with whom at the date of assessment; and if working for another, the name of the employer, and write opposite each of the said names the word voter.

Where any person claims to vote by reason of naturalization, he shall exhibit his certificate thereof to the Assessor, unless he has for two consecutive years next preceding, been a voter in said district, and in all cases where the person has been naturalized the name shall be marked with the letter N.

Where the person has merely declared his intentions to become a citizen, and designs to be naturalized before the next election, he shall exhibit the certificate of his declaration of intention and the name shall be marked D. I.

Where the person shall be entitled by existing laws to be naturalized without making a declaration and intends to be naturalized at least one month before the next general election, the name of such person shall be marked L. N.

If the person has moved into the election district to reside, since the last general election, the letter R. shall be placed opposite his name.

It is the duty of the Assessor to make a copy of the original registry list and to place the copy on the door or on the house, where the election of the district is to be held, and retain the original list in his possession for the inspection, free of charge, of any person resident in the election district, who shall desire to see the same, and it shall be the duty of the Assessor to add, from time to time, on the personal application of any one claiming the right to vote, the name of such claimant and mark opposite his name C. V., and immediately assess him, no less, as in all other cases, his occupation, residence, the date of his assessment and whether he is housekeeper or boarder.

It is also the Assessor's duty to be present at the place of election, during the two secular days next preceding the day fixed for returning the list to the County Commissioners (from 10 a. m. to 3 p. m. and from 6 p. m. to 9 p. m.) and it shall be his duty to correct the Original List by adding thereto upon personal application, the names of persons entitled to vote whose names are not thereon and by striking therefrom fictitious names or names of persons who may have died or removed from the district.

This Original List shall be open for inspection, by any qualified elector of the County or ward in which the election district is situated as well as by the person claiming to be registered.

Has a citizen any recourse if the Assessor refuses to enter his name?

Answer: Any law judge of the Court of Common Pleas, on the application of any qualified elector, of the ward or county, under oath, at any time before the day of election shall call the Assessor and the complainant before him to show cause, and if need be order the Assessor to correct the registry accordingly, and the said Court or Judge may enforce such order as in proceedings for contempt of Court.

Is it difficult for a citizen to enforce his rights in regards to registration?

Answer: Pennsylvania has been careful to protect all its voters in their rights to be placed upon the registry lists and by attentive examination of the provisions of the law herewith set forth, no voter need have difficulty in ascertaining and enforcing his rights in this regard.

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PENNSYLVANIA'S FORESTS.

Short Talks on the Forests and the Lumber Situation.

By Gifford Pinchot, Chief Forester of Pennsylvania.

RESPONSIBILITY OF TIMBER OWNERS.

No good citizen lets his property go to waste. The responsibility of the owner of timber land is similar in kind to the responsibility of the owner of farm land. In degree, the timber owner's responsibility is greater than the farmer's.

The farmer who would permit his fields to run down and lose their fertility, to grow nothing but weeds and thistles, would very quickly become an outcast among his brethren. When we come to think of it, the lumberman who permits his lands to be stripped of their timber, and then allows fires to run, and takes no care of the young growth, is exactly in the class of the outcast farmer.

The fault of the careless lumberman, however, is the greater, because a ruined farm can be brought back to a fair degree of fertility and productivity in a few years, while a fire-swept and denuded timber tract can not be completely restored, however good the work put upon it, in the ordinary span of a man's life.

The day when timber tracts could be devastated without attracting attention has gone by. An awakened public interest demands that wasteful lumbering shall stop.

The responsibility of the timber owner extends not only to his own property, but also to the entire countryside around his property. The weeds on the run-down farm may spread their seeds over the immediate neighborhood, but the damage which comes from a forest area that has been destroyed spreads far more widely. The destruction of a watershed which follows the wiping out of a forest may cause havoc to people and property for many miles. And this has actually happened in many sections of Pennsylvania.

Our flood problems would be less were our forest areas growing trees. Our water supplies would be constant and reliable in places where now they are inconstant and unreliable because of the inability of devastated forest lands to conserve the rainfall. Towns and cities have been brought face to face with serious water troubles because of forest devastation.

It is the positive duty of the owner of lands valuable only for tree growth to keep forests growing upon these lands. We know enough about our forests to keep them growing. To get young trees growing in the ground, and to protect them from fire and other enemies, are operations well within our present powers. They are not so involved, difficult, or highly technical as to require further detailed investigations, studies, and researches before starting to practice what we already know.

It is true that much remains to be learned about our numerous tree species. It is true that a systematic and comprehensive program of forest re-

search is urgently needed. But it is equally true that we have now knowledge enough to grow and protect valuable tree species upon any land where forests should be grown. We know it can be done because it is being done. Further studies will doubtless give us better practice and cheaper methods, but well-tested practice and effective methods are available. We are all ready to go ahead.

There is no sound or scientific reason for delay on the part of timber land owners in taking the simple and obvious steps necessary to insure an adequate and dependable supply of forest products, and to make permanent the economic advantage which comes to all the people from the forests.

The responsibility of the timber land owner to our general economic welfare is unescapable.

Wash silk underwear in the same way; also wool or silk hose, wringing the latter in a towel and pressing between pieces of muslin.

MEDICAL.

Brace Up

Do you feel old before your time? Is your back bent and stiff? Do you suffer urinary disorders? Don't despair—profit by Bellefonte experiences. Bellefonte people recommend Doan's Kidney Pills. Here's a resident's statement.

Mrs. Christ Young, 16 Potter St., says: "For more than a year I suffered with a dull pain in the small of my back. My back was always sore and when I bent over, I could hardly get up again. I didn't feel able to do anything about my house. I had a dull, drowsy feeling all day long and when I got up in the morning, I could hardly dress. I was troubled a lot with dizzy spells and my kidneys acted irregularly. I read in our town paper where Doan's Kidney Pills had helped so many people of the same trouble that I decided to give them a trial. The first box I got at the Green Pharmacy Co. cured me and it has been about three years now since I have had any trouble with my kidneys." (Statement given April 22, 1914).

On October 18, 1918, Mrs. Young said: "I am very glad to confirm my former endorsement recommending Doan's Kidney Pills. I have had no kidney trouble since I used Doan's and am now a well woman and owe it all to Doan's." Foster-Milburn Co., Mfrs., Buffalo, N. Y. 65-40

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Shoes.

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