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CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES.

Constitutional Government is of such recent growth in this country, and has passed through so many changes, that it is hard for us to realize how momentous and far-reaching is the action of the Imperial Government, which has resulted in the passage of what is known as the "Veto Bill."

By this measure, as our readers know, the power of the House of Lords, one of the three great estates of the realm, and of older foundation than the House of Commons, is absolutely extinguished so far as the Government of the country is concerned. It may retard or obstruct Legislation, but it can neither alter nor amend it. The functions of the Crown have become little more than ceremonial. In the face of a triumphant majority in the House of Commons which may or may not represent on any particular measure the majority of the electors, the Sovereign is powerless, and now by the veto bill the House of Peers is equally reduced to a position of impotence.

Avoiding any discussion of the merits of the various questions out of which the present crisis has arisen, we may properly call attention to the means by which the constitutional changes referred to have been effected. Carrying to an extreme point the doctrine of responsible government it is held, and the doctrine has been carried into action, that on the advice of ministers, supported by a majority in one House the Crown may be compelled to place the other House in such a position that it must either submit to political extinction, or allow itself to become subservient to the other branch of the Legislature by a process equally destructive to its usefulness and its influence. The practical result is that the Government of Great Britain and Ireland, and to some extent that of the Empire at large, is now in the hands of a minister supported by the majority of a single cham-