

*Wednesday,  
21st March, 1906*

**ABSTRACT OF THE PROCEEDINGS**

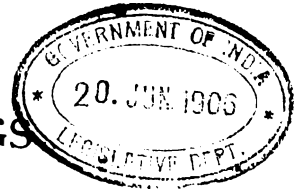
**OF THE**

**Council of the Governor General of India,**

**LAWS AND REGULATIONS**

**Vol. XLIV**

**Jan.-Dec., 1906**



# ABSTRACT OF PROCEEDINGS

OF

# THE COUNCIL OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF INDIA

ASSEMBLED FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAKING

## LAWS AND REGULATIONS,

## FROM 1905 TO MARCH 1906.

### VOLUME XLIV



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1906.

*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).*

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The Council met at Government House, Calcutta, on Wednesday, the 21st March, 1906.

PRESENT :

- His Excellency the Earl of Minto, P.C., G.C.M.G., G.M.S.I., G.M.I.E., Viceroy and Governor General of India, *presiding*.  
His Honour Sir A. H. L. Fraser, K.C.S.I., Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.  
His Excellency General Viscount Kitchener of Khartoum, G.C.B., O.M., G.C.M.G., Commander-in-Chief in India.  
The Hon'ble Sir A. T. Arundel, K.C.S.I.  
The Hon'ble Sir Denzil Ibbetson, K.C.S.I.  
The Hon'ble Mr. H. Erle Richards, K.C.  
The Hon'ble Mr. J. P. Hewett, C.S.I., C.I.E.  
The Hon'ble Mr. E. N. Baker, C.S.I.  
The Hon'ble Major-General C. H. Scott, C.B., R.A.  
The Hon'ble Sir Rameshwara Singh, K.C.I.E., Maharaja Bahadur of Darbhanga.  
The Hon'ble Rai Sri Ram Bahadur, C.I.E.  
The Hon'ble Mr. L. A. S. Porter.  
The Hon'ble Mr. L. Hare, C.S.I., C.I.E.  
The Hon'ble Mr. H. A. Sim, C.I.E.  
The Hon'ble Nawab Fateh Ali Khan, Kazilbash, C.I.E.  
The Hon'ble Mr. Gopal Krishna Gokhale, C.I.E.  
The Hon'ble Mr. A. A. Apcar, C.S.I.  
The Hon'ble Mr. S. Ismay, C.S.I.  
The Hon'ble Mr. W. T. Hall, C.S.I.  
The Hon'ble Mr. A. C. Logan.  
The Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur Khwaja Salimulla of Dacca, C.S.I.  
The Hon'ble Nawab Saiyid Muhammad Sahib Bahadur.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

The Hon'ble MR. GOKHALE asked :—

“ Will the Government be pleased to state how the four members of the Cadet Corps, to whom commissions were granted last year, have been posted; ”

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[*Mr. Gokhale ; the Commander-in-Chief.*] [21ST MARCH, 1906.]

and what are their prospects of being entrusted with regimental duties in the Indian Army?"

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF replied :—

“ The four cadets who were granted commissions are :—

- (1) Wali-ud-din Khan of Hyderabad.
- (2) Aga Casim Shah, nephew of His Highness the Aga Khan of Bombay.
- (3) Bhanwar Amar Singh of Jaipur.
- (4) Zorawar Singh of Bhavnagar.

“ The services of Wali-ud-din Khan have been placed at the disposal of the Resident at Hyderabad for employment, at the request of His Highness the Nizam, with the Hyderabad Imperial Service Lancers.

“ Aga Casim Shah has been appointed A.-D.-C. to the General Officer Commanding at Poona.

“ Bhanwar Amar Singh has been appointed A.-D.-C. to the General Officer Commanding at Mhow.

“ The services of Zorawar Singh have been placed at the disposal of the Government of Bombay for employment, at the request of His Highness the Thakur Sahib of Bhavnagar, as Commandant of the Bhavnagar Imperial Service Lancers.

“ It is impossible to say at present what is the prospect of these ex-cadets being entrusted with regimental duties in the Indian Army as they have been appointed to Imperial Service Regiments or to the personal staff of General Officers.”

The Hon'ble MR. GOKHALE asked :—

“ Have the Government of India noticed what has been described in the Press as the boycott of the *Weekly Chronicle* of Sylhet by the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam? Is it a fact that for publishing in its news columns a report, which that Government regarded as ‘a gross mis-statement’, and which the Editor declared to be ‘more than corroborated by careful inquiries made by him’, that paper has been placed under a ban by the Lieutenant-

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS; PRESIDENCY SMALL CAUSE  
COURTS.

269

[21ST MARCH, 1906.] [Mr. Gokhale; Sir Arundel Arundel; Mr. Richards.]

