

It is their duty, while they are in power, to see that the laws which are necessary for carrying on the work of the nation, are properly passed by parliament. Bills introduced at the wish of the government are called "government measures." They may be brought in either by members of the government themselves or by private members in whom they have confidence. If a government measure does not pass, the government must resign or ask the governor-general to allow a new election to be held. Therefore, the defeat of a government measure in the House is a very serious matter and hardly ever happens. For the government usually finds out beforehand whether its supporters are willing to allow the bill to pass or not.

But sometimes the members of the government may feel that a certain measure which they desire to bring in, is so important that it must be placed before the House, and yet that it is in danger of being rejected. What they will probably do, will be to endeavour to put this measure, if possible, in such form