

proposed amendments only seven have gone into effect. Even if an amendment is accepted many valuable years will be wasted. In 1892 an income tax bill was introduced in Congress. This was declared unconstitutional and so was referred to the separate States. Finally two-thirds of the States reported in favor of the amendment, and in 1913 it became law. That is, it took the people of the United States just twenty-one years to obtain a piece of legislation which they had demanded. Contrast this with Great Britain, where the same income tax bill passed in one session of Parliament.

England has no written Constitution. Here the acts of Parliament alone serve as the basis of legislation, and the last act cancels all former acts on the same matter. Thus in Great Britain the sovereign power lies in the hands of the people, while in the United States the sovereign power lies with the Constitution, that is, with the opinions of a people who lived one hundred and fifty years ago.

In this connection must be mentioned the Supreme Court. This is a body of nine men, appointed by the President, ratified by Congress, who hold office for life. The sole purpose of this body is to examine all bills passed on by Congress in order to see if they agree with the Constitution. If a bill does not, then the ironbound system under which they work forces them to throw it out. Thus the written Constitution forces nine men who are not responsible to the people to block the expressed wishes of the nation.

The American people had so hated the autocracy under which they were held by George III., that they resolved never to grant any great power to their government, and so they divided it into three departments, in the hope of preventing either from becoming too powerful. Each department is made all powerful in its own sphere, and as the term of office is fixed for each, no matter how badly the members abuse their powers the people cannot get rid of them. Thus the Constitution grants absolute power without requiring any responsibility. Moreover, this undemocratic system often causes a great deal of friction between the different departments, and so the will of the nation is thwarted. During the last fifteen years there have been fifty-nine deadlocks between the House of Representatives and Senate alone.

Our opponents may claim that since elections are generally held more often in the United States than in Great Britain; that therefore the American Government better reflects public opinion,