

of the Constitution referred to above, both Houses were dissolved by the Governor-General. The first session of the ninth Parliament opened on the 28th February, 1923. Particulars regarding the last five Commonwealth elections may be found in the table given hereunder :—

FEDERAL ELECTIONS, 1913 to 1922.

Date.	Electors Enrolled.			Electors who Voted.			Percentage of Electors who Voted.		
	Males.	Fem.	Total.	Males.	Fem.	Total.	Males.	Fem.	Total.
THE SENATE.									
31st May, 1913 ..	1,453,949	1,306,267	2,760,216	1,122,677	910,574	2,033,251	77.22	69.71	73.66
5th September, 1914 ..	1,478,468	1,333,047	2,811,515	1,139,933	902,403	2,042,336	77.10	67.69	72.64
5th May, 1917 ..	1,444,133	1,391,194	2,835,327	1,184,663	1,018,138	2,202,801	82.03	73.18	77.69
13th December, 1919 ..	1,439,818	1,410,044	2,849,862	1,094,534	938,403	2,032,937	76.02	65.55	71.33
16th December, 1922 ..	1,494,508	1,487,916	2,982,424	966,551	761,695	1,728,246	64.67	51.19	57.95

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

31st May, 1913 ..	1,401,042	1,280,335	2,681,377	1,079,997	876,726	1,955,723	77.01	69.55	73.49
5th September, 1914 ..	1,225,990	1,122,451	2,348,441	954,768	772,138	1,726,906	77.88	68.79	73.53
5th May, 1917 ..	1,262,527	1,207,938	2,470,465	1,041,552	892,926	1,934,478	82.50	73.92	78.30
13th December, 1919 ..	1,395,165	1,367,468	2,762,633	1,063,029	914,816	1,977,845	76.19	66.90	71.59
16th December, 1922 ..	1,396,026	1,378,254	2,774,274	920,177	726,686	1,646,863	65.91	52.72	59.36

The percentage of electors who exercised the franchise at each election rose from 53.04 for the Senate and 55.69 for the House of Representatives in 1901 to the maximum of 77.69 and 78.30 respectively in 1917. The next election in 1919 showed a considerable falling off, and in 1922 the decrease was still more marked, the respective percentages for that year being 57.95 and 59.36, or very little more than those for 1901.

4. Federal Referenda.—(i) *Introductory.* According to section 128 of the Act, any proposed law for the alteration of the Constitution must, in addition to being passed by an absolute majority of each House of Parliament, be submitted to a referendum of the electors in each State, and must further be approved by a majority of the States and of the electors who voted. Several referenda have been held from time to time, but in two cases only has any proposed law been assented to by the required majority of the electors.

(ii) *Senate Elections Referendum, 1906.* A referendum was held on the 12th December, 1906, at which the question of altering from January to July the date at which the term of service of a senator begins, and other details connected with the election of senators, were submitted for decision by the electors. The number who voted in favour of the amendment was 774,011 and of those not in favour 162,470; the amendment was therefore carried. Only 50.17 per cent. of the electors voted.

(iii) *Finance and State Debts Referendum.* Simultaneously with the general election of the 13th April, 1910, the electors were asked to decide regarding the alteration of the Constitution on two points, viz. :—(a) an alteration of the financial arrangements between the Commonwealth and the States, and (b) giving the Commonwealth power to take over the debts of the States, whenever incurred. The former proposal was rejected, 645,514 electors having voted in favour, and 670,838 not in favour, while the latter proposal was accepted by 715,053 votes to 586,271 votes. Of the voters on the roll, 62.16 per cent. voted.

(iv) *Legislative Powers Referendum, 1910.* The object of the proposed law submitted to this referendum was to give the Commonwealth Parliament power to deal with the following matters :—(a) Trade and Commerce, without any limitations, instead of " Trade

and Commerce with other countries, and among the States" only. (b) The control and regulation of corporations of all kinds (except those formed not for the acquisition of gain). At present only "Foreign corporations and trading and financial corporations formed within the limits of the Commonwealth" come under the jurisdiction of the Federal Parliament. (c) Labour and employment, including wages and conditions of labour and the settlement of industrial disputes generally, including disputes in relation to employment on State railways. (Conciliation and arbitration by the Commonwealth operate only in the case of any industrial dispute extending beyond the limits of any one State), and (d) Combinations and monopolies in relation to the production, manufacture, or supply of goods or services.

The referendum was held on the 26th April, 1911, and the number of votes cast in favour of the proposed law was 483,356, and against it 742,704, the majority against being 259,348. The percentage of electors who cast effective votes was 52.36, and the proposal was rejected in every State except Western Australia.

(v) *Monopolies Referendum, 1910.* It was proposed to insert in the Constitution the following sub-section:—"When each House of Parliament, in the same session, has by resolution declared that the industry or business of producing, manufacturing, or supplying goods, or of supplying any specified services, is the subject of any monopoly, the Parliament shall have power to make laws for carrying on the industry or business by or under the control of the Commonwealth, and acquiring for that purpose on just terms any property used in connexion with the industry or business." The voting on this question was held simultaneously with that on the preceding proposal, and the proposed law was rejected, 488,663 voters casting their votes in favour, and 736,392 against, the majority against being 248,264. Of the electors on the roll, 52.34 per cent. voted effectively, and the only State which voted in favour of the law was Western Australia.

