

Constituent Assembly:

Another election was held on December 15 to elect a Constituent Assembly, which will function independently of Parliament and which will have the task of drawing up a constitution for Indonesia. At present the Indonesian Parliament operates under a cabinet system with, however, a President and Vice-President as well as a Prime Minister. There has never been any rigid definition of the respective responsibilities of these offices and this is one of the matters which will probably occupy the attention of the Constituent Assembly. The Assembly might also study possible advantages of a greater or lesser degree of regional autonomy for units in the Republic.

The Assembly elections also passed off well, although interest seems to have been less than in the parliamentary election, probably because of the short time which had elapsed since the latter was held. Full figures of the popular vote are not yet available.

There is no doubt that both the Constituent Assembly and the new Parliament will be faced with formidable difficulties. Indonesia, although rich in natural resources, is still technically under-developed and confronted with many pressing economic problems. It also has a difficult internal security problem. It will not, therefore, be easy to work out a stable and practical system of government for Indonesia or to realize the vast potential of her rich and fertile islands. Nevertheless, an important step toward these goals has been taken with the completion of the first national elections and the quiet and orderly fashion in which they were conducted. The whole process was a good augury for the future of the Republic.



—*Indonesian Elections*

INDONESIAN ELECTIONS

President Sukarno of Indonesia casting his ballot.