

*Friday,  
19th January, 1900*

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

**Vol. XXXIX**

**Jan.-Dec., 1900**

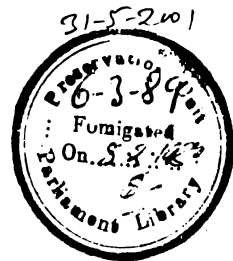
ABSTRACT OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
OF  
THE COUNCIL OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF INDIA:  
ASSEMBLED FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAKING  
LAWS AND REGULATIONS

1900

VOLUME XXXIX



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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 & 1892 (24 & 25 Vict. c. 67, and 55 & 56 Vict., c. 14).*

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The Council met at Government House, Calcutta, on Friday, the 19th January, 1900.

PRESENT :

His Excellency Baron Curzon of Kedleston, 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.

His Excellency General Sir W. S. A. Lockhart, G.C.B., K.C.S.I., Commander-in-Chief in India.

The Hon'ble Major-General Sir E. H. H. Collen, K.C.I.E., C.B.

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

The Hon'ble Mr. C. E. Dawkins.

The Hon'ble Mr. T. Raleigh.

The Hon'ble Mr. Denzil Ibbetson, C.S.I.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. M. Mehta, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble Nawab Mumtaz-ud-daula Muhammad Faiyaz Ali Khan.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. K. Spence, C.S.I.

The Hon'ble Mr. G. Toynbee.

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

The Hon'ble Mr. J. D. Rees, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur Sir Khwaja Ahsanullah, K.C.I.E.

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. T. Woodroffe.

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 Mr. Allan Arthur.

NEW MEMBER.

The Hon'ble RAI BAHADUR P. ANANDA CHARLU took his seat as an Additional Member of Council.

14 *INDIAN MINES; INDIAN COMPANIES (BRANCH REGISTERS);  
TRANSFER OF PROPERTY; PRISONERS; ASSAM LABOUR  
AND EMIGRATION; ASSAM EMIGRANTS' HEALTH.*

[*Mr. Ibbetson; Mr. Dawkins; Mr. Raleigh.*] [19TH JANUARY, 1900.]

**INDIAN MINES BILL.**

The Hon'ble MR. IBBETSON moved that the Bill to provide for the Regulation and Inspection of Mines be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Hon'ble Mr. Raleigh, the Hon'ble Mr. Rees, the Hon'ble Sir Khwaja Ahsanullah, the Hon'ble Mr. Evans, the Hon'ble Rai Bahadur B. K. Bose, the Hon'ble Mr. Allan Arthur and the mover.

The motion was put and agreed to.

**INDIAN COMPANIES (BRANCH REGISTERS) BILL.**

The Hon'ble MR. DAWKINS moved that the Bill to authorize certain companies registered under the Indian Companies Act, 1882, to keep branch registers of their members in the United Kingdom be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Hon'ble Mr. Raleigh, the Hon'ble Sir Harnam Singh, the Hon'ble Mr. Buckingham, the Hon'ble Mr. Allan Arthur and the mover.

The motion was put and agreed to.

**TRANSFER OF PROPERTY BILL.**

The Hon'ble MR. RALEIGH presented the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to amend the Transfer of Property Act, 1882.

**PRISONERS BILL.**

The Hon'ble MR. RALEIGH presented the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to consolidate the law relating to Prisoners confined by order of a Court.

**ASSAM LABOUR AND EMIGRATION BILL.**

The Hon'ble MR. IBBETSON moved that the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to Emigration to the labour-districts of Assam be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Hon'ble Mr. Raleigh, the Hon'ble Mr. Toynbee, the Hon'ble Mr. Rees, the Hon'ble Maharaja of Darphanga, the Hon'ble Mr. Buckingham, the Hon'ble Mr. Allan Arthur and the mover.

The motion was put and agreed to.

**ASSAM EMIGRANTS' HEALTH BILL.**

The Hon'ble MR. IBBETSON moved that the Bill to make better provision for the health, supervision and control of Emigrants proceeding to or from

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Sir Edwin Collen.]

the labour-districts of Assam be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Hon'ble Mr. Raleigh, the Hon'ble Mr. Toynbee, the Hon'ble Mr. Rees, the Hon'ble Maharaja of Darbhanga, the Hon'ble Mr. Buckingham, the Hon'ble Mr. Allan Arthur and the mover.

