

cess. The second reading of the Bill was moved by him in the session of the following year, and was carried by a majority of 84 to 8. It was strongly opposed by a considerable section of the public on the ground that the Members of the Upper House should be elected, instead of being nominated by the Crown. But the nominee principle was considered essential by the framers of the Bill, for the purpose of reproducing the Constitution of the British Parliament as closely as possible; and in deference to those views, the Bill was passed as it stood. . . . The Bill [subsequently enacted by the Imperial Parliament] . . . was received in the colony in October, 1855. The old Legislative Council was finally dissolved on the 19th of December following, and the new Constitution was formally inaugurated by the Governor-General, Sir William Denison, who had succeeded Sir Charles Fitzroy in the beginning of the year. The establishment of responsible government brought about so great a change in the political system of the colony that from that date the current of its history may be said to run in a totally different channel. Other actors come upon the scene. The martial figure of the Governor disappears, his place being occupied by men henceforth known as the responsible Ministers of the Crown."—*Historical Review of New South Wales* by G. B. Barton, A. Sutherland, and F. J. Broomfield, in *Australasia Illustrated*, v. 1, pp. 84-93.

A. D. 1850.—Separation of the Colony of Victoria. See AUSTRALIA: A. D. 1839-1855.

A. D. 1855-1893.—The Colonial Constitution.—Liberalized Land Policy.—Public Education.—"The principles of the Constitution, as originally laid down, have never been altered, but there have been some changes in minor details. In New South Wales, as in the other Australian colonies, the democratic element was increasing, and before long the Electoral Act was amended and the franchise reduced to practically manhood suffrage. At the same time, the old system of voting was abolished, and all elections have since been conducted by means of the ballot-box. Various other amendments of the Electoral Act have taken place from time to time, and the few restrictions of political privilege which remained have been removed. The Legislative Council now [1893] contains 67 members—though there is no fixed limit of numbers—and there are 141 members of the Assembly. The tenure of a seat in the Council is for life, and the only qualification required of members is that they shall be 21 years of age, and naturalized or natural born subjects of the Queen, while the qualification of the Lower House is practically the same. . . . The duration of the Assembly is limited to three years, and the only condition at present necessary to obtain elective rights is six months' residence before the rolls are compiled. Within the first five years of responsible government, under the guidance of Sir John Robertson elaborate regulations were framed for the alienation and occupation of Crown lands. The circumstances of the colony had been greatly altered by the discovery of gold [see AUSTRALIA: A. D. 1839-1855; and MONEY AND BANKING: A. D. 1848-1893], and the question of land settlement had to be dealt with in an entirely new spirit to meet the wants of a class of a different type to that contemplated by the framers of former enactments.

. . . The Government were beaten by a large majority on the question of 'free selection before survey.' The Governor was urged to dissolve Parliament, but this he declined to do, and before long public sentiment underwent a complete change; the cry of 'free selection before survey' was made the watchword of the democratic party; and the measure on its re-introduction consequently became law. The Act of 1861 was intended to facilitate the settlement of an industrial agricultural population, side by side with the pastoral tenants, by means of free selection in limited areas. . . . The new Parliament did not confine its liberalism to the administration of the Crown lands. Before it had been many years in existence an Act was passed abolishing all grants from the State Treasury in aid of religious denominations, while a further levelling measure found its place on the statute book in an Act providing for the abolition of the law of primogeniture. . . . The whole country was terrorised for many years following 1860 by the exploits of hushrangers, and for a time the executive appeared to be incapable of dealing with these offenders. . . . Eventually the law prevailed, and hushranging and its accompanying evils were completely stamped out. . . . The Public Schools Act of 1866 . . . provided for two distinct classes of schools, though all schools receiving aid from the State were placed by it nominally under a Council of Education. The public schools were entirely under the control of this board, but the denominational schools were still managed to some extent by the various religious bodies to which they had hitherto belonged. . . . In 1880, State aid to denominational education was finally abolished. By the new Act, which is still in force the entire educational system of the colony was remodelled; the Council of Education was dissolved, and a Minister of Public Instruction created in its place. Public schools to afford primary instruction to all children without sectarian or class distinction were established, as well as superior public schools, in which a more advanced course might be followed. . . . Pastoral Industries are still the mainstay of the country."—G. Tregarthen, *The Story of Australasia*, ch. 11-12.

A. D. 1859.—Separation of the Moreton Bay District and its erection into the Colony of Queensland. See AUSTRALIA: A. D. 1859.

A. D. 1885-1892.—The Movement for Australian Federation. See AUSTRALIA: A. D. 1835-1892.

A. D. 1890.—Characteristics.—Comparative view. See AUSTRALIA: A. D. 1890.

A. D. 1891.—Rise of the Labor Party.—

"The uprise of the Parliamentary Labour Party of New South Wales was a dramatic anti-climax to the defeat of Australian Trades Unionism in the disastrous maritime strike of 1890. . . . The workers were seemingly crushed in . . . [a] battle with the shipping interests in 1890. In 1891 the same bodies that had gone down in the Sedan of the year before emerged an organized Parliamentary force, holding the balance of power in the legislature of New South Wales. . . . The strike had injured many innocent interests, as it always did and always will. 'Could not a more enlightened remedy be found?' seemed to be one of the rational conclusions arrived at, and the Trades Unions co-operated with the victorious capitalists and their govern-