

States, and it was not till the policy of the entente cordiale had replaced "the policy of pin-pricks" which had existed between the two countries most concerned with Egypt, that reform became possible. In 1903, an International Conference was called together by the Egyptian Government to consider legislation on subjects of commercial law; and the opportunity was taken on deliberating on the general question of legislative reform. After long negotiations, agreement was reached upon a modification of the mixed Civil Code, which assures to the mixed Court of Appeal, under certain conditions, the power of amending the law that was deemed to have been given to it in its original constitution, but had been defeated by the obstruction of certain powers.

The new clause of the article provides that extensions and modifications of the mixed legislation shall be decreed on the initiative of the Minister of Justice, following on a deliberation of the general assembly of the mixed Court of Appeal, to which there shall be summoned the senior judge of each nationality whose government adhered to the judicial reforms of 1875, and which is not represented by a member of the court. There must be fifteen members to form a quorum of the assembly, and the project must receive a majority of two-thirds of those present. The initiative in legislation is therefore not accorded to the judiciary, which will constitute only a deliberative assembly; and a further restriction on its powers is introduced by the provision that the projects of law approved by the assembly shall not be published for three months after approval; and on the demand of one or more powers made during the interval, they shall be submitted at the end of the period to a fresh deliberation. A project which at the second vote secures the requisite majority may be published without any further formality. In other words, the powers still retain a limited right of control, analogous in some degree to the limited legislative veto now possessed by the House of Lords under our constitution; and the Egyptian Government is invested with a more powerful veto in virtue of the final provision that, in default of publication