

king may hold a cabinet council with one minister, and if the king is sojourning outside Iceland, the prime minister as a rule lays the measures before him there, also on behalf of the other ministers in case they are not present. The minister who thus lays before the king a measure signed by another minister, is responsible for its correct interpretation to the king, but not for its contents, unless he has incurred that responsibility in some other way. Cabinet meetings are presided over by the premier and shall be called, either at the request of a minister, or when legislative proposals or important state affairs have to be discussed. In virtue of their offices the ministers have seats in Althingi and may at will take part in the parliamentary debates, but they are not entitled to vote unless they are members of parliament. The ministers may either be impeached by Althingi in matters relating to the discharge of their official duties, and such cases may be brought before the High Court of the Realm, after a resolution to that effect has been passed by the united Althingi (Plenum); or Althingi may refuse to support the ministry or pass a vote of no-confidence against them.

#### ALTHINGI

Althingi is composed of forty-two popularly elected *members*, thirty-six of whom are elected by the constituencies for a period of four years. There are in all twenty-seven electoral districts: one (Reykjavík) with four representatives, elected according to proportional representation; six districts with two representatives each, and twenty districts with one member each, all elected directly by the electors. Six members are chosen by the whole electorate (chosen at large) and according to proportional representation for a period of eight years. No substitute members are elected by the constituencies, but at the election of the six members chosen as the representatives for the whole country, an equal number of substitutes is returned and in the same manner as the representatives. If a member, chosen by the whole electorate, resigns his seat, or if he is otherwise prevented from attending a particular session, his substitute takes his place for the remainder of the electoral period or during the rest of the session. But in case a division loses its member, a by-election must immediately take place. Dissolution of parliament does not affect the seats occupied by those who are chosen by the whole electorate, but one-half of them must resign every four years. All Icelandic subjects, male and female (and Danish subjects, cp. act of union), unless they have had