

WHO MAY VOTE IN VARIOUS STATES

ELECTION LAW ANALYZED

President of Get-Out-Vote Club Gives Exhaustive Summary of Franchise Regulations in U. S.

In answer to the question: Who can vote in 1928? Simon Michelet, president of the National Get-Out-the-Vote club, has prepared a pamphlet giving the qualifications of voters under the constitutions of the 48 states together with a complete survey by states, or constitutional and statutory provisions governing the rights and duties of electors desiring to vote in 1928, says the Christian Science Monitor.

Since all general elections in the United States, Mr. Michelet points out, are held under state election laws, the foundations of the ballot are, "first, the respective state constitutions governing suffrage and defining the qualifications of voters; and, second, the state registration acts providing for lists of voters legally qualified for the ballot in the respective polling places."

"No vote can be cast for President and Congress," Mr. Michelet reports in his review of state constitutions and registration acts, "until the voters have complied with the provisions of the state constitutions and have been duly registered according to state election laws governing registry. Sometimes the registry basis is the poll tax list, or property tax list. Again, the suffrage registry may take the form of the town 'check list,' as in New England. Registry also may have as its basis the last poll list as in the rural sections of the middle west and other sections."

Registration a Factor
"Registry, moreover, may be a fundamental part of the state constitution, covering the entire subject of legal residence, literacy, taxation, with fixed dates for personal registration as in many southern New England and middle Atlantic states, and many of the larger cities east and west."

"But whatever the particular method of listing qualified voters, this holds: that the foundation of the American ballot is, first, the state constitution which declares who can register, and second, the state registry system which lists legally qualified voters, and votes cannot be cast except in compliance therewith."

In explaining the qualifications of voters under state constitutions, Mr. Michelet says:

"Note that compliance with the state constitutional requirements is necessary, not only to vote, but to register. State constitutions must therefore be studied before we get to the subject of registration acts. We first take up—residence."

"In the majority of states the length of residence necessary to qualify a voter to register approximates the following: Residence in the state one year, in the county six months,

in the voting precinct 30 days. There are many variations, but the above is a near average. Briefly we note some of the exceptions.

"In four southern states—Alabama, Louisiana, South Carolina, and Virginia—residence required in the state is two years and in the county one year. Election provisions in these states appear to contemplate a settled voting population. Minimum inducements are made to newcomers or those inclined to move.

Inducements to Newcomers
"On the other hand, a number of states, mostly western, hold out suffrage inducements to newcomers. In Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire and Oregon residence in the state in order to qualify a voter is only six months. Maine leads the other states in this regard, requiring only three months' residence in the state. The state of Washington has a unique basis of voting citizenship—residence in state 11 months and 10 days, in county 70 days, in voting precinct 10 days. A genius devised that constitutional schedule.

"Literacy tests are applied to qualify for registry in 16 states: Alabama, Arizona, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, South Carolina, Virginia, Wyoming. Classified by geographic section the 16 states imposing a literacy test as a necessary qualification to vote are—7 southern, 6 northeastern, and 3 western.

"In several of the original 13 states, as in Connecticut, the voter must have 'a good moral character.' Miscegenation is a bar to suffrage in Georgia and South Carolina.

Payment of Taxes Exacted
"Payment of poll taxes or other taxes is a condition precedent to registry and voting in 14 states—9 southern and border states, four New England or other eastern. These 14 include Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Maine, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia.

"Usually the taxes are required to be paid six months or more before election to avoid the danger of candidates and committees buying votes by paying taxes.

"Under the Pennsylvania Constitution, a voter 22 years of age must show tax receipts for two years to be entitled to suffrage. In Rhode Island a property tax of \$1 entitles the voter to registry. In some southern states all back taxes must be paid before voting. In Arkansas, Florida, Maine, Massachusetts, Ten-

nesses, Texas and Virginia, poll taxes only are mandatory before registering, and form the basis of the registration. The above 14 states make tax-paying a prerequisite to voting in the primary and general elections. Many other states have tax-paying requirements to qualify for voting on city and other local tax and debt questions.

"Property owning is an alternative requirement for the literacy test in Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, and Virginia. In Rhode Island an estate worth \$134, if taxes paid, insures the voter permanent registry. A similar provision in the original Connecticut Constitution is now amended by reducing the requirement to a literacy test. In Massachusetts the ownership of property on which taxes are paid insures a registry, but is not a mandatory requirement. Rhode Island, therefore, would seem to be the only state where property is the sine qua non of suffrage—though the requirement is small and the tax burden light."

DOTS ARE GETTING INTO PRINT AGAIN

Not Exactly Publicity Hounds, But Somehow They Are Popular, Claim

Do you know that of all the publicity hounds—i.e. one who wants to get into print—there has been none of recent years so persistent as the formerly little observed dot.

Dots were formerly quite a conservative breed. They placed themselves calmly over "i's," and sat serenely at the end of sentences; good naturedly assumed tails (which should have made us suspect them of being some variety of hound) to act as commas, and apostrophies and more perfectly content to double up for colons and be two faced for semicolons.

