

What is Residence.

Shortly after the Provincial elections in 1898 a number of men who had been away in Manitoba, the Western States and elsewhere to assist in harvest, etc., etc., and had come back to Ontario, voted. For taking the oath and voting some of them were taken before a magistrate on the ground of perjury, but they were all dismissed, the magistrate holding that to be a resident of any place a man did not need to be "stalled up there all the time." The highest Court in Ontario has also given a decision on this point, for by the unanimous decision of the five judges of the Court of Appeal for Ontario, delivered on January 24th, 1899, in re "Voters' list of the Township of Seymour," a very liberal construction has been placed upon the continuous residence required by the Act. Their continuous residence was to be strictly construed, or whether it meant nothing more than a residence which the party had not left for good we are of the opinion that the word continuous does not mean that the party must continue there from day to day, if he leaves for a temporary purpose, simply, with the intention of returning, that does not deprive him of the franchise. It is a continuous residence until a new residence has been taken up."

Please bear in mind this meaning of "continuous resident," and it will save much trouble, and will result in many who are properly entitled to vote going to the polls and without fear or favour taking the oath and marking their ballots. By section 20 of the Ontario Elections Act clergymen and school teachers (if not otherwise disqualified) are entitled to vote within 3 months after they have left the Riding where their names are on the list.

Directions for the Guidance of Electors in Voting.

The voter is to vote only for one candidate, unless two members are to be returned for the electoral district, in which case he may vote for one or two candidates as he thinks fit.

The voter will go into one of the compartments, and, with A BLACK LEAD PENCIL there provided, place a cross or crosses within the white space containing the name of the candidate or of each of the candidates for whom he votes, thus X.

The voter shall then fold the ballot paper so that the initials and stamp on the back and the number on the counterfoil can be seen without opening it; he shall then return the ballot paper so folded to the Deputy Returning Officer, who shall, in full view of those present, including the elector, remove the counterfoil, destroy the same, and place the ballot paper in the ballot box. The voter shall then forthwith quit the polling station.

If a voter inadvertently spoils a ballot paper so that he cannot conveniently use it as he desires he may return it to the Deputy Returning Officer, who shall give him another.

If a voter votes for more candidates than he is entitled to vote for, or places any mark on the ballot paper, by which he can afterwards be identified, his vote will be void and will not be counted.

If the voter fraudulently takes a ballot paper out of the polling station or fraudulently delivers to the Deputy Returning Officer to be put into the ballot box any other paper than the ballot paper given him by the Deputy Returning Officer, he will be subject to be punished by fine not exceeding five hundred dollars and not less than one hundred dollars, or by imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years and not less than six months, with or without hard labour, in default of payment.