Governor in the matter of official advertisements and official information and publications? Is it true that the Chief Secretary to the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam has in a communication to the Editor described official advertisements and the supply of official information and publications as 'Government support' to the newspaper, of which the latter has been deprived as a punishment for his not tendering the apology which he was ordered to offer?

"Will the Government be pleased to state why no criminal proceedings were instituted against the Editor, or no official version of the occurrence, in regard to which his report was declared to be a gross mis-statement, published?"

"In view of the fact that important questions of principle affecting the status, dignity and independence of the Press in India are involved in such executive action against newspapers, will the Government of India be pleased to state their position generally on the subject, so as to allay all reasonable anxiety? Will they also be pleased to call upon the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam to re-consider its action against the *Weekly Chronicle*?"

The Hon'ble SIR ARUNDEL ARUNDEL replied:—

"The facts are that the *Sylhet Weekly Chronicle* published a statement that a Gurkha policeman had committed an indecent assault on a sweeper woman at Barisal. On enquiry being made the statement was proved to be false by the deposition of the woman herself supported by that of her husband, and it was further shown that she refused to sign a charge of attempted rape addressed to the Chairman of the Municipality which was drafted for her signature. Copies of these papers are laid upon the table. The Local Government considered that no useful purpose would be served by instituting criminal proceedings and therefore decided to withdraw from the newspaper certain facilities. The Government of India are not prepared to call upon the Local Government to reconsider its action in the matter.

"The Government of India are unable to admit that the status, dignity and independence of the Press in India are in any way affected by the adoption of executive action in cases of specific misconduct as distinguished from adverse criticism of Government measures."

PRESIDENCY SMALL CAUSE COURTS BILL.

The Hon'ble MR. RICHARDS moved that the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill further to amend the Presidency Small Cause Courts Act,

[*Mr. Richards; Mr. Baker; Mr. Hewett.*] [21ST MARCH, 1906.]

1882, be taken into consideration. He said :—" My Lord, I have on a former occasion explained to the Council the objects of this Bill. It effects three changes, small in themselves, but not unimportant, relating to the power of the Small Cause Court to decide certain questions with regard to execution proceedings, to the transfer to the High Court of cases instituted in the Small Cause Court and to references to the High Court. The only change of substance that has been introduced by the Select Committee is that in clause 3 of the Bill, which has been introduced on the recommendation of the Calcutta High Court. It gives a discretion to exempt applicants for transfer from furnishing security which they would otherwise have to furnish. No other change of substance has been made."

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble MR. RICHARDS move that the Bill, as amended, be passed.

The motion was put and agreed to.

#### INDIAN STAMP (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Hon'ble MR. BAKER moved that the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill further to amend the Indian Stamp Act, 1899, be taken into consideration. He said :—" My Lord, I do not think I need add anything to the remarks which I made in introducing the Bill in January last, or to those contained in the Report of the Select Committee."

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble MR. BAKER moved that the Bill, as amended, be passed.

The motion was put and agreed to.

#### INDIAN MERCHANT SHIPPING (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Hon'ble MR. HEWETT moved that the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill further to amend the law relating to merchant seamen be taken into consideration.

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble MR. HEWETT moved that the Bill, as amended, be passed.

The motion was put and agreed to.

[21ST MARCH, 1906.]

[Mr. Baker.]

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1906-1907.

The Hon'ble MR. BAKER introduced and explained the Financial Statement for 1906-1907. He said:—"My Lord, I beg to present the Financial Statement for the ensuing year 1906-1907. In doing so, I propose, with Your Lordship's permission, to follow the course adopted last year, *i.e.*, instead of reading out the Statement *in extenso*, I shall merely lay it on the table, and shall give a brief verbal account of those portions of it only which are likely to be of general interest.

"In certain parts of India, especially Rajputana, the United Provinces and the Deccan Districts of Bombay, the year now drawing to a close has been less favourable than those which immediately preceded it. The Arabian Sea branch of the monsoon was late in arriving, and the rainfall was irregular and deficient in amount. This was followed by serious delay in the winter rains in Northern India; and though these eventually came and greatly relieved the situation, they were too late wholly to save the unirrigated crops. Famine conditions have been declared to prevail in 10 British districts and several Native States, and at one time 360,000 persons were in receipt of relief. These misfortunes have led us to make extensive remissions and suspensions of the land revenue in the parts affected, and have also involved some expenditure on relief works.

"In the greater part of India, however, the seasons have, on the whole, been favourable and the harvests generally good; and except in the tracts especially affected by drought the revenue has come in well, and shows signs of continued and healthy development.

"A year ago we estimated that we should have a surplus of 136 lakhs of rupees. We now expect to have a surplus of 263 lakhs, the improvement being 127 lakhs.

