

further later enquiry is to be made, it shall be completed before the commencement of any stage of the count which might be affected by the irregularity.

Examination
of statements
of poll.

“(12) When the tally of the necessary envelopes is completed, or when all adjournments required or authorized 5 have expired, the statements of the poll shall first be examined and the number of first preference votes cast for each candidate at each poll and of ballot papers rejected at each poll shall be recorded. If it thereupon appears that a candidate has received a number of first preference 10 votes sufficient to elect him as hereinafter provided, he shall forthwith be declared elected without any examination of the ballots, unless a request for such examination is made by or on behalf of any candidate.

Examination
of ballots.

“(13) If such a request is made, or if no candidate has 15 received a number of first preference votes sufficient to elect him, the examination of the ballots shall proceed forthwith and shall continue from day to day without other interruptions than such as are necessary for rest and refreshment, and at least between the hours of nine in 20 the morning and six in the evening of every week-day which is not a public holiday, with the exception of not more than one hour for meals. During the count the ballots and other papers shall be continuously under the observation of the returning officer, the election clerk or 25 a watchman appointed by the returning officer.

Rejected
ballots.

“(14) The rejected ballots shall first be examined, and any which appear to have been improperly rejected shall be retained to be counted, a note being made on each that the returning officer has reversed the decision of the deputy 30 returning officer to reject it. The rejected ballots which appear to have been properly rejected at each poll shall be returned to the respective envelopes in which they were found, and these shall forthwith be placed in mail bags which, when full, shall be sealed with sealing wax 35 by the returning officer.

Counted
ballots.

“(15) The envelopes containing the ballots counted by the deputy returning officers shall then be opened, the ballots in each examined and counted, and the number of votes for each candidate compared with that given in the 40 statement of the poll in question. If any substantial discrepancy is discovered between the ballots returned from any polling station and the statement of the poll thereat, the returning officer may adjourn the count pending enquiry or proceed with it without enquiry, or subject to 45 later enquiry, on the same conditions in all respects as if the papers in the ballot box had been found to be irregular on the preliminary examination of its contents.

Determina-
tion of
quota.

“(16) When the whole number of valid ballots cast and the number of first preference votes received by each 50 candidate have been determined and recorded, the quota