

committees may command, but they cannot superintend the execution of their commands. There are ways and ways of obeying ; and if Congress be not pleased, why need they (the Secretaries) care ? Congress did not give them their places, and cannot easily take them away. Still it remains true that all the big affairs of the departments are conducted in obedience to the direction of the Standing Committees." These committees debate in secret. There is no open discussion, as Congress in open session merely registers the decrees of the Committees. The President possesses a certain amount of power, but the Speaker of the House of Representatives (who appoints the Committees) is even a greater man. The Secretaries are also great men, and so are the Chairmen of Committees. This division of power leads to divided responsibility, and it is impossible to fix the blame for bad government on the guilty parties. " Power and strict accountability for its use are the essential constituents of good government," and in order to secure the accountability, it is advisable to adopt the British system of responsible government.

These views are supported by such able and lucid arguments that they will carry conviction to many minds, although Mr. Wilson certainly appears to exaggerate somewhat the powers of the Standing Committees over the Executive. If, however, it be true that the American constitution has developed into government by several Standing Committees, it is at least equally true that the British constitution has given us, in Canada, the government of one secret committee, whose deliberations it is almost criminal to divulge, and whose powers are exorbitant. If Americans adopt this system, they will surely find that they have substituted King Stork for King Log.

