

*Friday,
15th January, 1892*

ABSTRACT OF THE PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
Council of the Governor General of India,
LAWS AND REGULATIONS

Vol. XXXI

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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,

1892

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1893

*Abstract of the Proceedings of the Council of the Governor General of India,
assembled for the purpose of making Laws and Regulations under the pro-
visions of the Act of Parliament 24 & 25 Vict., cap. 67.*

The Council met at Government House on Friday, the 15th January, 1892.

PRESENT :

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

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

The Hon'ble Sir P. P. Hutchins, K.C.S.I.

The Hon'ble Sir D. M. Barbour, K.C.S.I.

The Hon'ble Sir A. E. Miller, Kt., Q.C.

The Hon'ble Lieutenant-General H. Brackenbury, C.B., R.A.

The Hon'ble Colonel R. C. B. Pemberton, R.E.

The Hon'ble Nawab Ahsan-Ulla Bahadur, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble H. W. Bliss, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble J. Nugent.

The Hon'ble J. Woodburn, C.S.I.

The Hon'ble Raja Udai Partab Singh of Bhangra.

The Hon'ble J. L. Mackay, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble Dr. Rash Behari Ghose.

The Hon'ble Sir John Edgar, K.C.I.E., C.S.I.

The Hon'ble Palli Chentsal Rao Pantulu, C.I.E.

NEW MEMBERS.

The Hon'ble MR. MACKAY, the Hon'ble DR. RASH BEHARI GHOSE, the
Hon'ble SIR JOHN EDGAR and the Hon'ble P. CHENTSAL RAO took their seats
as Additional Members.

DEATH OF HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF CLARENCE.

His Excellency THE PRESIDENT addressed the Council as follows :—

" I feel sure that my hon'ble colleagues will desire to take some notice of
the great calamity, the news of which reached us yesterday—a calamity the
shadow of which has thrown a deep gloom over the whole of the British
Empire.

2 DEATH OF HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF CLARENCE.

[*The President.*]

[15TH JANUARY,

"The death of a Prince who, in the natural order of events, would have succeeded to the Throne of India is an event which a Council, entrusted, as this Council is, with the duty of legislating for India, and containing members connected with almost every part of the country, is not likely to pass over without some outward manifestation of its sympathy and regret.

"Two years ago many of us had the pleasure of becoming acquainted with the late Duke of Clarence when he was our guest here. Our thoughts travel back to the time when we looked upon him as he stood amongst us then, in the spring-tide of his life, full of health and hope, the destined inheritor, not only of a great Empire, but of that wealth of affection and respect which Her Majesty and Her children have known how to accumulate for themselves.

"Of late our interest in His Royal Highness had been redoubled by the announcement of his engagement to a young and charming Princess, herself widely popular amongst Her Majesty's subjects—an engagement which appealed vividly to our imaginations, which seemed to promise, for those who were about to become husband and wife, a rich abundance of happiness, and, for the nation, an increase to the stability of the Royal House and to the security of the Throne.

"No more brilliant or attractive prospect ever lay before a young Englishman, no career could have seemed fuller of useful and far-reaching opportunities, than that which was open to the young Prince whom India as well as England now mourns. A few days—I might almost say a few hours—have sufficed to shatter all our hopes, to ruin all the bright expectations in which we had indulged.

"At this moment there is scarcely room in our thoughts for the loss which the nation has sustained, or for conjectures as to the remoter results of this misfortune. We can think only of the blow which has fallen upon Her Majesty the Queen-Empress, of the grief of those who are sorrowing with her over the Duke of Clarence's death, and to whom we wish to convey some token of our deep regret, some mark of our regard for his memory.

"I suggest for the consideration of the Council that it would be a proper and usual mark of respect that we should adjourn without transacting the business which is upon the paper. I leave it entirely to my hon'ble colleagues to say whether they desire that any specific assurance should be offered on their behalf to Her Majesty the Queen-Empress and to the rest of the Royal Family."

1892.] [*The Lieutenant-Governor ; Lieutenant-General Brackenbury.*]

His Honour THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR said :—

"I believe, my Lord, that I am expressing the feelings of all my hon'ble colleagues assembled here when I say that it would be the wish of the Council that some expression should be conveyed by Your Excellency, in the manner in which you have suggested, of our profound sympathy with Her Majesty the Queen-Empress and Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales in the great calamity which has overtaken not only them but the nation.

"I will not attempt to suggest that anything should be added to what was contained in the eloquent words which Your Excellency has just uttered, and I believe that they express as fitly and completely as possible the feelings which animate us all.

"I may venture, however, as the Lieutenant-Governor of this vast Province, to say that a calamity of this kind must be very deeply and widely felt by a population with whom personal loyalty is so strong a motive as it is with the people of India, and who were so much drawn and attracted by what they saw and heard of His Royal Highness's demeanour and character on the occasion of his visit to India.

"I am quite sure that every intelligent and educated member of this province will desire to associate himself with the Government of India and with Your Excellency's Council in the expression of their deep sympathy in the great disaster which has overtaken the people of India no less than ourselves and the Royal Family."

The Hon'ble LIEUTENANT-GENERAL BRACKENBURY said :—

"I regret that His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief is not present here to-day, that he might give utterance to the feelings of Her Majesty's army on this sad occasion. In his absence I would ask permission to say on behalf of all classes of Her Majesty's soldiers, European and Native, how great is our sorrow at the loss of this young Prince, our comrade in arms ; how deep is the sympathy that we feel in their bereavement with Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, and in this, the crowning sorrow of Her life, with Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress, whom we, her loyal soldiers, so truly love, honour and revere."

4 DEATH OF HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF CLARENCE.

[Raja Udai Partab Singh of Bhinga; The President.] [15TH JAN., 1892.]

The Hon'ble RAJA UDAI PARTAB SINGH OF BHINGA said :—

“On behalf of the Native members of Your Excellency's Legislative Council I beg to express the deep sorrow we feel at the calamity which has befallen us all. We desire that an expression of our sorrow and sympathy may be conveyed to Her Most Gracious Majesty and to Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales.”

His Excellency THE PRESIDENT said :—

“In accordance with the wish which has been expressed, I will convey to Her Majesty an assurance of the deep sympathy felt by hon'ble members in the loss which She has sustained.

“It may interest hon'ble members to know that I have received the following reply from Her Majesty to a telegram which I addressed to Her yesterday. I had ventured to offer Her Majesty my respectful condolence, and I mentioned to Her the consternation with which the news of His Royal Highness' illness and its fatal termination had been received here.

“Her Majesty's gracious reply runs as follows :—

‘Many thanks. I am sure of the sympathy of my loyal Indian people.’”

The Council adjourned to Saturday, the 16th January, 1892.

S. HARVEY JAMES,

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

CALCUTTA ;
The 15th January, 1892. }