

Your Rights and Duties

I. OPENING THE POLL

Oath of Secrecy

1. At least one of the agents of each candidate, on being admitted to the Polling booth shall take the Oath of Secrecy, Form U (Sec. 142). Insist on this. Otherwise make a formal protest to the D.R.O. in writing.

2. If an agent leaves, see that the substitute is sworn. Note the fact and time of leaving. Only the sworn agents can be present when an illiterate or physically incapacitated voter is voting.

The first counting of the Ballot Papers

3. If you are in attendance 15 minutes before the hour for opening the poll, you shall be entitled to have the ballot papers carefully counted, and to inspect them and all other papers, forms and documents relating to the poll. (Sec. 141.) Examine these with the utmost care. Note the number of ballots.

The Ballot Box

4. At 9 o'clock, the D.R.O. shall, in your presence, open the ballot box (Sec. 145). Test it; make sure that it has not a false bottom or false side. Satisfy yourself completely that there are no ballot papers or other papers therein, and that it is really locked again at once.

Require the Oath if poll officials vote on Certificate

5. Every Deputy Returning Officer, Poll Clerk or Agent, for a Polling station other than the one where he is entitled to vote shall, if required by you, take the oath in Form V. (Sec. 144). These, and only these (not more than two agents of each candidate), can vote on certificates. See that the oath is demanded.

The voting compartment

6. Examine the compartment where voters are to mark their ballots and see that there is no means of communicating with the outside. Make sure it is a black lead pencil that has been provided (Sec. 162). If it is very soft, so that when the marked ballot is folded the X will be duplicated, have the D.R.O. change it.