

The Bill.

Explanation.

after an interval of three months the House of Representatives, in the same or the next session, again passes the proposed law, with or without amendments which have been made, suggested, or agreed to by the Senate, and the Senate rejects or fails to pass it, or passes it with amendments to which the House of Representatives will not agree, the Governor-General may dissolve the Senate and the House of Representatives simultaneously. But such dissolution shall not take place within six months before the date of the expiry of the House of Representatives by effluxion of time.

If after such dissolution the House of Representatives again passes the proposed law, with or without any amendments which have been made, suggested, or agreed to by the Senate, and the Senate rejects or fails to pass it, or passes it with amendments to which the House of Representatives will not agree, the Governor-General may convene a joint sitting of the members of the Senate and of the House of Representatives.

The members present at the joint sitting may deliberate and shall vote together upon the proposed law as last proposed by the House of Representatives, and upon amendments, if any, which have been made therein by one House and not agreed to by the other, and any such amendments which are affirmed by three-fifths of the members present and voting thereon shall be taken to have been carried, and if the proposed law, with the amendments, if any, so carried is affirmed by three-fifths of the members present and voting thereon, it shall be taken to have been duly passed by both Houses of the Parliament, and shall be presented to the Governor-General for the Queen's assent.

58. When a proposed law passed by both Houses of the Parliament is presented to the Governor-General for the Queen's assent, he shall declare, according to his discretion, but subject to the Constitution, that he assents, in the Queen's name, or that he withholds assent, or that he reserves the law for the Queen's pleasure,

The Governor-General may return to the House in which it originated any proposed law so presented to him, and may transmit therewith any amendments which he may recommend, and the Houses may deal with the recommendation.

59. The Queen may disallow any law within one year from the Governor-General's assent, and such disallowance, on being made known by the Governor-General, by speech or message to each of the Houses of the Parliament, or by Proclamation, shall annul the law from the day when the disallowance is so made known.

60. A proposed law reserved for the Queen's pleasure shall not have any force unless and until within two years from the day on which it was presented to the Governor-General for the Queen's assent the Governor-General makes known, by speech or message, to each of the Houses of the Parliament, or by Proclamation, that it has received the Queen's assent.

representatives, and each time the Senate rejects it, or shelves it, or makes amendments to which the House of Representatives will not agree, the Governor-General may dissolve both Houses at the same time; and, if after re-election they still disagree, he may convene a joint sitting of both Houses. The members present at the joint sitting may debate the Bill, and must vote on it; and if it is carried by three-fifths of those voting, it will be presented for the Queen's assent as if it had been passed in the usual way by both Houses.

The House of Representatives, throughout this process, may, if it so desires, accept any amendments made or suggested by the Senate; but at the joint sitting no amendments can be considered except those actually *made* by one of the Houses; and these can only be carried by a three-fifths majority. [In the case, therefore, of a Bill which the Senate cannot amend (see section 53), no amendments can be considered at the joint sitting.]

58, 59, 60. *Assent to Bills*.—There are the usual provisions as to the Royal assent to Bills, and as to the Queen's disallowance of Bills assented to by the Governor-General; except that the time for disallowance instead of being two years from the receipt of the Bill by the Secretary of State, is shortened to one year from the Governor-General's assent.

There is also a provision that the Governor-General, when a Bill is presented for his assent, may return it to the Parliament with a recommendation for amendment; which recommendation the Houses may deal with as they think fit. [This is intended to enable the Government to correct mistakes discovered in Bills. It is similar to a clause in the Victorian and South Australian Constitutions.]

CHAPTER II.—THE EXECUTIVE GOVERNMENT.

61. The executive power of the Commonwealth is vested in the Queen, and is exercisable by the Governor-General as the Queen's representative, and extends to the execution and maintenance of

61, 62, 63. *Executive Power*.—The Queen is to be the executive head of the Commonwealth [as she is of every other part of the Empire]; and the executive power will be exercised by the Governor-