

## C.

## THE DRAFT FEDERATION BILL OF THE WENTWORTH MEMORIAL.

"Bill to empower the legislatures of the Australian colonies to form a federal assembly.

"Whereas it is expedient to empower the several legislatures of New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania to form a federal assembly, be it therefore enacted, etc., as follows:

1. "Any two or more of the above named legislatures are hereby respectively empowered to select and depute any (four) persons being members of either of their houses of legislature or not members thereof, to form a convention for the purpose of creating a federal assembly with all necessary powers and incidents, and such federal assembly when so created shall have power from time to time to amend its constitution as occasion shall require.

2. "Such federal assembly shall have full power and authority to make laws for such federated colonies on the following subjects, viz., tariffs, light-houses, gauges of connecting railways, navigation of connecting rivers, telegraphs connecting with any two or more colonies, postage between such colonies, the upset or minimum price of lands, management of the gold fields, common coinage, weights and measures, general defence, a court of appeal, penal settlements, and upon any other subject which shall be lawfully submitted to such federal assembly by an address from the legislatures of the said federal colonies having an interest in the question so submitted.

3. "The time and place for holding such federal assembly shall be fixed by the Governor-General (or senior governor) of the said federal colony and the said Governor-General (or senior governor) shall have the power to assent to or dissent from the acts of the said federal assembly, and such acts notwithstanding such assent shall be subject to disallowance by Her Majesty in Council at any time within one year after such assent thereto shall have been given.

4. "The said federal assembly shall have power to appoint a president at the commencement of each session thereof and oftener if a vacancy shall arise, and to fix the amount of its own expenses and the salaries of its officers by acts to be passed from time to time, and assented to as aforesaid. And all such expenses and salaries and all other expenses incident to any act or acts of the said federal assembly shall be apportioned by such assembly among the respective colonies represented in such federal assembly in such proportions as such assembly shall direct, and all such expenses shall be provided for by the respective legislatures thereof accordingly.

5. "In the event of any one or more of the said Australian colonies not becoming members of this federation in the first instance, such colony or colonies or any future colony of the Australian group not now in existence, and not being a penal colony or settlement for or consenting to the reception of convicts or exiles from Great Britain or elsewhere, may join such federation and have the right of sending to the said federal assembly the same number of representatives as shall be fixed for all the other colonies represented in the said federal assembly, provided the respective legislatures of the colony or colonies so desiring representation therein shall pass an act submitting such colony or colonies to the federal jurisdiction of such assembly."