

law, with or without the amendments of the Senate, and the Senate for a second time reject it or pass it with amendments to which the lower House will not agree, then the Governor-General may dissolve the two Houses simultaneously. For the first time in the history of the Commonwealth this deadlock between the Senate and the House of Representatives occurred in the second session of the fifth Parliament, and, in accordance with the section of the Constitution referred to above, both Houses were dissolved by the Governor-General. Until 1927 the Parliament met at Melbourne; it now meets at Canberra, the first meeting at Parliament House, Canberra, being opened by H.R.H. the Duke of York, on the 9th May, 1927. The first session of the fifteenth Parliament opened on the 30th November, 1937. Particulars regarding Commonwealth elections since 1925 will be found in the following table:—

FEDERAL ELECTIONS.

Date.	Electors Enrolled.			Electors who Voted.			Percentage of Electors who Voted.		
	Males.	Fem.	Total.	Males.	Fem.	Total.	Males.	Fem.	Total.
THE SENATE.									
14th November, 1925	1,656,286	1,645,730	3,302,016	1,515,608	1,499,345	3,014,953	91.51	91.11	91.31
17th November, 1928	1,723,552	1,721,214	3,444,766	1,617,752	1,606,748	3,224,500	93.86	93.35	93.61
12th October, 1929	1,773,014	1,769,936	3,542,950						
19th December, 1931	1,827,079	1,822,875	3,649,954	1,741,163	1,727,140	3,468,303	95.30	94.75	95.02
15th September, 1934	1,954,339	1,948,338	3,902,677	1,862,749	1,845,829	3,708,578	95.31	94.74	95.03
23rd October, 1937	2,043,212	2,036,826	4,080,038	1,963,979	1,957,358	3,921,337	96.12	96.10	96.11

\* No election.

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.  
(CONTESTED ELECTORATES.)

14th November, 1925	1,635,842	1,632,807	3,268,739	1,499,006	1,488,194	2,987,200	91.63	91.14	91.39
17th November, 1928	1,450,202	1,463,951	2,914,153	1,362,675	1,366,137	2,728,812	95.96	93.32	93.64
12th October, 1929	1,557,525	1,560,505	3,118,030	1,479,100	1,478,447	2,957,547	94.96	94.74	94.85
19th December, 1931	1,724,730	1,733,343	3,458,073	1,643,604	1,642,870	3,286,474	95.30	94.78	95.04
15th September, 1934	1,930,418	1,934,021	3,864,439	1,843,949	1,833,774	3,677,723	95.52	94.82	95.17
23rd October, 1937	1,928,786	1,919,234	3,848,020	1,854,770	1,844,499	3,699,269	96.16	96.11	96.13

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 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. Compulsory voting was introduced prior to the election in 1925, and an exceedingly heavy vote (over 91 per cent.) was cast in that year. At each succeeding election increases in percentage have been recorded.

4. **Federal Referenda.**—According to Section 128 of the Constitution, 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 before it can be presented for Royal Assent. Several referenda have been held from time to time, but in three cases only has any proposed law been assented to by the required majority of the electors. A statement dealing with the various referenda up to and inclusive of the year 1919, and the voting thereon was given in previous issues of the Official Year Book (see No. 18, pp. 87 to 89), but space will not permit of the incorporation of this information in the present volume. In the year 1926 a referendum was held in relation to proposed laws entitled respectively "Industry and Commerce" and "Essential Services". The result of the voting was: Industry and Commerce, votes in favour, 1,247,088; votes not in favour, 1,619,655. Essential Services, votes in favour, 1,195,502; votes not in favour, 1,597,793.

A referendum was taken in 1928 in respect of a proposed law entitled "State Debts 1928" and a majority of votes was cast in each State in favour of the proposal, the voting for the Commonwealth being as follows: in favour, 2,237,391; not in favour, 773,852.

On 6th March, 1937, proposals were submitted to the electors for the alteration of the Constitution in relation to "Aviation" and "Marketing" with the following results:—

State.	Votes in Favour.	Votes Not in Favour.	Informal Votes.
AVIATION.			
New South Wales .. .. .	664,589	741,821	55,450
Victoria .. .. .	675,481	362,112	36,685
Queensland .. .. .	310,352	191,251	18,330
South Australia .. .. .	128,582	191,831	21,031
Western Australia .. .. .	100,326	110,529	10,977
Tasmania .. .. .	45,616	71,518	7,882
Total .. .. .	1,924,946	1,669,062	150,355
MARKETING.			
New South Wales .. .. .	456,802	896,457	108,601
Victoria .. .. .	468,337	537,021	68,920
Queensland .. .. .	187,685	296,302	35,946
South Australia .. .. .	65,364	248,502	27,578
Western Australia .. .. .	57,023	148,308	16,501
Tasmania .. .. .	24,597	87,798	12,621
Total .. .. .	1,259,808	2,214,388	270,167

5. **The Parliament of New South Wales.**—(i) *Constitution.* The Parliament of New South Wales consists of two Chambers, the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council. The Assembly consists of ninety members, elected in single seat electoral districts, who hold their seats during the existence of the Parliament to which they are elected. The duration of Parliament is limited to three years. Until 1934 the Council was a nominee Chamber, consisting of a variable number of members appointed for life without remuneration, but as from 23rd April, 1934, the Council was reconstituted and became a House of sixty members to serve without remuneration for a term of twelve years, with one-quarter of the members retiring every third year. The electorate comprises members of both Chambers, who vote as a single electoral body at simultaneous sittings of both Chambers. At the first elections in 1933, four groups of fifteen members were elected to serve respectively twelve years, nine years, six years, and three years. Any person resident for at least three years in the Commonwealth and entitled to vote at the election of members of the Legislative Assembly is eligible for election as a member of the Council, if nominated by two electors, an elector being a member of either of the two Houses for the time being.

(ii) *Particulars of Elections.* Since the introduction of responsible government in New South Wales there have been thirty-one complete Parliaments, the first of which opened on the 22nd May, 1856, and was dissolved on the 19th December, 1857, while the thirty-first was dissolved on the 24th February, 1938. The thirty-second Parliament opened on the 12th April, 1938. The elections of 1920, 1922 and 1925 were contested on the principle of proportional representation, but a reversion to the system of single seats