

by the Imperial Parliament as drafted with but one slight modification, and has been accepted by all parts of Canada. It does not contain any provision for the Dominion amending its constitution. Section 92 gives power to a Provincial Legislature to amend its own constitution except as regards the office of the Lieutenant-Governor who is the bond of executive authority between the Province and the Dominion. The federal right of disallowance safeguards any change of provincial constitution which would be dangerous to the federation. Under this power some of the Provinces have abolished the Second Chamber.

"One hears frequently the question why should not the Dominion Parliament have similar power? Others answer that as the Act was an agreement and also an adjustment of conflicting interests and those conflicting interests still exist, no general power to amend is likely to be conceded to the Dominion. A limited power may be. Any limitation on a supreme legislative body in a written constitution which creates that body with regard to the mode of modifying that constitution is a fetter on the freedom of the Legislature, and yet such lack of freedom does not prevent state sovereignty. For instance, the United States can only amend its federal constitution by consent of three-fourths of the States composing it, and yet no one denies that it is a sovereign nation. So the fact that the Dominion cannot amend its constitution is not inconsistent with complete national and international status.

"Many of the statesmen of England and of the Dominions speak now of Canada as a self-governing nation in the same class as the United Kingdom and both of course within the Empire and practise and precedent are beginning to justify it. That is consistent with the recital in the Act that Canada was intended to have a constitution similar in principle to that of the United Kingdom, but it is inconsistent with sections 55, 56, and 57 had they not fallen into desuetude. They provide that the Governor-General may reserve a bill for the approval of the King in Council. The time limit is two years. Under these only one Act was disallowed, and that was of a domestic character and on the suggestion of the Dominion Government in 1873. Then the same and con-