The motion was put and agreed to.

#### INDIAN ARTICLES OF WAR AMENDMENT BILL.

The Hon'ble MAJOR-GENERAL SIR EDWIN COLLEN moved that the Bill to amend the Indian Articles of War be taken into consideration.

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble MAJOR-GENERAL SIR EDWIN COLLEN moved that the Bill be passed.

The motion was put and agreed to.

#### AGRICULTURAL PROSPECTS.

The Hon'ble MR. IBBETSON said :—"At the last meeting of this Council held in Simla, the Hon'ble Mr. Rivaz made a statement regarding the probable character and extent of the famine which was then threatening large portions of the country, and the measures which were being taken to combat it. That statement was based on information supplied by the several Local Governments and political officers concerning the situation as it stood on the 15th of September. At that time the fate of the autumn crops was not finally determined; while much depended in Southern India on a good North-East monsoon in November, and in Central and Upper India, on early and abundant winter rains. These uncertain factors in the situation were allowed due weight in the statement, and while the Governor General in Council was not without hope that the fortune of the year might turn, he recognised that if the North-East monsoon should fail in the south, or the cold weather months in Central and Upper India should pass without rain, the area of distress would be widened, and the estimate of expenditure on relief operations largely exceeded.

"The normal time for winter rains has now passed by, and His Excellency in Council thinks it well to review the position and to place before the public a revised estimate of the extent and severity of the drought and of the probable cost of relief operations. Unfortunately every factor that was doubtful in the

[*Mr. Ibbetson.*]

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situation as it presented itself in October has, in the event, turned out unfavourably. On the east coast the usual rains of November and December, which are termed the North-East monsoon but in reality attend the withdrawal of the monsoon current from the Bay of Bengal, failed to a very great extent. Elsewhere throughout India abnormally high day temperatures and a scorching sun were accompanied by an absence of the usual dews at night, while the cold weather has been extraordinarily rainless, insomuch that only during the last few days have there been any signs of the usual winter showers. These conditions have still further injured the autumn crops, and contracted the area and diminished the prospects of the spring harvest, and have thereby greatly enlarged the affected area, and have intensified distress and increased the demand for relief in the tracts that were originally affected.

"In the forecast presented to this Council last October, the several provinces and native states of India were divided into three large groups. In the first group were placed those areas which were considered to afford no cause for anxiety. The second group comprised those provinces, districts, or states, where prospects were poor, though marked failure of crops or general distress was not anticipated. The third group comprised those seriously affected areas in which scarcity or famine conditions either existed or were to be expected. It will now be convenient to show how the unfavourable circumstances already mentioned have modified this grouping, or affected the agricultural outlook in the several groups. In the first group were placed the whole of Bengal and Burma and the greater portion of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh. Of these thickly populated areas it was said that the rain crops were good or fair, and the prospects of the cold weather crops promising. To them were added the province of Madras and the Mysore State, where rain had fallen widely and most opportunely, and the canal protected areas of Sindh and the South-West Punjab. This group remains on the whole substantially unchanged. The rice crop of Burma and Bengal has fully realised expectations, and constitutes a great food reserve for the rest of India. The North-Western Provinces and Oudh have successfully sown their winter crops, which have greatly benefited from the rain of the past week. In Madras and Mysore the abrupt disappearance of the monsoon was a great disappointment, and the harvests will be indifferent over large areas. But, except perhaps in a few places, no distress requiring relief is anticipated. In the irrigated or inundated tracts of Sindh and the South-West Punjab the crops will be somewhat short owing to the contracted area of inundation by the Indus and its tributaries, and to the diminished volume of water in the canals. But the shortness will be comparative only, and these tracts will, as in former years,

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yield food in excess of local requirements, and will profit from the misfortunes of their neighbours. Broadly speaking, therefore, the October forecast holds good as regards the first of the three groups.

