

The Franchise.—Legislation concerning the right to vote at federal elections is outlined at pp. 72-73 of the 1947 Year Book.

The present franchise laws are contained in the Dominion Elections Act, 1938 (2 Geo. VI, c. 46, as amended by 6 Geo. VI, c. 26 and 12 Geo. VI, c. 46). The franchise is conferred upon all British subjects, men and women, who have attained the age of 21 years and who have been ordinarily resident in Canada for 12 months prior to polling day at a federal election, and ordinarily resident in the electoral district on the date of the issue of the writ ordering such election. Classes of persons denied the right to vote are:—

- (1) Judges appointed by the Governor General in Council;
- (2) The returning officer for each electoral district;
- (3) Persons undergoing punishment as inmates of any penal institution for the commission of any offence;
- (4) Indians ordinarily resident on an Indian reservation who did not serve in the First or Second World Wars;
- (5) Persons restrained of their liberty or management of their property by reason of mental disease;
- (6) Eskimos, whether born in Canada or elsewhere;
- (7) Doukhobors, residing in the Province of British Columbia, whether born in Canada or elsewhere, excepting those who have served in the naval, military, or air forces [of His Majesty] in any war, and their wives and descendants;
- (8) Persons disqualified under any law relating to the disqualification of electors for corrupt and illegal practices.

The Act to amend the Dominion Elections Act, passed on June 15, 1948, removed the provisions previously in effect which disqualified Japanese or other persons by reason of race from voting at federal elections, also inmates of institutions maintained by any government or municipality for the housing of the poor.

Regulations, known as the Canadian Defence Service Voting Regulations, were drawn up and promulgated in 1948 prescribing voting procedure for personnel of the Permanent Force of the Army, Navy and Air Force. The regulations provide that these voters cast their ballots for candidates in the constituency in which they last resided prior to enlistment.

11.—Voters on the Lists and Votes Polled at the General Elections of 1935, 1940, 1945 and 1949

NOTE.—Corresponding statistics for the general elections of 1911, 1917, 1921 and 1925 will be found at p. 82 of the 1926 Year Book; those for 1926 at p. 66 of the 1945 edition; and those for 1930 at p. 94 of the 1948-49 edition.

Province or Territory	Voters on the Lists				Votes Polled			
	1935	1940	1945	1949	1935	1940	1945	1949
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Newfoundland.....	182,439	105,190 ^r
P. E. Island.....	53,284	55,339	54,794	55,772	61,641 ¹	62,943 ¹	63,807 ¹	68,393 ¹
Nova Scotia.....	304,313	335,990	362,754	373,585	275,523 ²	283,428 ²	312,954 ²	338,928 ^{2r}
New Brunswick...	229,266	251,986	262,261	286,723	177,485	174,734	204,273	225,877
Quebec.....	1,575,159	1,799,942	1,956,225	2,177,152 ^r	1,162,862	1,189,489	1,433,591	1,610,510 ^r
Ontario.....	2,174,188	2,340,344	2,457,937	2,718,118	1,608,244	1,625,439	1,831,806	2,042,294
Manitoba.....	377,733	425,066	433,921	451,882	284,589	320,860	327,794	324,079
Saskatchewan.....	451,386	481,931	445,601	472,884 ^r	347,536	373,376	379,539	375,471
Alberta.....	368,956	423,609	430,430	492,228	241,107	272,418	315,863	341,222
British Columbia..	382,117	472,584	545,077	673,782	292,423	368,103	433,402	464,785
Yukon.....	1,805	2,097	3,445	9,064	1,265	1,741	2,164	6,823
Totals.....	5,918,207	6,588,888	6,952,445	7,893,639^r	4,452,675	4,672,531	5,305,193	5,903,572^r

¹ Each voter in the double-member constituency of Queens County, P.E.I., had two votes; in 1949, 25,505 voters on the list cast 41,627 votes. ² Each voter in the double-member constituency of Halifax, N.S., had two votes; in 1949, 90,803 voters on the list cast 114,201 votes.