

Mr. HEAPS: I do not think that Mr. Turgeon's point is so important, because I have observed in the few years that I have been here when a government in power redistributes the seats, as we know happens, according to their own view, it generally goes against them when the election comes round.

Mr. TURGEON: What I am getting at is this: We are naturally inclined to get away from evils. That is a natural human attribute. Sometimes in trying to get away from one evil or one class of evils, unwittingly or unconsciously we land in other evils that are greater than those we are trying to avoid. While election costs, campaign funds and all those things are bad, and the cost bears heavily on every person who is a candidate, we might get into a greater danger than if we left things as they are.

The CHAIRMAN: I think that is a good suggestion to throw out, and one to which every member will give serious consideration. Mr. MacNicol has some additional information, and I think he should give it now and we shall continue our discussion afterward.

Mr. MACNICOL: I believe we should get down to the origin of those two systems. These two systems, compulsory enrolment and compulsory voting, commenced in Queensland in 1915. Compulsory enrolment was the result of the failure of the Australians themselves to enrol, and compulsory voting was the result of the failure of the Australians themselves to vote. Just why they had so much trouble in Australia with enrolment, and why the public refused to vote, I don't know; but as a result of those two failures, Queensland adopted compulsory enrolment and at the same time compulsory voting.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. Have you the percentage?—A. Yes; I shall give them all. In the year 1915 in the Australian Senate and the Australian House of Representatives—

Q. You say it started in Queensland in 1915?—A. 1915. I was going to give the voting in the years previous to that. In 1903 the voting for the House of Representatives in Australia was 50·27, and the Senate 46·86; in 1906, for the House of Representatives 51·48, the Senate 50·21. In 1910 the percentage for the House of Representatives was 62·80, and the Senate 62·16; in 1913, for the House of Representatives 73·49, the Senate 73·66. In 1914, the first year of the war, the number voting for the House of Representatives was 73·53, and the Senate 72·64. In 1917, also a war year, the number voting for the House of Representatives was 78·30, and the Senate 77·69. In 1919 the number was 71·59 for the House of Representatives, and 71·33 for the Senate. Then following the war they reverted to where they had been prior to the war years. In 1922 the number voting for the House was 59·36, and 57·95 for the Senate. The second year after that, 1924, the Commonwealth adopted the Queensland plan of compulsory voting and compulsory enrolment.

May I point out that whereas the whole of Australia voted 59·36 for the House and 57·95 for the Senate in the 1922 elections in Queensland in that same election the vote for the senate—I have not got the vote for the house, but I assume it would be about the same—was 82·66. I now give the figures in the other states for the same year as regards the senate. In those states individually the vote for the senate was as follows:—

Tasmania.. . . . .	45·63
West Australia.. . . . .	46·71
South Australia.. . . . .	53·23
New South Wales.. . . . .	54·49
Victoria.. . . . .	56·23

[Mr. Harry Butcher.]