(ii) expenditure which, in the opinion of the Ministry, is reasonably incurred by the parent on the education of members of the family other than the applicant;
(iii) mortgage interest payable in respect of property held by the parent or by the holder;
(iv) exceptional items of expenditure at the discretion of the Ministry.

5. To determine the gross income, receipts under the following heads for the preceding financial year shall be taken into account :—

(i) earned and unearned income of both parents and unearned income of the holder;
(ii) endowment scholarships and other private awards held by members of the family other than the applicant, and any sums contributed by relatives or other persons towards the cost of educating members of the family;
(iii) the annual value of any property held by the parents or by the holder :

Provided that, where it appears to the Ministry that there is a considerable change in parental income caused by the death of the parent or otherwise, the Ministry may at its discretion, in order that hardship to the holder may be avoided, determine the gross income on the basis of the current financial year, and in this event the current financial year shall continue to be the basis of assessment throughout the tenure of the scholarship.

6.—(1) The amount of the allowance appropriate to any particular balance of income under sub-paragraph (iv) of paragraph 2 of this Schedule shall, where necessary, be adjusted so that the balance of income plus the allowance is not less than it would have been if the balance of income had fallen at the highest point in the next lower group.

(2) The value of a scholarship calculated in accordance with the provisions of this Schedule shall, where necessary, be adjusted so that the balance of income less the contribution under paragraph 3 of this Schedule is not less than it would have been if the balance of income had fallen at the highest point in the next lower group.

ELECTIONS AND FRANCHISE

Electoral Regulations

Parliamentary and Local Government Elections

REGULATIONS, DATED 1ST OCTOBER, 1953, MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS UNDER SECTIONS TWENTY, THIRTY-THREE, FIFTY-ONE AND FIFTY-FOUR OF THE ELECTIONS AND FRANCHISE ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND), 1946, AS AMENDED BY THE ELECTORAL LAW AMENDMENT ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND), 1953.

1953. No. 126

The Ministry of Home Affairs in exercise of the powers vested in it by Sections Twenty, Thirty-three, Fifty-one and Fifty-four of the Elections and Franchise Act (Northern Ireland), 1946, (a) as amended by the Electoral Law Amendment Act (Northern Ireland), 1953, (b) and of every other power it thereunto enabling, hereby makes the following Regulations :—

Citation, interpretation and commencement

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Electoral (Parliamentary and Local Government Elections) Regulations (Northern Ireland), 1953.

(a) 9 & 10, 10 & 11, Geo. 6 c.8. (b) 2 Eliz. 2. c.29.

(2) The Interpretation Act, 1889, (**a**) shall apply to the interpretation of these Regulations as it applies to the interpretation of an Act of the Parliament of Northern Ireland.

(3) These Regulations shall come into force forthwith.

(4) In these Regulations unless the context otherwise requires the following expressions shall have the meanings hereby assigned to them, that is to say —

" the Ministry " means the Ministry of Home Affairs ;

" the Act of 1946 " means the Elections and Franchise Act (Northern Ireland), 1946, as amended by the Elections and Franchise (Amendment) Act (Northern Ireland), 1948, (**b**) and the Electoral Law Amendment Act (Northern Ireland), 1953 ;

" Ballot Act Rule " means a Rule contained in Part I of the First Schedule to the Ballot Act, 1872, (**c**) as amended by the Electoral Law Amendment Act (Northern Ireland), 1953, or any other enactment ;

" the Parliamentary Elections Regulations " means the Electoral (Parliamentary Elections) Regulations (Northern Ireland), 1946 (**d**).

Notices and forms

2.—(1) The Notice of Election to be given by the returning officer for a Parliamentary election under Ballot Act Rule 1 shall be in the form EA in Part I of the First Schedule hereto, or in a form to the like effect, and shall include such of the particulars of which public notice is to be given under sub-section (3) of Section twenty-seven of the Act of 1946 as are specified in the said form.

(2) The public notice to be given by the returning officer under Ballot Act Rule 9 shall be in the form *EB* in Part I of the First Schedule hereto, or in a form to the like effect, and shall include such of the particulars of which public notice is to be given under sub-section (3) of Section Twenty-seven of the Act of 1946 as are specified in the said form.

(3) The public notice to be given by the returning officer under Ballot Act Rule 19 shall be in the form *EC* in Part I of the First Schedule hereto, or in a form to the like effect, and may, at the discretion of the returning officer, either be combined with the notice referred to in the last preceding paragraph or be published as a separate notice.

(4) Documents in the form set out as Forms *ED* to *EP* in Part II of the First Schedule hereto, or in form to the like effect, shall be used for the purposes respectively indicated in the said Schedule instead of any hitherto prescribed or customarily used for like purposes.

(**a**) 52 & 53. Vict. c.63.
(**b**) 11 & 12, 12 & 13. Geo. 6. c.7.
(**c**) 35 & 36. Vict. c.33.
(**d**) S. R. & O. 1946. No. 136.

Preparation of Polling Stations Schemes

3.—(1) In the preparation of Polling Stations Schemes under Section Thirty-three of the Act of 1946 Electoral Officers shall conform to the requirements of this Regulation.

(2) No premises licensed for the sale of intoxicating liquors shall be selected for use as a Polling Station.

(3) The Polling Station or Stations for any Polling District shall, so far as practicable, be situated within the Polling District, but the Electoral Officer may designate for any Polling District one or more than one Polling Station situated in an adjoining Polling District (whether or not any such Station is also designated as a Polling Station for the Polling District in which it is situate) if he is satisfied that by such designation better facilities for voting by the electors in the first-mentioned Polling District will thereby be provided.

