

52.—WOMEN AS VOTERS IN MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

Ten or a dozen years is a short time in the life of an individual and shorter still in the life of a nation. Yet within that time the Legislature of Saskatchewan has provided legislation for a vast range of activities necessary for the expanding life of a new and progressive province. When Saskatchewan became a province in 1905 there were only two rural municipalities. Local improvement districts with limited powers were units of rural government. But since 1905 a complete code of laws for carrying on local self government have been provided by the Saskatchewan Legislature for cities, towns villages and rural municipalities.

53.—Provision has been made in all the Saskatchewan municipal laws for the voting of women for mayors, aldermen, Reeves and Councillors; but as the *municipal franchise* is a *property franchise* only owners of property whose names *because they are on the assessment roll* can vote. There is no distinction between men and women. The same applies also to the election of school officials.

The first step necessary to have a woman's name placed upon the list of voters is to see that she is assessed for property in the municipality. A wife is not entitled to vote in municipal or school elections on property that is assessed in her husband's name. She must be assessed for property in her own name before she is entitled to vote.

54.—*In Rural Municipalities.* The persons entitled to vote for reeve or councillor are the "electors" of the municipality. "Elector" means any person of the full age of eighteen years whose name appears on the municipal voters' list as the owner or occupant of assessable property in the municipality. No particular valuation is required for the property for which they are assessed.

As soon as may be in each year, but not later than the first day of July, the assessor shall assess every person, the owner or occupant of land in the municipality and shall prepare an assessment roll in which shall be set out accurately as may be:

1. The name of the owner and the name or the occupant of each lot or parcel of land in the municipality which is not exempt from assessment and the post office address if known of every such owner or occupant;

- 2.—A brief description of each such lot or parcel of land, the number of acres which it contains and the assessed value thereof.

The treasurer of every municipality shall on or before the first day of November in each year prepare a list of all persons whose names appear on the last revised assessment roll of the municipality and such list shall be arranged according to the divisions of the municipality and shall be known as "The Municipal Voters' List."