

Tuesday, December 22, 1874

ABSTRACT OF THE PROCEEDINGS

COUNCIL OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF INDIA

LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

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ABSTRACT OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Council of the Governor General of India,

ASSEMBLED FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAKING

LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

1874.

WITH INDEX.

VOL. XIII.



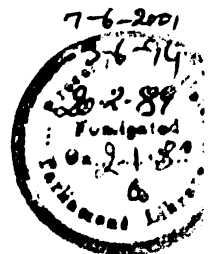
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1875.



Abstract of the Proceedings of the Council of the Governor General of India, assembled for the purpose of making Laws and Regulations under the provisions of the Act of Parliament 24 & 25 Vic., cap. 67.

The Council met at Government House on Tuesday, the 22nd December 1874.

PRESENT :

His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General of India, G. M. S. I.,
presiding.

The Hon'ble B. H. Ellis.

Major-General the Hon'ble Sir H. W. Norman, K. C. B.

The Hon'ble A. Hobhouse, Q. C.

The Hon'ble E. C. Bayley, C. S. I.

The Hon'ble Sir W. Muir, K. C. S. I.

The Hon'ble John Inglis, C. S. I.

The Hon'ble R. A. Dalryell.

The Hon'ble H. H. Sutherland.

The Hon'ble J. R. Bullen Smith.

PANJAB LAWS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

The Hon'ble Mr. HOBHOUSE introduced the Bill for the better administration of law in the Panjáb, and moved that it be referred to a Select Committee with instructions to report in six weeks. He said that the Council were aware that this Bill related to the rural Police of the Panjáb. He would now point out briefly how the Bill carried into effect the objects which he had mentioned at the last meeting as those for which it was designed. It effected those objects by way of supplementing the Panjáb Laws Act, and contained clauses which should fit into that Act. The principal of these was the clause numbered 39 A, which gave the Local Government power to make a number of rules which, as he had before stated, were necessary in order to adapt the existing system of Police to the exigencies of time and place—rules as to the localities in which watchmen should exercise their powers; as to their several grades and the number of each grade; their appointment, suspension and dismissal; their equipment and discipline, and the power of control over them; as to the rate of their pay, and whether they should be paid out of cesses or funds leviable on villages, or whether by means of some special tax in money or grain to be imposed on persons residing or owning property in the village. There were also two provisoes which were

intended to reserve to the headmen of villages certain powers which they now exercised. In fact the whole of the law and the rules to be made under it were founded on the existing practice. We proposed to continue in the village headmen the power of nomination which they now enjoyed, and the right of stating their views and opinions respecting the cesses and taxes to be levied for the support of the Police. He understood from the Panjáb authorities that that was now done. The villagers were always consulted as to the taxes to be levied for their Police.

Section 39 B placed the village watchmen under the Act in the same position as the general Police in respect of receiving assistance from all Her Majesty's subjects. And section 39 C was intended to provide for those places which were not sufficiently advanced to be erected into municipalities, but which were above the ordinary condition of villages. They went by the name of *kasbahs*, and it was thought that in many of these places it would be good for them if the Police were enrolled under the general Police Act, V of 1861.

All the other sections of the Bill were subsidiary, except the last, which was an amending section, making a small amendment in section 50 of the Panjáb Laws Act. It increased the fine for breaches of certain regulations regarding the track-laws, the slaughter of kine, the entry of armed men and vagrants into towns, and the like, from fifty rupees to three hundred rupees. There was no other material alteration in section 50.

The Motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble MR. HOBHOUSE moved that the Bill be published in the *Panjáb Gazette* in English and such other languages as the Local Government might think desirable.

The Motion was put and agreed to.

NATIVE SOLDIERS' RIGHTS AND LIABILITIES BILL.

Major-General the Hon'ble SIR H. W. NORMAN introduced the Bill to remove doubts as to the rights and liabilities of certain Native Soldiers, and moved that it be referred to a Select Committee with instructions to report in a month. He said that he had already explained the nature and object of this short Bill. It was therefore unnecessary for him to say any thing more about it at present.

The Motion was put and agreed to.

The following Select Committees were named :—

On the Bill for the better administration of law in the Panjáb—The Hon'ble Messrs. Inglis and Dalryell and the Mover.

On the Bill to remove doubts as to the rights and liabilities of certain Native Soldiers—The Hon'ble Messrs. Hobhouse and Dalryell and the Mover.

The Council then adjourned to Tuesday, the 5th January 1875.

WHITLEY STOKES,

CALCUTTA ;
The 22nd December 1874. }

*Secretary to the Government of India,
Legislative Department.*