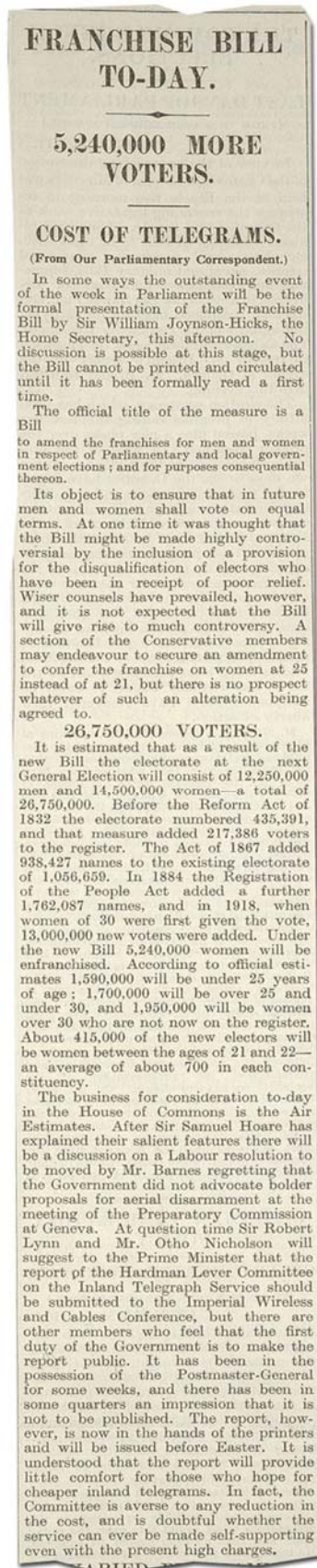


## Document N: Results



*This article is from The Times newspaper on the day that the Franchise Bill, later to be the Franchise Act of 1928, was published. This Bill gave the vote to all women over the age of 21. There was little opposition to the bill in Parliament, and it became law on 2nd July 1928.*

### Franchise Bill Today

In some ways the outstanding event of the week in Parliament will be the formal presentation of the Franchise Bill by Sir William Joynson Hicks, the Home Secretary, this afternoon. No discussion is possible at this stage, but the Bill cannot be printed and circulated until it has been formally read a first time.

The official title of the measure is a Bill to amend the franchises for men and women in respect of Parliamentary and local government elections; and for purposes consequential thereon.

Its object is to ensure that in future men and women shall vote on equal terms. At one time it was thought that the Bill might be made highly controversial by the inclusion of a provision for the disqualification of electors who have been in receipt of poor relief. Wiser counsels have prevailed, however, and it is not expected that the Bill will give rise to much controversy. A section of the Conservative members may endeavour to secure an amendment to confer the franchise on women at 25 instead of at 21, but there is no prospect whatever of such an alteration being agreed to.

### 26,750,000 VOTERS

It is estimated that as a result of the new Bill the electorate at the next General Election will consist of 12,250,000 men and 14,500,000 women - a total of 26,750,000. Before the Reform Act of 1832 the electorate numbered 435,391, and that measure added 217,386 voters to the register. The Act of 1867 added 938,427 names to the existing electorate of 1,056,659. In 1884 the Registration of the People Act added a further 1,762,087 names, and in 1918, when women of 30 were first given the vote 13,000,000 new voters were added. Under the new Bill 5,240,000 women will be enfranchised. According to official estimates 1,590,000 will be under 25 years of age: 1,700,000 will

### Source:

*Taken from: The Times Newspaper*

*Date created: 12 March 1928*

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<http://www.bl.uk/learning/histcitizen/21cc/struggle/struggle.html>

*Accessed: Oct. 21, 2011*