"The same, however, cannot be said of the second group. In it were placed the South Mahratta and South Deccan districts of the Bombay Presidency, and a large part of the Nizam's Dominions and of the Central India Agency. The greater part of these areas must now be transferred to the third or famine-stricken group. The second group, as described in October last, included also the western half of the North-Western Provinces and the northern and sub-montane districts of the Punjab. The failure of winter rains has been very injurious to these tracts; but owing to the exceptional facilities for irrigation which many of them enjoy, to a full demand for labour of all kinds, and to the general prosperity of the people, relief measures on an extensive scale will probably not be required, though the failure of crops has been serious. In the Punjab, as a whole, the autumn harvest of 1899 was the worst on record for many years, while the present spring harvest on unirrigated land occupies little more than half the area sown in either of the last two years.

"The third or famine-stricken group has been enlarged by the addition to it of large areas in the Bombay Presidency, of the greater part of the Nizam's Dominions, and of much of Central India. Moreover, in the tracts originally comprised in this group, famine conditions have been greatly intensified by the extraordinary duration and intensity of the drought. The failure of crops, the destruction of cattle, and the resultant distress, are far greater than the Government at first saw reason to anticipate. In the Bombay Presidency there is now no district, with the single exception of Kanara, in which it will not be necessary to relieve distress at the expense of the State; and there is no previous record of so extensive and total a failure of the crops. In the Central Provinces the Chief Commissioner reports that a failure so severe and widespread has never been experienced before. The rice crop, which is the main-stay of the eastern portion of those provinces, is more completely lost than in 1896, the millets of the southern districts have fared but little better, and the cold weather crops of the west and north will probably be worse than those of 1897. In the fertile Berars the cotton crop has been almost wholly lost, and all other crops have practically failed entirely. No such calamity has ever before befallen this part of India. Similarly, throughout Rajputana, the South-East Punjab, and the western half of the States of Central India, the present drought is without parallel in extent and intensity. In a large portion of the area affected it follows close upon a famine of great severity; it

is accompanied by an unprecedented scarcity of fodder and water; and there seems reason to fear that in many places (to quote the words of the Bombay Government) 'destitution has reached, or will reach, a higher stratum of society than has ever been affected before since the country came under British rule'.

"In October last the famine area was estimated to comprise about 100,000 square miles in British territory with a population of 15 millions, and about 250,000 square miles in native territory with a population also of about 15 millions. Revised estimates now show the famine area in British territory as not less than 140,000 square miles with a population of 22 millions. In a further area of about 10,000 square miles with a population of about 2½ millions, scarcity and distress prevail of a sufficiently general character to require the opening of test works and the other preliminary measures of the Famine Codes. In a further area of about 65,000 square miles with a population of about 10 millions, scarcity exists which may hereafter require relief, though at present there is fortunately neither general nor pronounced distress. In native territory the famine area (including tracts where conditions of severe scarcity approximating to famine prevail) may be approximately put at 230,000 square miles with a population of 27 millions. The acutely distressed or true famine area in native territory may be roughly taken to be about 150,000 or 160,000 square miles with a population of about 18 millions. The aggregate famine area in British India and Native States will thus be about 300,000 square miles with a population of 40 millions. And there is a further area of about 145,000 square miles with a population of 21 millions in which more or less general scarcity and distress prevail, and where relief is already being given in a tentative form, or will probably have to be given before the advent of the next monsoon.

"Thus the area and population affected by the drought are larger, both in British territory and native states, than was anticipated in October last. The cost of famine relief in British India within the current financial year will also correspondingly exceed the estimate of 1 to 1½ crores of rupees which was then tentatively adopted. The direct outlay on famine relief up to the 31st March may now be put at between 3 and 4 crores of rupees. For the ensuing financial year it is not thought advisable at the present time to attempt any estimate.

"The famine expenditure which will fall on native states is heavy, and it falls at a time when the ordinary sources of revenue are very injuriously affected. The Governor General in Council has assisted a number of States in Rajputana, Kathiawar and elsewhere by loans for relief expenditure and



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for the general purposes of administration, while in Central India His Highness the Maharaja of Gwalior has given similar assistance. With this financial aid His Excellency in Council is convinced that the several chiefs will succeed in carrying their people through this year of drought without the mortality and extreme suffering which have attended the great droughts of former years in Rajputana and Central India. The readiness with which the chiefs have recognised the necessities of the situation, and the energy which they are showing in the prosecution of relief measures are noted with great satisfaction by His Excellency in Council. The personal attention which His Highness the Maharaja of Gwalior and His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner have paid to the organisation of relief in their respective States is not only highly creditable to themselves as rulers, but is also contributing largely to the success which has attended that organisation.

