

*Friday,
2nd March, 1888*

ABSTRACT OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Council of the Governor General of India,

LAWS AND REGULATIONS

Vol. XXVII

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OF

THE COUNCIL OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF INDIA,

ASSEMBLED FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAKING

LAWS AND REGULATIONS

VOLUME XXVII



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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 under the provisions of the Act of Parliament 24 & 25 Vic., cap. 67.

The Council met at Government House on Friday, the 2nd March, 1888.

PRESENT :

His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General of India, K.P., G.C.B.,
G.C.M.G., G.M.S.I., G.M.I.E., P.C., *presiding*.

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, K.C.S.I., C.I.E.

The Hon'ble Lieutenant-General G. T. Chesney, R.E., C.B., C.S.I., C.I.E.

The Hon'ble A. R. Scoble, Q.C.

The Hon'ble Sir C. U. Aitchison, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., LL.D., D.O.L.

The Hon'ble Sir C. A. Elliott, K.C.S.I.

The Hon'ble J. Westland.

The Hon'ble Rana Sir Shankar Bakhsh Singh Bahadur, K.C.I.E.

The Hon'ble Syud Ameer Hossein, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble Rájá Peári Mohan Mukerji, C.S.I.

The Hon'ble W. S. Whiteside.

The Hon'ble J. W. Quinton, C.S.I.

The Hon'ble R. Steel.

The Hon'ble Sir Dinshaw Manockjee Petit, Kt.

The Hon'ble F. M. Halliday.

The Hon'ble Sir Pasupati Ananda Gajapati Razu, K.C.I.E., Mahárájá of Vizianagram.

RESERVE FORCES BILL.

The Hon'ble LIEUTENANT-GENERAL CHESNEY moved that the Bill to regulate Her Majesty's Indian Reserve Forces be taken into consideration. He said :—

“ In introducing this Bill into Council a fortnight ago I explained that the object of it was, following the system in force in regard to the English army, to establish a simple procedure to provide for the conditions of service of the men about to be brought into the Indian reserve force under measures lately determined upon with the approval of Her Majesty's Government. In ordinary

course the Bill would have been referred to a Select Committee, and also to the different Local Governments and Administrations, who would have been invited to record their opinions on the Bill, and the Select Committee would not have proceeded to consider the Bill until those reports had been laid before it. Meanwhile, men passing into the reserve of the army under the conditions at present subsisting would, as a matter of equity, as soon as this Bill was passed, be given an opportunity of re-considering their position, and of electing or otherwise for the reserve under the new conditions. I mentioned to the Council in introducing the Bill that the army reserve measures had so far taken very little effect, partly because the army was engaged in active operations and consequently the men were not allowed to transfer themselves to the reserve, and also partly because the establishment of the infantry of the Indian army was not quite complete. But these causes which suspended the progress of this measure having now terminated, and there being reason to believe that much more active and considerable progress will shortly be made in the formation of the reserve, it is I think exceedingly desirable that all the men who draft into it should be subject at once to their final conditions, and that they should be spared the trouble of being called upon to join their regiments in order to have a new set of conditions explained to them and their assent or dissent obtained to them. That is the reason why it is very desirable that this measure should become law at once.

“The provisions of the Bill are of an extremely simple kind. It is very unlikely that reference to the Local Governments and Administrations would result in any substantial change or in any change even in the wording of the Bill ; it may be observed also that the conditions established by it are of a more easy character as regards the soldier than those under which he is now serving in the reserve, inasmuch as that the penalties which the Bill provides in the event of a man failing to obey the summons when called upon to join his regiment are of a much easier and lighter nature than the penalties to which the man is now liable who, whilst on furlough, disobeys an order to join his regiment. So that it may be said that the soldier will gain rather than lose by the Bill becoming law.

“Under these circumstances I beg to ask that the Bill be now taken into consideration.”

The Motion was put and agreed to.

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[*Lieutenant-General Chesney.*]

The Hon'ble LIEUTENANT-GENERAL CHESNEY also moved that the Bill be passed.

The Motion was put and agreed to.

The Council adjourned to Saturday, the 10th March, 1888.

S. HARVEY JAMES,
Secretary to the Govt. of India,
Legislative Department.

FORT WILLIAM; }
The 5th March, 1888. }