

F.

POLITICAL FRANCHISE.

1897.

| Franchise   | Name of the Electoral Districts  | Number of Representatives  | Number of Registered Electors at last Election |
|---|--|--|--|
| <p><b>General Electors.</b></p> <p>—</p> <p>The age of 21 years,</p> <p>and</p> <p>(1) Qualification to serve as a Common Juror,</p> <p>or</p> <p>(2) Payment of rent for immovable property at the rate of at least £ 6 by the year,</p> <p>or</p> <p>(3) Receipt from immovable property of an income of at least £ 6 in the year.</p> <p>—</p> <p><b>Special Electors.</b></p> <p>—</p> <p>A General Elector is entitled to be registered as a Special Elector, if he either,</p> <p>(1) derives from immovable property, a yearly income of not less than £ 60,</p> <p>or</p> <p>(2) pays rent for immovable property at the rate of at least £ 60 by the year.</p> | <p><b>I District.</b></p> <p>East Valletta.</p>  | <p>Fourteen</p> <p>viz.</p>                                      | <p>General Electors.</p> <p>—</p>              |
|   | <p><b>II District.</b></p> <p>West Valletta; together with Sliema and St. Julians.</p>                                   | <p>Ten returned by the General Electors,</p> <p><i>i. e.</i></p> | <p>For Malta 8,966</p>                         |
|   | <p><b>III District.</b></p> <p>Floriana; together with Hamrun Pietà and Misida.</p>                                      | <p>Nine for Malta</p>  | <p>For Gozo and Comino 1,460</p>               |
|   | <p><b>IV District.</b></p> <p>Cospicua; together with Zabbar.</p>  | <p>One for Gozo and Comino;</p> <p>and</p>                       | <p>Special Electors.</p> <p>—</p>              |
|   | <p><b>V District.</b></p> <p>Vittoriosa and Senglea.</p>   | <p>Four returned by the Special Electors.</p>                    | <p>For Malta 473</p>                           |
|   | <p><b>VI District.</b></p> <p>Notabile; together with Rabato, Dingli, Siggieui, Musta and Melleha.</p>                   |  | <p>For Gozo 32</p>                             |
|   | <p><b>VII District.</b></p> <p>Birchircara; together with Balzan, Lia, Attard, Naxaro and Gargur.</p>                    |  |  |
|   | <p><b>VIII District.</b></p> <p>Curmi; together with Zebbug, Luca and Micabiba.</p>                                      |  |  |
|   | <p><b>IX District.</b></p> <p>Zeitun; together with Tarxen, Paola, Axciaq, Gudia, Chircop, Zarrico, Safi and Crendi.</p> |  |  |
|   | <p><b>X District.</b></p> <p>Gozo; together with Comino.</p>   |  |  |

MODE OF ELECTION. — *vide* Ordinances No. VII of 1886, No. I of 1887, No. I of 1893, and No. VI of 1896; and Proclamations No. IX of 1887, No. III of 1888, and Nos. IV and V of 1895.

The Electors of Members to sit in the Council of Government are registered in three separate Lists, viz: one containing the names of general electors for the nine Members for Malta, another containing the names of general electors for the Member for Gozo, and another containing the names of the special electors for the four members to be taken from each of the four classes referred to in clause IX of the Letters Patent of 12th December 1887. The Lists are revised annually and published in the Government Gazette in the month of February in each year. A Court of Revision holds sittings to receive claims, consider objections &c., which must be made within ten days from the date of the publication of the Electoral Lists. Amended Lists of the electors are then again published in the Gazette. Elections are conducted by five Election Commissioners appointed annually by the Head of the Government in the month of January of each year. Whenever an election is to be held the Head of the Government notifies the fact to the Commissioners by a Writ under his hand and the seal of the island, which is published in the Gazette. Certificates of the right of voting are delivered to the Electors; and together with the publication of a report from the Commissioners that the certificates have been delivered, a Notice is published in the Gazette of the time and place at which the Commissioners will be in attendance to receive claims of persons omitted through error. A Candidate for Election by the General or by the Special Electors to serve in the Council, is nominated in writing. The writing or writings, one of which shall be signed by the Candidate himself, or, in the event of his absence from Malta and its Dependencies, by his duly appointed representative, and by four Electors registered in the Electoral District, or in the list of Special electors, according as the candidate is to be elected by the general electors or by the Special Electors, shall state the

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| Ordinary duration of Sessions and Assemblies and Period of Meetings  | By what Acts regulated   | Number of Votes at last General Election                            | Date of last General Election | Remarks |
|--|--|---|-------------------------------|---------|
| <p>No Session can be extended beyond 3 years.</p> <p>The average period during which the meetings are from time to time held is 6 months in each year.</p> | <p>Letters Patent dated December 12, 1887.</p> <p>Letters Patent dated March 19, 1888.</p> <p>Letters Patent dated February 14, 1889.</p> <p>Letters Patent dated August 19, 1891.</p> <p>Letters Patent dated February 6, 1893.</p> | <p>For General Members 5,847.</p> <p>For Special Members 1,003.</p> | <p>August 29, 1895.</p>       |         |

Electoral District or the class for which the candidate is nominated, and shall, within seven working days from the day of the publication, in the Government Gazette, of the said Notice, be delivered to the Commissioners by the Candidate himself or by any of the subscribers of the said writing. If, at the expiration of that term, no more candidates stand nominated than there are vacancies to be filled up the Commissioners return their names to the Clerk to the Council, who, on the next day, publishes such return in the Gazette. But if more candidates than there are vacancies stand nominated, the Commissioners publish the names of the candidates, and afterwards the Head of the Government appoints the day and places for the Election, and appoints Assistant Commissioners to superintend the voting. Each elector attends at the electoral office of the district and section to which he belongs, and delivers his certificate to the Assistant Commissioner in that office. The Assistant Commissioner, having satisfied himself of the identity of the elector, delivers to him a ticket, having first marked it on both sides with the official mark; and the elector, having secretly marked his vote on the ticket and folded up the same, places it in an urn in the presence of the Assistant Commissioner. If any elector is incapacitated by blindness or other physical cause from voting in the manner above described, or if it appears from the certificate, that the elector therein mentioned does not know how, or is unable, to read, he is permitted to state, orally, to the Assistant Commissioner, the name of the person for whom he desires to vote. The Assistant Commissioner, in such case, marks the vote of such elector on the ticket in the manner directed by each elector and places the ticket in the urn, being bound to keep the indication made to him secret. Such permission is not granted if the fact that an elector does not know how, or is unable, to read, does not appear from the certificate, unless the impediment to read be due to any physical indisposition which is known to the Assistant Commissioner. As soon as the Commissioners receive all the election urns, the poll is taken in public sittings to be held by them in one of the Halls of the Superior Courts.