"In the October statement an opinion was expressed that the extreme limit of prices had probably been reached, and that the stocks of food in the country would prove sufficient for its requirements. The Governor General in Council sees no reason to modify that opinion. Prices on the whole are somewhat lower than they were in December last, and as there is now hope of a good spring harvest throughout Behar and the greater part of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, a considerable accession to existing food stocks may be expected in April next. Grain has already been imported by local traders on a very large scale into the worst tracts, and no apprehension anywhere exists that private enterprise will prove inadequate to the occasion.

"The provision of sufficient public works of size and permanent utility for the employment of famine labour has proved a matter of great difficulty, as in many districts affected by famine the road programme was exhausted in the famine of 1896-97, and no other large projects are possible. Under these circumstances the Government of India have allowed the earthwork of proposed railway lines to be undertaken whenever the alignment had been or could be settled in time, and there was any reasonable likelihood of the line being made hereafter. A great deal of earthwork and ballast collection for railway purposes will thus be accomplished before the famine is over, and it is hoped that it may be found possible to utilize them at no very distant date.

"The provision of engineering and other superior famine establishments has also been a matter of much difficulty. The Government of India have done all that lay in their power to provide engineer officers and subordinates for the provinces most requiring them; and have also lent the services of a large number

[*Mr. Ibbetson; The President.*] [19TH JANUARY, 1900.]

of Staff Corps officers as relief Superintendents. It is no longer possible for them to give any further assistance in these directions, and the Governor General in Council is reluctantly obliged to advise the Local Governments that they must do the best they can with their present establishments, supplementing them, so far as is practicable, by temporary local engagements.

"The rapid increase in the numbers on relief in the several provinces, and the very high ratios which those numbers bear in many districts to the total population, have caused the Governor General in Council to impress strongly upon Local Governments the necessity for insisting on the strict enforcement of prescribed tests and precautions in the administration of relief. It is as yet too early to say what effect these instructions may have upon the numbers on relief, or upon the estimates of expenditure which have been submitted by Local Governments. Such information as has come before this Government since the issue of the instructions, points to the conclusion that while the need for relief is more widespread and in the worst tracts probably more acute than in 1896-97, the reluctance of the people to avail themselves of public charity as soon as it is offered to them is far less marked than it has been on any previous occasion. This is the natural result of one famine following another in the same area after an interval of only two years, and of State relief being offered to a population which has been taught by recent experience to expect it, and has become accustomed to accept it without hesitation. If the undoubted severity of the present famine makes it imperative to provide relief on a scale of unprecedented magnitude, this change in the popular attitude makes it more than ever necessary to insist on the relief being accompanied by proper tests of necessity, and restricted to what is required to maintain life and health. This is no new principle. It is the basis on which the scheme of State famine relief recommended by the Famine Commission of 1878 has been elaborated, and it is the only condition upon which obligations of such magnitude could possibly be accepted by the Government."

His Excellency THE PRESIDENT said:—"Those Hon'ble Members who were present at the last meeting of this Council in the Simla Session on 20th October last, when statements were made upon the approaching famine by Mr. Rivaz and myself, will remember that even then the Government of India were seriously impressed with the gravity of the situation, and that our speeches were coloured with a profound anxiety as to what might yet be in store for us. Nothing that I saw in my ensuing tour, in the course of which I visited many of the suffering areas, in any way relieved that anxiety. On the contrary it was already evident, from the number of persons in receipt of relief or engaged upon relief works, from the stream of humanity pouring in upon

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them daily from all quarters of the country, and from the complete disappearance, that was almost universally reported to me, of the old-fashioned reluctance entertained by the Indian peasant to the acceptance, except in the last resort, of charitable relief, that we were likely, as time passed by, and if no rain were to fall in the winter months, to be confronted with a calamity as great as, if not greater than has ever befallen this country, so used, in consequence of the immense numbers of the population, to calamity on a large scale, so inured, from previous experience, to this particular aspect of human suffering.

