1978

Lords Report Stage of Scotland Bill begins.
7 June Main amendments inserted: Assembly committees required to reflect party balance; purchase grants for libraries, museums and art galleries reserved; requirement for fourteen days' interval followed by second vote if Bill not affecting Scotland carried by Commons only because of votes of Scottish MPs; new Government clause on Orkney and Shetland to replace "Grimond amendment".
20 June Report Stage concluded.
29 June Unopposed third reading.
4 July Commons timetable motion for consideration of Lords amendments.
6 July Consideration began. Alternative member voting system defeated.
26 July Consideration concluded. Government defeated on committee balance, second vote in Commons and reservation of forestry.
27 July Lords accepted Commons amendments.
31 July Royal Assent.
1 Nov Referendum date announced.

1979

1 March Referendum held. Of those who voted, 51.6% voted "Yes" and 48.4% voted "No". Of the total electorate, 32.9% voted "Yes", 30.8% voted "No" and 36.3% did not vote.
22 March Statement to Commons by Prime Minister Callaghan, declining to set date for vote on order to repeal Scotland Act and calling for all-party consultations. Motion of no-confidence put down by SNP.
28 March Government defeated on Conservative motion of no-confidence.
20 June Commons passed repeal order for Scotland Act by 301 votes to 206. Of the Scottish MPs, forty-three voted against repeal, nineteen in favour and nine were absent. Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland, offered all-party talks to consider "the scope for improving the handling of Scottish business in Parliament".

*The chronology of devolution 1885-1978 (May) was included in The Scottish Government Yearbook 1979.