

final passing of the budget by both Houses in a united Althingi a simple majority of votes is sufficient.

- c. *Provisional Laws.* Subject to the restrictions mentioned above (under b.) and if it is unavoidable and necessary, the king may issue provisional laws in the interval between the annual sessions of Althingi, provided these laws do not infringe the constitution. Such provisional laws must, however, be submitted to Althingi in its next session, and, if not passed there, they are abolished.
- d. *Changes in the Constitution.* If changes in, or additions to, the constitution are passed by Althingi, whether in a regular or a special session, it must at once be dissolved and a general election take place. If these changes are passed unaltered by the new assembly, they are valid as constitutional law after receiving the royal assent.
- e. *Changes in the Act of Union and in the Church Organization.* Any changes in the act of union between Iceland and Denmark, or any alterations in the church organization according to § 58 of the constitution, passed by Althingi, shall be submitted to a referendum at which the ballot is secret. The constitution provides that the Lutheran Church shall enjoy the support and protection of the government as the Established Church of Iceland.

THE EXECUTIVE POWER

According to § 2 of the Icelandic constitution, the executive power is vested in the king, regarding which the following provisions obtain. The king provides for the execution of the laws; this implies that the king is the highest administrative official in the country. He appoints functionaries to the same offices as heretofore, a custom which may, however, be changed by law. He may dismiss an official he has appointed, or transfer him from one office to another, provided the transfer does not entail on the official thus transferred any decrease of salary, and provided also that he has been allowed the choice between being thus transferred and resigning on his statutory pension or on an old age pension fixed by law. This rule, however, does not apply to judges (*vide infra*, justice), and certain other classes of officials may by law be exempted from this liability.

The king negotiates treaties with other States. But such treaties as involve surrender of, or obligations on, land or territorial waters, or changes in the constitutional law of the country, require the sanction of Althingi.