Anyone would think that all these minor public appearances would have made the apparently demure dot sufficiently contempt. But not at all! "Was all that sentence-work really

a matter of breaking into print? Did that really give them any prominence? Did anyone ever really look at 'em?"

Thus reasoned, it now seems, the innocent looking dots.

And so reasoning, they saw an opportunity and grasped it. The ladies, of course! What couldn't one do with the ladies? Besides, femininity had been dot-intrigued—sartorially before in the history of clothes. In grandmother's time they wore polka dots meticulously placed at prescribed intervals.

Spring and summer therefore found dots breaking flamboyantly and gracefully into print all tricked out in fancy names. As coin dots and bubble dots, they threw regularity and dignity to the winds and hurried themselves joyously helter-skelter over an amazing number of washable rayon and silk and ever sheer woolen materials.

Was this enough for the suddenly self-confident and newly pugnacious dot. Certainly not! Autumn found their publicity heard instinct more acute than ever. Dots are breaking into print in such delicious mediums as transparent rayon velvet, satin, wool, heavy wool and silk or wool and rayon crepes. Lots, dots, dots. What a tribute to will finding a way!

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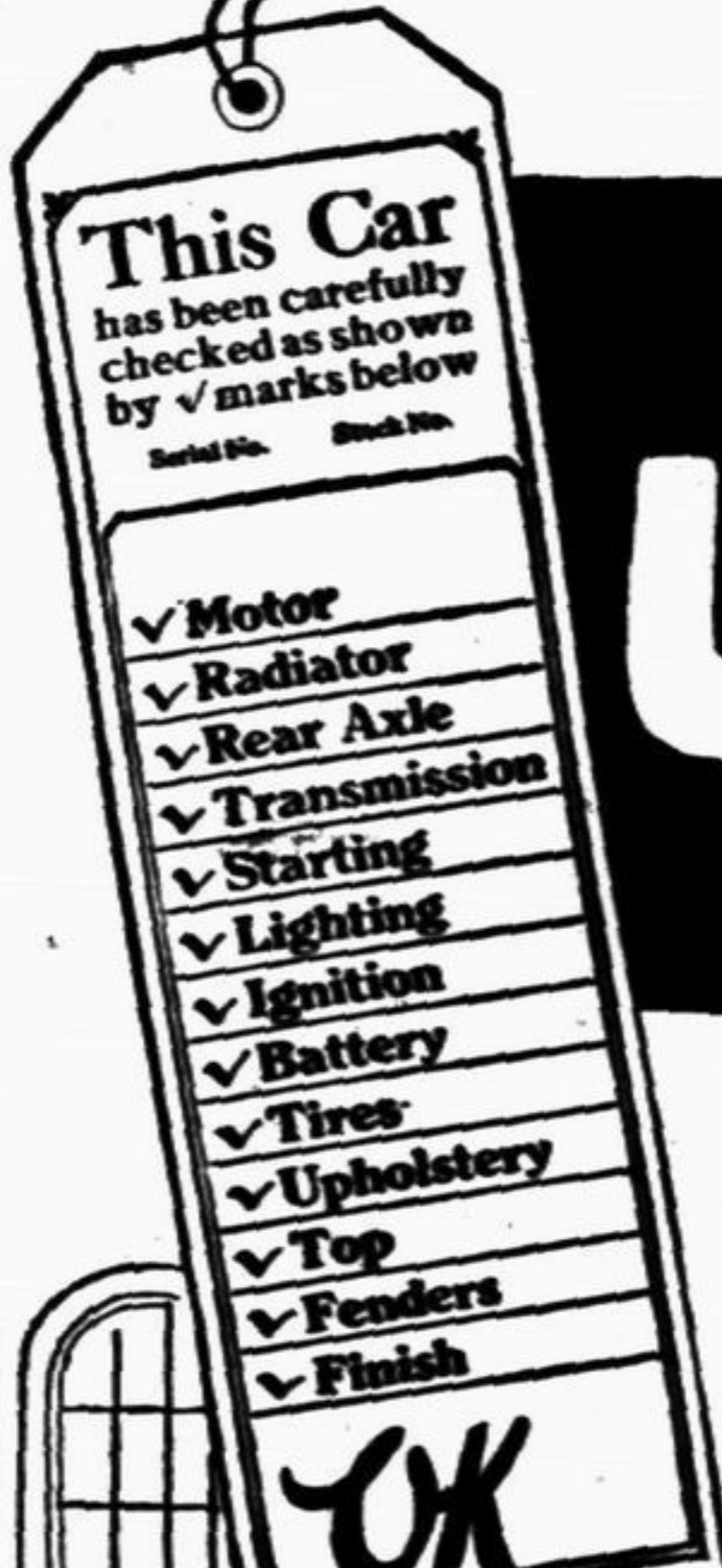
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