

# ALIENS HAVE VOTE IN TRUSTEES' ELECTION

But Cannot Vote for Aldermen—Here's a Peculiar Civic Situation.

Aliens may vote for the election of Board of Education members, but they cannot choose the city's aldermen or controllers or Mayor.

This is the peculiar condition of affairs disclosed as a bit of election aftermath at the City Hall. So far as is known no aliens cast their ballots for Board of Education nominees, but it was through ignorance that they did not. The cause of this anomaly is that there is one law governing the voting for Mayor, controllers, and aldermen, and another law for trustees' elections.

The Public Schools Act simply states that any ratepayer may vote in Board of Education elections. A man may be assessed for \$1 and have a vote. The Municipal Act and the Voters' List Act, which govern the City Council election, are more particular. They specify that only British subjects may vote.

This is the law for cities and towns of over 9,000 population:

"Only one list will be prepared, which will include every person, resident or non-resident, 21 years of age and a British subject, who is assessed (a) as owner or tenant of property, to the required amount; (b) for income to the amount of \$400 or over."

Then there is another provision regarding aliens, which reads, as follows:

"The Clerk in making up the voters' list must not enter the name of any person marked by the assessor upon the assessment roll as being an alien."

There is still another clause, which requires the assessor to set out in a separate column whether the person is a British subject or an alien by the insertion of the letters "B. S." or "A."

What happened on election day was that, though the city had gone to great expense to prepare long lists of supplementary voters, who had votes only on the Board of Education, the alien voter, on finding that he was not on the main list, did not think of the other one, and, of course, the deputy returning officer did not bother turning up the supplementary list. Therefore, hundreds of votes were not polled that might have been registered.

Stacks on stacks of these supplementary lists were prepared at considerable cost to the city, a pile of them probably as high as the City Clerk himself, and he's a tall man, but in many cases they were not even referred to. Toronto's need is for a uniform voting law, so that the man who picks the school trustees shall be a man of stake and standing in the city, just as is the voter who chooses the rest of the civic government. Also it is advisable from the standpoint of economy alone.