

ment, in respect to legislation. The powers of the Cabinet, too, are often exercised through the Governor General, by Orders-in-Council that he must sign.

### The Senate

The Senate's powers are limited in two fundamental respects. It may not initiate financial legislation. This means that it has little more than a negative say on the taxes to be levied on Canadians and the use to which public funds may be put. Furthermore, unlike the House of Commons, it has no control over the executive. It cannot unseat a Government.

Senators are appointed by the Governor General.

### Election arrangements

The dissolution of Parliament sets the complicated election machinery in motion. Essentially, it consists of an Office headed by the Chief Electoral Officer in Ottawa and a returning officer for each constituency. Each returning officer is responsible for the conduct of the election in his constituency.

As insurance against being caught unprepared, the Chief Electoral Officer starts to get ready for a new election as soon as the last one is over. A general election requires the production of several tons of paper material, such as background papers, manuals of instruction and forms of many kinds.

When the date is set, appropriate quantities of these materials are shipped to the constituencies. Returning officers complete plans for the recording of the votes cast in their areas, set up polling divisions and polling stations, assign enumerators to compile lists of eligible voters, and appoint deputy returning officers. The voter lists are posted in public places so that anyone may check them for accuracy and call for a revision if names have been wrongly omitted or wrongly included.

The independence of the Chief Electoral Officer is assured by the fact that he is appointed by resolution of the House of Commons and not by the Cabinet, as are most public servants of similar rank. His salary is set by law and not by Order-in-Council. Finally, he is responsible to the Commons, and not to the Government, and can be removed only for cause by the Governor General on address of the Senate and the House of Commons.

### The voters

Every Canadian citizen 18 years of age or

Voting is restricted outside Canada to members of the Canadian forces, to public servants posted abroad and to their dependants who have attained the age of 18.

over has the right to vote.

Persons born in Canada or abroad of Canadian parents, on or after February 15, 1977, are, with limited exceptions, Canadian citizens. Persons born in a foreign country may acquire Canadian citizenship after living three years in Canada.

Among those deprived of their franchise — but only so long as the deprivation lasts — are prisoners in penal institutions and persons restrained of their liberty of movement or deprived of the management of their property by reason of mental disease. Certain classes of person are deprived of their vote because of their official functions: the Chief Electoral Officer and his deputy, judges appointed by the Governor-in-Council (except for citizenship judges), and returning officers. The last-mentioned must cast the tie-breaking ballot when two candidates for election have received the same number of votes. Finally, any person found guilty of electoral fraud may lose the franchise for a specified period.

Voters who for any reason feel they cannot get to the polls on election day — whether because they plan to take a trip or attend a wedding — can vote in an advance poll held on the ninth, seventh and sixth days before polling day. Those who are unable to cast their vote at an advance poll or an ordinary poll may do so in the office of the returning officer from the fourteenth day to and including the Friday before polling day, except for the advance polling days.

Fishermen, mariners, prospectors, physically-incapacitated persons, members of air crews, forestry crews, topographical survey crews, or trappers and students away from home have, under certain conditions, the right to vote by proxy.

Canadian public servants posted abroad, such as the staffs of embassies, vote before election day, with their dependants. The total in the next election is expected to be about 3,400.

In the same category for voting purposes are all 83,000 members of the regular armed forces plus the dependants in Germany of about 5,000 Canadian troops stationed there under NATO command.

These special votes usually take place

throughout the second week before the election.

### The candidates

In general, anyone eligible to vote is eligible for nomination and election to the House of Commons. There are no property or educational qualifications.

Some exceptions to this rule are members of provincial legislatures, judges, persons convicted of corrupt electoral practices, public servants, except those having been granted leave of absence without pay to seek nomination under the Public Service Employment Act, and members of the regular armed forces. None of these may run for election to the House of Commons.

Most candidates are the official representatives of the various political parties, chosen at party-nominating conventions.

Nominations close, in general, 21 days before election day. In a few isolated constituencies, nominations are held 28 days before the voting date. A candidate need not reside in the constituency he is contesting. His nomination, however, must be endorsed by at least 25 electors in the constituency, and must identify the official agent and the auditor he or she is required to appoint. He must put up a \$200-deposit which is returned to him if he wins the election or polls 15 per cent of the total valid votes cast. This is to discourage frivolous nominations.

### The parties

Everyone is free to form a political party and to join or support any party he or she chooses, but only a federally registered political party may enjoy election expenses privileges.

Two parties have hitherto shared the allegiance of most Canadian voters. They are the Progressive Conservatives, usually called simply the Conservatives, and the Liberals. Every Canadian Government up to now has been formed by one or other of these parties or a merger of elements of both. On occasion, other parties have succeeded in winning provincial elections, and other parties regularly elect groups of Members to the House of Commons. Two of the most prominent in this respect are the New Democratic and the Social Credit Parties.

On entering a polling station, the voter is handed a ballot listing the candidates (by name) and — in the case of qualified, registered parties, — party affiliation.

The principal political parties function