The main causes of this are as follows:—

	Lakhs.
(1) Our Railway earnings have expanded beyond our expectations, the <i>net</i> revenue account, having exceeded the estimate by . . . . .	69
(2) Our revenues generally have continued to develop, with the exception of Land Revenue, Customs and Irrigation, the aggregate improvement being . . . . .	89
(3) There has been a large reduction in Military expenditure, mainly owing to the failure of the home authorities to provide the new artillery and stores budgeted for: the saving amounts to . . . . .	149

	Lakhs.
and (4) There have been net savings of expenditure under other heads, mostly Police, Education and Civil Works, aggregating . . . . .	38
These four causes of improvement have aggregated . . . . .	345

On the other hand we have drawn upon Provincial and Local balances to the extent of 218 lakhs less than we anticipated ; the net betterment thus amounting to 127 lakhs.

“ During 1906-1907 we anticipate that, if the seasons are normal, our revenue will continue to develop under all heads except opium, in which, in view of the unfavourable prices obtained at recent sales, we expect a falling-off of 99 lakhs. In the Civil Administration we have provided for the normal growth of expenditure, and have also assumed that the Provincial Governments will be able to make up some of the ground which they failed to cover this year. But in view of the present agricultural situation, we do not consider ourselves justified in embarking upon any new projects involving considerable recurring expenditure, other than those to which I shall presently refer.

“ For Military expenditure, in view of the heavy charge which has been thrown forward from the current year, we have made a special re-grant of a part of the lapse, to the amount of 40 lakhs, which is of course non-recurring. The total Military Budget is less than that of the current year by 58½ lakhs.

“ On the present basis of taxation and expenditure, we estimate that in 1906-1907 we should have had a surplus of 253 lakhs of rupees; and we have decided to apply 122 lakhs of this to the remission of taxation, to the relief of local bodies, and to the provision of funds for carrying out a modest programme of administrative improvement. More than two-thirds of the whole amount will be devoted to the relief of the agricultural tax-payer, who we consider has the strongest claim on our resources on the present occasion. The measures we propose are five in number and are as follows :—

- (1) We abolish the patwari cess and village officers' cess which are now levied in Madras, the Central Provinces, the United Provinces, the Punjab and the North-West Frontier Province, and in Ajmer and Coorg ; we also abolish the zemindari dāk cess in Bengal and the districts transferred to the new province. The charges hitherto defrayed from these cesses will in future be borne by Government. The total sacrifice of revenue occasioned by this measure is rather more than 82 lakhs of rupees per annum.



[21ST MARCH, 1906.]

[*Mr. Baker.*]

- (2) We discontinue the practice of making certain petty appropriations from local funds for Provincial purposes in the Provinces of Northern India, and in Burma and the Central Provinces. The practice does not obtain in other parts of India. The cost of this measure is a little under 6 lakhs per annum, and the District Boards concerned will benefit to that extent.
- (3) We make a further grant of 25 lakhs per annum for the reform of the Police in addition to the grant of 50 lakhs made for this purpose last year.
- (4) We raise the grant of 20 lakhs per annum which was made last year for agricultural improvement to 24 lakhs per annum; and
- (5) We make a grant of 5 lakhs per annum for education, of which approximately one-half will be devoted to technical education, and one-half to the education of Europeans and Eurasians.

The total cost of these five measures is—

	Lakhs.
Remission of taxation . . . . .	82
Transfer to the local taxation account . . . . .	6
Grants for police, agriculture and education . . . . .	34
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TOTAL	122
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After providing for these requirements, we estimate that our revenue will amount to 129 crores 74 lakhs, and our expenditure to 128 crores 43 lakhs; and that we shall have a surplus of 131 lakhs of rupees.

“We have provided nearly 81 lakhs for expenditure on famine-relief, and have also made provision for the remission and suspension of land revenue in those provinces which are suffering from famine.

“For capital expenditure on Railways we have provided the large sum of 15 crores of rupees, of which about three-fifths are for the requirements of open lines, including 382 lakhs for rolling stock. For Irrigation Major Works we have provided 125 lakhs, which is as much as there is any likelihood of our being able to spend during the year.

“We have now no floating sterling debt, the whole outstanding balance having been paid off during the current year.

*FINANCIAL STATEMENT.*

[*Mr. Baker.*]

“ We propose to raise a loan of 2 millions sterling in England, and one of 4½ crores of rupees in India, for capital expenditure on productive public works.

“ The present intention of the Secretary of State is to draw bills on India next year to the amount of £17,800,000, but additional bills will as usual be sold; if needed, to meet the demands of trade. These announcements are made subject to the usual reservation.”

The Council adjourned to Wednesday, the 28th March, 1906.

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

CALCUTTA; }  
The 22nd March, 1906. }