

within three months from the time when it might take place, the project shall be deemed to be abandoned, and cannot be resumed unless the provisions of the article are complied with afresh. If, then, the Government is not satisfied with the law in the form in which it is passed by the judicial assembly, it can tacitly allow it to drop.

The "division of powers" is one of the elementary principles of our political science, and it is palpably disregarded in this legislative arrangement for Egypt, which confers on the judges, meeting in a specially constituted body, the function of discussing and determining changes in the law which they will have later judicially to administer. But normal principles cannot be applied to a country where the conditions are so abnormal as in Egypt. And, as M. Vercamer points out, the new scheme is a great improvement on the old practice.

"It is important to remove the supreme control of the formulation of laws binding on foreigners from the diplomatic agents of the foreign powers, who are naturally inclined to protect the particular interests of their countrymen, and to substitute for it the effective collaboration of an assembly of judges which offers serious guarantees of impartiality, and which is in a better position than foreign diplomatists to safeguard the rights and legitimate interests of the general body of Egyptian inhabitants, whether natives or foreigners, which is already subject to their jurisdiction in cases of litigation." Legislation by the judiciary is better than the denial of legislation by intriguing diplomatists.

It may, however, be doubted whether the new system will be permanent, and whether the confusion of powers it involves may not be avoided later by the constitution of a separate legislative body for amending the law affecting foreigners as well as natives. M. Vercamer points out that the extension of the functions of the judges will have the effect of interfering seriously with the work of the courts, which is already charged with being dilatory. As a legislative body, the judges will have to deal not only with minor amendments of the law but with