"The statement which has just been made on behalf of the Government of India by Mr. Ibbetson will have shown you that these gloomy anticipations have been more than fulfilled; that the area of visitation has expanded to a degree that has even surpassed our worst fears; that except in certain favoured provinces and localities every condition of nature and climate appears during the past three months to have fought against us; and that we are now face to face with a famine, of water, of food, of cattle, which in the particular areas affected is unprecedented in character and intensity. These are no rash words. From Bombay, from Rajputana, from the Central Provinces, in the reports that reach me, I continually come across the same idea, the same regretful confession, the same melancholy phrase. When, exactly three years ago, on January 14, 1897, Lord Elgin presided over a great public meeting held in Calcutta to consider the then famine, he observed that 1½ millions of persons were already on relief, and that the occasion had no parallel. In the present week of January 1900 there are nearly 3½ millions of persons on relief, and the parallel has come and, alas! has been left far behind.

"There is another respect in which the conditions are entirely different now. At that time the attention of England, and one might almost say of Europe, was turned upon suffering India. Hundreds of thousands of pounds were contributed and sent out by generous hearts and eager hands. The whole external world seemed to share our sorrow, and in the different forms open to it contributed to the alleviation of Indian distress. Now we have to suffer and to struggle alone. It is not that England, or the British Empire, or humanity at large, has become less sympathetic or more niggardly. Our troubles, in so far as they are known in England, will excite just as genuine and poignant emotions as on the previous occasion. But, as we all know, the whole thoughts of England, and of almost every Englishman throughout the world, are fixed upon the war in South Africa, and upon that alone. Even in this country we feel the patriotic excitement and the nervous strain, whether we be Europeans or Natives; and how much more must it be so in England, where the honour and prestige of the old country are felt to be at stake,

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and where almost every hearth has given some near or dear one to danger. And equally, if the war absorbs all interest, so does it exhaust the national generosity. I am afraid it is too much to expect that England can again come to our rescue this time, as she did so splendidly in 1897, or that, so far as can at present be judged, we can anywhere outside of this country expect a more than passive sympathy with our misfortunes.

"It is clear then that we must fight our own battles with our own means. Speaking for the officers of Government, I am sure that the last thing that they desire is any public advertisement; whilst if we cannot look for financial help from the outside, our own back must be broad enough to bear the burden. With patience and fortitude we must pursue our task conscious that though we are not engaged in stirring deeds which affect the fate of empires, we are yet performing our duty, an English duty and an Indian duty, and that we are trying to do what no war on the face of it does, *vis.*, to save from death many millions of human lives.

"Some notice has been excited by the fact that the Government of India has recently issued a circular letter to the Local Governments calling their attention to the exceptional circumstances of the present situation and suggesting a greater stringency in the tests to be henceforward applied. I have seen this circular described in the native press, of which I may say in passing that I am a not inattentive student, as disastrous and inhuman. Such a criticism can surely not be based upon any knowledge of the facts. I accept on behalf of the Government of India the full responsibility for that letter. It expressed the deliberate opinions of my colleagues and myself. I am the last person in the world to prefer the mere interests of economy to those of humanity, and I acknowledge to the utmost the obligation of Government to spend its last rupee in the saving of human life and in the mitigation of extreme human suffering. But the Government of India must necessarily take a broader outlook, while it manifestly profits by a wider knowledge, than its critics. We are acquainted by the reports that we receive from our officers with what is passing, not in one district alone, but in all parts of the country. We are the custodians of the interests of the tax-payers of India. We have to look to what may happen in future famines—and recent experience does not encourage us to regard famine as the rare and isolated phenomenon which it has hitherto been held to be. Above all, it is our duty jealously to watch and to conserve the character of the people. In my judgment any Government which imperilled the financial position of India in the interests of a prodigal

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philanthropy would be open to serious criticism. But any Government which, by indiscriminate alms-giving, weakened the fibre and demoralised the self-reliance of the population, would be guilty of a public crime.

