

area of the Parliament, marine navigation, merchant shipping, etc., also Customs and excise; but, on Irish union, the joint Exchequer Board is to take into consideration the transfer to the United Parliament and Government of the powers of imposing Customs duties and excise duties, and to report thereon to the Parliament of the United Kingdom and the Parliament of Ireland.

Certain other subjects are temporarily reserved to the United Kingdom Parliament and Government, viz., the postal service, post office and trustee savings banks, designs for stamps, the registration of deeds and the Public Record Office of Ireland. All these subjects can, however, if the two Parliaments so desire, be transferred at any time to the Council of Ireland, and when a single Parliament and Government is established for the whole of Ireland these subjects must be transferred to the United Parliament and Government, unless the Southern or Northern Parliament prefer that they should continue under United Kingdom control.

Land purchase is also reserved to the United Kingdom Parliament and Government, the completion of land purchase being a matter which requires the assistance of Imperial credit. This reservation does not, however, include the general functions of the Congested Districts Board.

Removal of religious disabilities and prevention of religious discrimination.—The Act provides that no subject of His Majesty is to be disqualified to hold the office of Lord Lieutenant of Ireland on account of his religious belief, thus repealing any statutory disqualification of Roman Catholics for this office. It also repeals any existing enactments imposing penalties, disadvantages or disabilities on account of religious belief, or upon members of religious orders, as such.

The Parliaments are precluded from making laws directly or indirectly prohibiting or restricting the free exercise of any religion, or giving any preference or imposing any disability on account of religious belief or religious or ecclesiastical status, and, similarly, the executive is precluded from conferring any preference or advantage or imposing any disability or disadvantage upon any person on account of religious belief.

Representation of Ireland in the United Kingdom House of