

*Friday,
21st December, 1900*

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

Vol. XXXIX

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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

1900

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Proceedings of the Council of the Governor General of India, assembled for the purpose of making Laws and Regulations under the provisions of the Indian Councils Acts, 1861 and 1892 (24 & 25 Vict., c. 67, and 55 & 56 Vict., c. 14).

The Council met at Government House, Calcutta, on Friday, the 21st December, 1900.

PRESENT :

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

His Honour Sir John Woodburn, K.C.S.I., Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.

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

The Hon'ble Mr. C. M. Rivaz, C.S.I.

The Hon'ble Mr. T. Raleigh.

The Hon'ble Sir E. F.G. Law, K.C.M.G.

The Hon'ble M. R. Ry. Panappakkam Ananda Charlu Vidia Vinodha Avargal, Rai Bahadur, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble Kunwar Sir Harnam Singh, Ahluwalia, K.C.I.E., of Kapurthala.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. Buckingham, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. F. Evans, C.S.I.

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur B. K. Bose, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble Sir Allan Arthur, Kt.

The Hon'ble Sir A. Wingate, K.C.I.E.

The Hon'ble Mr. F. A. Nicholson, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble Mr. D. M. Smeaton, C.S.I.

The Hon'ble Mr. C. W. Bolton, C.S.I.

The Hon'ble Rai Sri Ram Bahadur.

NEW MEMBERS.

The Hon'ble SIR ANDREW WINGATE, the Hon'ble MR. NICHOLSON, the Hon'ble MR. SMEATON, the Hon'ble MR. BOLTON and the Hon'ble RAI SRI RAM BAHADUR took their seats as Additional Members of Council.

INDIAN MINES BILL.

The Hon'ble MR. RIVAZ moved that he be substituted for the Hon'ble Mr. Ibbetson as a member of the Select Committee on the Bill to provide for the Regulation and Inspection of Mines, and that the Hon'ble Sir Edward Law and the Hon'ble Mr. Smeaton be added to the Committee.

[The President; Mr. Rivaz.] [21ST DECEMBER, 1900.]

His Excellency THE PRESIDENT said:—"I should add that I hope to select a gentleman representing the mining industry and interests for the purposes of this Bill, and to add his name to the Select Committee. I have not yet been able to arrange the matter, but I hope that at an early meeting of the Council I may be able to submit a name."

The motion was put and agreed to.

ASSAM LABOUR AND EMIGRATION BILL.

The Hon'ble MR. RIVAZ moved that he be substituted for the Hon'ble Mr. Ibbetson as a member of the Select Committee on the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to Emigration to the labour-districts of Assam, and that the Hon'ble Mr. Cotton and the Hon'ble Mr. Bolton be added to the Committee.

The motion was put and agreed to.

ASSAM EMIGRANTS' HEALTH BILL.

The Hon'ble MR. RIVAZ moved that he be substituted for the Hon'ble Mr. Ibbetson as a member of the Select Committee on the Bill to make better provision for the health, supervision and control of Emigrants proceeding to or from the labour-districts of Assam, and that the Hon'ble Mr. Cotton and the Hon'ble Mr. Bolton be added to the Committee.

The motion was put and agreed to.

INDIAN TOLLS (ARMY) BILL.

The Hon'ble MR. RIVAZ moved that the Bill to amend the law relating to the exemption from tolls of persons and property belonging to the Army be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Hon'ble Major-General Sir Edwin Collen, the Hon'ble Mr. Raleigh, the Hon'ble Mr. Evans, the Hon'ble Sir Allan Arthur, the Hon'ble Mr. Mehta, the Hon'ble Sir Andrew Wingate and the mover.

The motion was put and agreed to.

INDIAN FOREST (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Hon'ble MR. RIVAZ moved for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Forest Act, 1878. He said:—"The object of this Bill is to strengthen the hands of the executive in dealing with cases of forest-

[21ST DECEMBER, 1900.] [Mr. Rivaz.]

fires which are caused wilfully or by gross negligence. The Punjab Government, in reporting on the frequency of forest-fires in parts of that Province and the extensive damage caused by them, suggested that a provision should be introduced into the Forest Act, similar to one contained in the special Forest Regulation for the frontier hill district of Hazara, which allows joint village responsibility to be enforced in such cases by imposing a fine on the whole village-community. The Government of India, after consulting other Local Governments, are not prepared to make so stringent a measure as this generally applicable, but two other proposals, which were put forward by the Punjab Government, have been accepted and embodied in the present Bill. These proposals are (1) to extend to 'protected' forests the provision of the Forest Act which at present applies only to 'reserved' forests, by which, when a fire is caused wilfully or by gross negligence, the exercise of rights of pasture or to forest-produce in the forest so burnt can be suspended by the Local Government; and (2) to make all persons enjoying forest-rights liable to punishment unless they turn out of their own accord and render assistance in extinguishing a forest-fire. As the law stands at present, such persons can only be punished if they refuse to aid in extinguishing a fire after being expressly called upon to do so.

"It is hoped that these simple amendments of the Forest Act will conduce to the better protection of forests from fires."

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble MR. RIVAZ introduced the Bill.

The Hon'ble MR. RIVAZ moved that the Bill and Statement of Objects and Reasons be published in the Gazette of India in English, and in the local official Gazettes in English and in such other languages as the Local Governments think fit.

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Council adjourned to Friday, the 4th January, 1901.

CALCUTTA;
The 21st December, 1900. }

J. M. MACPHERSON,
Secretary to the Government of India,
Legislative Department.