

If no amendments are made by the Legislative Council, or amendments made to which the House agrees, the Bill then awaits the Royal Assent. If, however, there is a disagreement between the two Houses which cannot be resolved, the Bill is lost. The same proceedings are adopted when a Bill originates in the Upper House. The assent of the Crown, through the signature and seal of the Governor-General, is the final proceeding which converts a Bill into an Act of Parliament.

Relation between House and Council

The House of Representatives does not in itself constitute Parliament. The parliamentary system in this country is exactly the same as that of the United Kingdom. Similar Standing Orders apply and the same procedure is observed. Dod's definition of the Parliament of the United Kingdom, then, is applicable to the legislature of this country:—

"The two Houses convened by Royal authority, and acting jointly with the Crown, constitute the Legislature of Parliament; and its Acts are called indifferently 'Statutes,' or 'Acts of Parliament'; they have the full force and effect of law . . . Taken together they are the Parliament . . . The power of Parliament is held to be transcendent and subject to no limitation whatever."

Although Bills are referred to the Legislative Council, the right of granting money in Parliament belongs exclusively to the House of Representatives. The Standing Order governing this right says:—

"All aids and supplies, and aids to His Majesty in Parliament, are the sole gift of the House of Representatives; and all Bills for the granting of such aids and supplies are to begin with the House of Representatives, and it is the undoubted and sole right of the House of Representatives to direct, limit, and

appoint in such Bills the ends, purposes, considerations, conditions, limitations, and qualifications of such grants, which may not be changed by the Legislative Council."

With "Commons" for "Representatives," and "House of Lords" for "Legislative Council," that text also forms a Standing Order in the United Kingdom Parliament. It is provided that in the event of opposition from the Upper House *all* money Bills may be presented directly by the House of Representatives for the Royal Assent.

Communication between the House of Representatives and the Legislative Council is by message carried by the Clerk, or Assistant Clerk, of either House. There is provision, however, for negotiation by conference, this being conducted by Managers (up to three Members) on both sides for the purpose of producing concurrence in cases where mutual consent is necessary, or reconciling differences. This is seldom necessary.

In general there are no differences between the House of Representatives and the Legislative Council. Though the term "Parliament" means both Houses, the all-important authority on matters involving finance—levying of taxation and the control of expenditure—supports the popular conception of the House of Representatives as Parliament.

The Consolidated Fund is the fund formed of proceeds of taxation and other sums received by the Treasury in order that a fund may be provided "into which shall flow every stream of the public revenue and from whence shall issue the supply for every public service."

Every Member of the House of Representatives is obliged to attend sittings, and if absent for more than seven consecutive sitting days without leave of absence is held to be guilty of contempt. Apart from possible censure or suspension, any such member is liable to a fine up to £50.

