

be entered into further than laid down in the oaths, which the candidate or his authorized agent may require to be taken before the oath is recorded. The oaths specify that the owner is the person named in the list, that, in case of freehold qualification, the voter is the owner in his own right or that of his wife, that he is a subject of Her Majesty, that he has not voted at any other other polling place in the municipality at that election, that he has not received nor expects to receive any reward for his vote, that he has not received or been promised anything directly or indirectly either to induce him to vote, or for loss of time, travelling expenses, hire of team, or any other service connected with that election, and that he himself has not directly or indirectly paid or promised anything to any person to induce him to vote or to refrain from voting. In the case of a woman being sworn there is a clause in reference to being unmarried or a widow. The oath of a person voting as a householder or tenant contains much the same as for freeholders, but has clauses referring to residence. The oath to voters on income has a clause specifying the fact of having such income at that date and for twelve months previously. The oath of a farmer's son recites in addition to the general clauses the fact of his residence on the property for twelve months previously, and not having been absent during that time more than six months. If a voter takes the oath when required, the returning officer has no option but must accept the vote tendered.

The attention of returning officers is called to the change made in 1890 in the form of oath of qualification when required to be taken by a person claiming to vote in respect of freehold property. The words "within the municipality" are to be added after the word "freeholder" in the third paragraph.

It is not, so far as we know, the business of the deputy returning officer to dispute the right of any person to vote whose name appears as a municipal voter on the certified list of voters, nor can he refuse to accept his vote if the voter takes the oath of qualification when required by the scrutineers. The voters' list is a sufficient authority for the deputy returning officer, and it rests with the scrutineers to go behind that and require the oath of qualification. It would be different in case, to the knowledge of the deputy returning officer, a person offered to vote who was not on the list, but was personating a voter on the list. The deputy returning officer would, however, require to be very positive of this, otherwise the risk of refusal would be great, and if he had doubts it would be safer to require the person to be sworn before taking his vote.

The nominations for members of councils this year will be held on the 28th December. Returning officers are to give notice not later than the 21st. The law does not define the manner of notice, so it is presumed that it is in the discretion of that officer either to do so through the advertising columns of a local newspaper or by posting up notices. Where notices are posted it requires at least three to be put up in public places in the municipality, or if there are wards, there should be three in each ward. The object is to make the matter public to those interested, and

to advertise in a newspaper that had not a fair circulation in the municipality would not comply with the intention of the law, nor would small written notices placed where they were not likely to be seen by the ratepayers be a compliance with the law.

The hour laid down for nominations is as follows : For mayor in cities, 10 a.m. ; for mayor, reeves and deputy reeves in towns, 10 a.m. ; for reeves in townships divided into wards, 10 a.m. ; for aldermen in cities, 12 noon ; for councillors in towns, 12 noon ; for reeves, deputy reeves and councillors in villages, 12 noon ; for reeves, deputy reeves and councillors in townships not divided into wards, 12 noon. Town councils may by by-law hold the nomination for councillors at 10 a.m., the same as for reeves and deputy reeves ; or they may hold their nomination for all at half-past seven in the evening. Village councils have the right to change the hour of nomination from twelve to half-past seven. City councils may also change the hour from twelve to half-past seven for the nomination of aldermen.

The clerk of the municipality as head returning officer is to preside at the nomination, except where there are ward nominations ; in these the by-law would name the returning officer for each ward. In the event of the clerk or the person appointed not attending through sickness or other cause, the ratepayers present have power to appoint a chairman. The nominations, which are but ordinary proposals of a person for the office duly moved and seconded, is to be made singly and not *en bloc*. It makes no difference as to the order of nomination in respect of the office, so that it would be correct enough to nominate councillors before nominating reeves, and *vice versa*.

If more candidates than the required number for any office are nominated, "and if a poll is required by these respectively, or by any elector, the clerk or other returning officer or chairman shall adjourn the proceedings for filling such office until the first Monday in January." And if a poll is not demanded by a candidate or some elector, what then ? Would the returning officer call for a show of hands at one o'clock and declare those elected who had a majority in their favor ? Harrison's notes would seem to indicate this course. The manner laid down in section 117 for deciding in case a candidate was proposed for two offices and did not elect for which he would remain nominated would be simpler, as in that case the office for which he was first proposed is to be taken to prevail, and on that principle if no one demanded a poll, the person first proposed until the required number was made up would be declared elected. The intention of the law is that the ratepayers shall have every opportunity to make a selection of their representatives, and when more than the required number are nominated we do not think it would be a safe course for the returning officer to declare anyone elected, either on a mere show of hands or in a manner similar to the procedure in section 117. The better way would be to see that some one present demands a poll, and then to adjourn the proceedings until polling day.

"At the nomination meeting or at any time within two