

days before it will take place. This time aspect tends to make the election process in Canada somewhat swifter and, therefore, somewhat less expensive than in the United States. Prime Minister and Opposition leaders campaign, of course, before the call. But the call starts the machinery. Once started a number of things occur.

WHEN THE GOVERNOR GENERAL DISSOLVES PARLIAMENT, the Prime Minister officially notifies the Chief Election Officer. The Chief Election Officer, a permanent civil servant, survives all elections. (Senators, who are appointed for life, do too. The Senate plays a relatively minor role in legislation. The power is in the House.)

Elections began when telephones and telegraphs and television were not imagined. The customs in Canada still lend a 19th century air to the process. The Chief Election Officer sends an Election Writ, embossed with the Great Seal of Canada to the Returning Officer in each con-

stituency. Returning Officers are appointed by orders-in-council and each of them has seven weeks to prepare his election. He will need every hour. The election must, by ancient law, be on a Monday unless the particular Monday occurring at the appointed time is a holiday. Then it is held the next day. The candidates meantime have gotten themselves nominated. They are most usually nominated at a local Party convention though a man or a woman can with the help of ten friends nominate him or herself and run as an Independent. In any case he or she must post \$200 and produce a petition with ten signatures attached.

While the candidates print and post their posters a scattered squad of hired workers called "enumerators" are preparing a preliminary list of voters. The list compiled is printed and posted all over the constituency. Citizens whose names have been omitted may then protest and state their claims. Citizens who feel someone has been wrongfully included may challenge the listing. The list is corrected, printed and posted again.



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