

A State may grant any aid to, or bounty on, mining for gold and other metals, and, with the consent of the Federal Parliament, any aid to, or bounty on, the production or export of goods.

*Money Bills.*—Bills imposing taxation or spending revenue must originate in the House of Representatives. The Senate cannot amend Bills either imposing taxation, or appropriating revenue for the ordinary annual service of the Government, but may suggest alterations which may be adopted or not as the House sees fit. The Senate may not amend any Bill in such a manner as to increase any proposed charge or burden on the people.

*Deadlocks.*—If the House of Representatives passes any proposed law, and the Senate fails to pass it, or passes it with amendments to which the House will not agree, and if after an interval of three months, the House again passes the proposed law and the Senate fails to pass it, or passes it with amendments to which the House will not agree, the Governor-General may dissolve both Houses simultaneously, unless the deadlock occurs within six months of the expiry of the House of Representatives by effluxion of time. If after such dissolution the proposed law fails to pass with or without amendments, the Governor-General may convene a joint sitting of the Houses, and the members then present may deliberate, and shall vote together upon the proposed law, and if affirmed by a majority of the total number of the members of both Houses, it shall be taken to have been duly passed.

*The States.*—The constitution of each State is preserved as at the establishment of the Commonwealth, as are the powers of every State Parliament, save such as are exclusively vested in the Federal Parliament, or withdrawn from the Parliament of the State.

All laws of any State relating to matters within the powers of the Federal Parliament, will continue in force until the Commonwealth legislate upon such matters, and in case of inconsistency, the laws of the latter will prevail.

The Commonwealth is bound to protect every State against invasion; and, if appealed to by the State, against domestic violence.

New States may be admitted to the Commonwealth, or be established by it, upon such terms, including the extent of representation in either House of Parliament, as the Federal Parliament may think fit.

*Alteration of the Constitution.*—Any proposed alteration of the constitution must be approved by an absolute majority of each House of Parliament, or twice by an absolute majority of either House, and must then be submitted to the direct vote of the people. It must be approved by a majority of votes in a majority of States, and by a majority of votes in the whole Commonwealth. There is the important restriction, however, that no State is to lose its proportionate representation in the Senate, or its minimum representation in the House of Representatives, unless a majority of the electors voting in that State give their approval.

These are the main provisions of the Commonwealth Bill. While it may be conceded to its opponents that it is not perfect, as no human creation is perfect, still it embodies a constitution saturated with democratic sentiment and the principles of free government, and one, perhaps, the most liberal and elastic ever framed in any country.

In whatever aspect we may regard it, the creation of a Commonwealth out of the six colonies that are, for all practical purposes, our only neighbours, the fact of their entering into a partnership, which New Zealand has been invited, but has so far declined, to join, ought, while it is still open to us to join on equal terms, to put us to the fullest enquiry as to our position, and whether we should continue to stand aloof and retain our independence of action, or whether it may not be wiser to throw in our lot with the federation at its inception, as when it has once been formed we can only do so upon such terms as the Federal Parliament may impose.

Within the limits of this article the arguments on either side cannot be adequately discussed, but some of them may be briefly