"Let me then mention a few of the considerations that led us to think that such dangers were not altogether remote. I lay it down as an initial proposition that the obligation upon Government in times of famine is to save human life and to prevent starvation or extremity of suffering that may be dangerous to life. No Government can undertake, at such a time, any more than it does at other times, to prevent all suffering or to become a universal alms-giver to the poor. Indiscriminate private charity is mistaken, because it is as a rule misapplied, but indiscriminate Government charity is worse, because it saps the foundations of national character. What then did we find? I have seen it stated that no one goes on to relief works who is not threatened with actual starvation. Such is most emphatically not the case. I have myself seen hundreds—I might say thousands—of persons upon relief works who were in no such state of necessity or destitution. I have heard of persons accepting relief whose credit would easily have tided them over to better times. I know of cases in which men in receipt of famine relief have admitted that they have saved a portion of their famine wages, and in which families proceeding together on to the works have earned more than they would have done in the ordinary circumstances of life. Remember that by Rule 67 of the Famine Code no application for relief can be refused: and that the criterion of acceptance has ceased therefore to be the judgment of the managing official, and has become the self-respect of the applicant. That the old standards in this respect are breaking down is evident from the information that reaches me from every direction. I hear in some quarters of village labourers going on to the works simply to fill the slack time until the cultivation of the fields begins in the spring. I hear in others of wages fixed under the Famine Commission scale which exceed the prevailing market rates. In the Khandesh District of the Bombay Presidency it had been found necessary, before our circular issued, to make a reduction of 25 per cent. in the minimum wage, because the great bulk of the people found no inducement to work at all, as long as the ordinary minimum was observed. In the Sholapur District of Bombay, a class of land owners has accepted relief, which has never previously done so; 100,000 out of a population of 750,000 are already in receipt of relief, and if the present conditions continue until the summer, it is likely that 300,000 persons will be in receipt of alms, or 40 per cent. of the entire population—a proportion which I venture to say has never before been in receipt of Government

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relief, either in India or in any other country in the world. On the other hand, that our tests are not too severe is proved by the low rate of mortality and by the generally satisfactory condition of the famine-stricken population. From all these considerations it must, I think, be obvious not merely that the present famine is abnormal in character, but that the need for close supervision and control on the part of Government is exceptionally great. I am not one of those who regard Famine Relief as an exact science. Reports of Commissions and Codes have a great value, in so far as they are the results of previous experience. But they are not immaculate. Neither are the laws of the Medes and Persians. Poor Law Administration in every country in the world, in England itself, is still in an experimental stage: no country and no Government has hit the ideal mean between philanthropy and justice, between necessary relief and pauperisation. I contend that in India we are still engaged in the same process of working out our own salvation, and that each fresh crisis must be met by its own rules. Let those rules be based upon previous experience, and let them not err—if they do err at all—on the side of severity. But never let them ignore the obligatory relations upon which society is based—the duty of the landlord to the tenant, of the tenant to the labourer, of the community to its items, of the father to his family, of a man to himself. If for all these relations, at any period of emergency, you hastily substitute the duty of the State to its subjects, you extinguish all sense of personal responsibility and you destroy the economic basis of agrarian society.

“I have only two further remarks to make. I should like to recognize the generosity with which Native States—and I am alluding more particularly to some of the States of Rajputana and Central India—have accepted from the Government of India an interpretation of their obligations in respect of scarcity and famine more liberal and more exacting than has ever before, at any rate in those States, been applied. We have done our best to help them by the loan of officers, and by the offer of expert advice. But the Chiefs or Durbars have also helped themselves, and have worthily proved their right to the affection of their people. Secondly, and lastly, I should like to ask the public and the press of this country to remember, when they are in a critical mood, that to relieve the Indian poor from starvation and to save their lives, British officers freely sacrifice their own. When I was at Jubbulpore, and again at Nagpur, I saw the modest tombstones of English officers who had perished in the last famine of 1896-97. These men did not die on the battlefield. No decoration shone upon their breasts, no fanfare proclaimed their departure. They simply and silently laid down their lives, broken to pieces in the service of the poor and the suffering among the Indian people; and not in this world but in another will they have their reward.

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[*The President.*]

Only last week there was admitted to a Calcutta hospital an English officer, shattered in health and paralyzed in his limbs, who had done nothing but wear himself out in famine work in the Central Provinces. I do not desire to exaggerate these sacrifices. Englishmen are ready to perform them everywhere and unflinchingly, and the Government of India is not behind its subordinates in its alacrity and zeal. But let not our efforts be weakened by any ungenerous or discordant note. The crisis is one which, not less than an Imperial War, demands the loyal and enthusiastic co-operation of all who love India. To that co-operation in the months of trial that lie before us, on behalf of the Government of India, I unhesitatingly appeal."

The Council adjourned to Friday, the 2nd February, 1900.

CALCUTTA ;  
The 19th January, 1900. }

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