

**Commons.**—The present representation of Ireland in the United Kingdom House of Commons is to be reduced from 105 members to 46, but this reduction is not to be effected before the next dissolution of the United Kingdom Parliament. This gives Irishmen the power to take part in legislation affecting the United Kingdom as well as managing their own affairs under the new Act.

**Civil servants and members of the police forces.**—The Civil Servants who are employed in the existing public departments will be transferred to the Governments of Southern and Northern Ireland when the work of the existing departments is taken over by those Governments, and the Act contains provisions for securing to these transferred Civil Servants the continuance of their present salaries and terms of employment, and for protecting them against arbitrary dismissal or unjust treatment and enabling them to retire voluntarily on pension if they so desire. A Civil Service Committee is to be established to carry out these provisions and to determine any questions that may arise as to the rights and claims of Civil Servants and as to the manner in which they are to be allocated between the Governments of Southern and Northern Ireland.

The Act contains provisions of a similar character with reference to the members of the Royal Irish Constabulary and the Dublin Metropolitan Police on the transfer of those forces to the new Governments.

**Refusal to "work the Act."**—The members of each Parliament before they sit as members will be required to take an oath in the following form, but a solemn affirmation or declaration to the same effect may be substituted in certain cases, viz:—

"I—do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty King George, his heirs and successors according to law, so help me God."

This is the oath of allegiance which must be taken not only by the members of the Parliament of the United Kingdom but also by the members of the Parliaments of the self-governing Dominions, Australia, South Africa and Newfoundland. A similar oath is taken by the members of the Parliaments of Canada and New Zealand.