(vi) *Legislative Powers and Monopolies Referendum, 1913.* On the 31st May, 1913, the same proposed alterations were again submitted to the people as five distinct laws, with an additional one whereby the conditions of employment and the settlement of disputes relating thereto in the several State railway services might be brought within the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth. All six proposed laws were rejected. The following table shows the numbers of votes cast for and against each proposed law:—

COMMONWEALTH REFERENDA, 1913.—RESULTS OF VOTING.

Nature of Proposal.	Votes in Favour.	Votes Not in Favour
Trade and Commerce	958,419	982,615
Corporations	960,711	986,824
Industrial Matters	961,601	987,611
Railway Disputes	956,358	990,046
Trusts	967,331	975,943
Nationalization of Monopolies	917,165	941,947

The percentage of electors who voted was nearly 74, and the States of Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia were in favour of the proposals, while the other three States were not in favour.

(vii) *Military Service Referendum, 1916.* A referendum was held on the 28th October, 1916, when the following question with regard to military service was submitted to the people:—"Are you in favour of the Government having, in this grave emergency, the same compulsory powers over citizens in regard to requiring their military service, for the term of this War, outside the Commonwealth, as it now has in regard to military service within the Commonwealth?" In New South Wales, Queensland and South Australia the majority of the voters was not in favour, while in the other States the proposal was carried. The number of votes cast in favour was 1,087,557, and those cast not in favour was 1,160,033, the net result being a majority of 72,476 votes not in favour. Of the electors on the roll, 82.75 per cent. voted.

(viii) *Military Service Referendum, 1917.* A further referendum was held on the 20th December, 1917, the question being, "Are you in favour of the proposal of the Commonwealth Government for reinforcing the Australian Imperial Force oversea?" The proposal was that, while voluntary enlistment was to continue, compulsory reinforcements should be called up by ballot to make the total reinforcements up to 7,000 per month. In New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and South Australia the majority of voters was not in favour of the prescribed question. The number of votes cast in favour was 1,015,159 and of those not in favour 1,181,747, the net result being a majority of 166,588 votes not in favour. The percentage of electors who voted was 81.34.

(ix) *Legislative Powers and Nationalization of Monopolies Referendum, 1919.* On the 19th December, 1919, proposals were submitted to a referendum of the electors for the alteration of the Constitution in relation to the extension of the legislative powers of the Commonwealth in regard to industrial disputes and to the nationalization of monopolies. In each case the majority of votes was not in favour of the proposed alteration. For the increase of legislative powers, 911,357 votes were cast in favour, and 924,160 against, and for the nationalization of monopolies, the number of votes in favour was 813,880 and not in favour 859,451, consequently both proposals were rejected, the former by 12,803 votes and the latter by 45,571 votes. The percentage of electors who voted on the former question was 64.41 and on the latter 58.72, although ballot-papers were issued to 71.33 of the voters enrolled. The States voting in favour of both proposals were Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia.

5. **The Parliament of New South Wales.**—(i) *Constitution.* The Legislative Council in this State is a nominee chamber, the Legislative Assembly being an elective body. Theoretically the Legislative Council may contain an unlimited number of members, and the number of members at the latest available date was eighty-two: The tenure of the seat is for life; four-fifths of the members must be persons not holding any paid office under the Crown, but this is held not to include officers of His Majesty's sea or land forces on full or half-pay, or retired officers on pensions. The Legislative Assembly consists of ninety members, who hold their seats during the existence of the Parliament to which they are elected. Nine electorates return five members each, and fifteen return three members each. The duration of Parliament is limited to three years.

(ii) *Particulars of Elections.* Since the introduction of responsible government in New South Wales there have been twenty-five complete Parliaments, the first of which opened on the 22nd May, 1856, and was dissolved on the 19th December, 1857, while the twenty-sixth opened on the 26th April, 1922. The last mentioned Parliament was elected on the 25th March, 1922, under the proportional representation system. Particulars of voting at elections from 1910 to 1922 are given below :—

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS, NEW SOUTH WALES, 1910 to 1922.

Year.	Electors Qualified to Vote.			Electors who Voted.			Percentage of Electors who Voted in Contested Electorates.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1910	458,626	409,069	867,695	322,199	262,154	584,353	72.53	65.52	69.20
1913	553,633	484,366	1,037,999	385,838	302,389	688,227	72.20	64.55	68.63
1917	574,308	535,522	1,109,830	328,030	295,354	623,384	62.40	60.57	61.52
1920	593,244	561,193	1,154,437	363,115	285,594	648,709	61.21	50.89	56.19
1922	636,662	614,361	1,251,023	466,949	408,515	875,464	73.34	66.49	69.98

The franchise was extended to women (Women's Franchise Act) in 1902, and was exercised for the first time at a State election in 1904.