(4) Where more than one Polling Station is designated in any Polling District the Scheme shall indicate what portion of the Polling District each Station is intended to serve.

(5) The Scheme shall indicate the approximate number of parliamentary electors for whom each station is provided and where the same polling station is to be used by electors from more than one polling district the approximate number of parliamentary electors from each district shall be shown.

(6) Not later than eight days after the publication of the Register in each publication year, the Electoral Officer shall give public notice, in the appropriate form, that the draft Scheme will be open for inspection at the office of the County or County Borough Council during ordinary office hours during the seven days succeeding the date of the public notice and, in the case of a county, that the relevant sections thereof will be open for inspection during the like hours and days at the offices of the Councils of the Boroughs, Urban and Rural Districts contained within the county, and that representations may be made to him in writing in respect of any part of the Scheme by any Parliamentary or Local Government elector, or by any group of such electors, during a period of fourteen days from the date of the notice.

(7) The Electoral Officer shall take into account any representations made to him about any inclusions in or omissions from the draft Scheme and may, at his discretion, amend the draft Scheme accordingly.

(8) Not later than twenty-eight days after the publication of the Register the Electoral Officer shall submit to the Ministry a copy of the draft Scheme as first exhibited, together with particulars of any amendments made therein, and of any representations received but not given effect, with his reasons for disregarding the representations.

(9) When a Polling Station Scheme has been finally approved by the Ministry the Electoral Officer shall within seven days of being notified of the Ministry's approval give public notice thereof in the

appropriate form. He shall at all times keep a copy of the approved Scheme available for inspection at his office and shall permit any interested party to examine it and to copy extracts from it at any time during ordinary office hours and shall also cause a copy of the relevant sections thereof to be kept similarly available for inspection at the office of each Deputy Electoral Officer.

Principal Office Local Government Elections

4. The following Regulation shall be substituted for Regulation 5 of the Electoral (Local Government Elections) Regulations (Northern Ireland), 1949 :—

" **5.** Where a Direction of the Ministry is sought under the provisions of paragraph (*c*) of sub-section (2) of Section Twenty-seven of the Act of 1946, the returning officer shall apply for such Direction not less than seven days before the day on which the Notice of Election required under Regulation 8 hereof is to be published under Regulation 6 hereof."

Deputy Returning Officers

5.—(1) The returning officer for any Parliamentary election may appoint one or more than one competent person to act as Deputy Returning Officer, and, subject to the provisions of the next succeeding paragraph, may delegate to any such deputy such of his powers and duties as he specifies in the appointment. Each person so appointed shall have all the rights, powers, duties and liabilities of the returning officer by whom he is appointed in relation to the matters in respect of which he is appointed as deputy.

(2) A returning officer shall not delegate to a deputy his duties in regard to —

(*a*) the receipt and return of the writ ; or

(*b*) the receipt of nominations ; or

(*c*) the giving of the public notices referred to in Regulation 2 hereof ; or

(*d*) the preparation of accounts of his expenses and the publication of the accounts of candidates' election expenses ; or

(*e*) the rendering to the Ministry of any accounts or returns required by law to be furnished by a returning officer to the Ministry ; or

(*f*) the due transmission to the Clerk of the Crown of the documents and records relating to the election in any constituency for which he is returning officer.

(3) In a general election in any county or in the County Borough of Belfast in which the election is contested in two or more constituencies and in which the votes are to be counted simultaneously in different rooms, the returning officer shall appoint a deputy in each such constituency to conduct the count and each such deputy shall be empowered at the conclusion of the count for the constituency for which he was appointed to declare the result of the election.

(4) The remuneration to be paid to any deputy appointed under this Regulation shall be such as shall be determined by the returning officer and shall be defrayed by him out of his fee as returning officer.

Duties of Senior Presiding Officers

6. A Senior Presiding Officer appointed under paragraph (2) of Ballot Act Rule 21 shall, in addition to his duties as Presiding Officer in respect of his own ballot box, to the duties imposed on him by paragraph (3) of the said Rule or by any other Ballot Act Rule, or to any other duties assigned to him by the returning officer, be responsible for the receipt of all the ballot papers and ballot boxes for use in the station and their distribution to the respective Presiding Officers for such ballot boxes, the opening and closing of the poll of the station at the hours fixed by statute, and the collection of all the ballot boxes in the station and their delivery, together with all the packets required by law to be so delivered, to the Returning Officer.

Postal voting applications

7. The following Regulation shall be substituted for Regulation 8 of the Parliamentary Elections Regulations :—

" **8.**—(1) If, after the initiation of an election in any constituency, and not later than five o'clock in the afternoon of the second day after the day fixed for nominations at the election, the Electoral Officer for the County or County Borough in which the constituency is situated receives, in the form set out in the Schedule hereto, from any person registered as a Parliamentary elector in the constituency other than a person registered by virtue of a Service qualification, an application to vote by post at the election, he shall, after satisfying himself that either —

(*a*) the postal address furnished with the application, to which a postal ballot paper is to be sent, is outside Northern Ireland but within the prescribed postal voting area ; or

(*b*) the postal address furnished, although within Northern Ireland, is accompanied by a certificate by a registered medical practitioner that the applicant will be prevented by illness or other physical incapacity from voting in person at the election ;

enter the name of the applicant in a List of Postal Voters prepared in the form set out in the Schedule hereto, and the said List shall be the Postal Voting List for that election but for no other election.

(2) The certificate referred to in sub-paragraph (*b*) of paragraph (1) of this Regulation shall be sent to the Electoral Officer at the same time, and under the same cover, as the application to vote by post and shall contain such appropriate particulars as may, in the opinion of the medical practitioner giving it, be sufficient to show that the voter could not reasonably be expected to attend at the