

THE REFORMS ACT.

EFFECT GIVEN TO INDIA COUNCIL CHANGES.

(ASSOCIATED PRESS OF INDIA.)

DELHI, December 29.—A Government of India notification issued to-day states that the Governor-General in Council with the approval of the Secretary of State in Council has directed that Sections 31, 32 and 34 of the Government of India Act shall come into operation on the 1st January. These sections deal with the constitution of and transaction of business by the Secretary of State's Council from the 1st January. The minimum number of members will be reduced from ten to eight and the maximum from fourteen to twelve, but the tenure of existing members will not be affected. Provision that nine members must have qualification of ten years' service in India will in future apply to half of the actual existing membership. The tenure of office as member will be reduced from seven years to five, but the rights of existing members are preserved. Regarding salaries new subsistence allowance of six hundred pounds to Indians will now come into force and regarding service members the period of membership will count as service for pension. In the place of salaries being paid by India it will now become permissive whether paid by India or Parliament. Respecting the transaction of business the obligation of weekly meeting of the Council, ceases and the Secretary of State is given discretion in settling the constitution of the quorum or division of departmental work among members.