

*Friday,
31st January, 1908*

ABSTRACT OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Council of the Governor General of India,

LAWS AND REGULATIONS

Vol. XLVI

April 1907 - March 1908

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OF
THE COUNCIL OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF INDIA

ASSEMBLED FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAKING

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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 31st January, 1908.

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 Andrew 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., G.C.I.E., Commander-in-Chief in India.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. Erle Richards, K.C.

The Hon'ble Mr. E. N. Baker, C.S.I.

The Hon'ble Sir Harvey Adamson, Kt., C.S.I.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. F. Finlay, C.S.I.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. O. Miller, C.S.I.

The Hon'ble Sir Rameshwara Singh, K.C.I.E., Maharaja Bahadur of Darbhanga.

The Hon'ble Munshi Madho Lal.

The Hon'ble Mr. Gangadhar Rao Madhav Chitnavis, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. W. W. Reynolds.

The Hon'ble Mr. F. A. Slacke, C.S.I.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. A. Sim, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble Tikka Sahib Ripudaman Singh of Nabha.

The Hon'ble Dr. Rashbehary Ghose, C.I.E., D.L.

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 Maung Bah Too, K.S.M.

The Hon'ble Mr. W. W. Drew.

The Hon'ble Nawáb Saiyid Muhammad Sahib Bahadur.

The Hon'ble Mr. W. R. H. Merk, C.S.I.

QUESTION AND ANSWER.

The Hon'ble MR. GOKHALE asked :—

“(a) Has the Government of India received a telegram from the Indian settlers in the Transvaal, seeking its protection and asking for its intervention in

(*Mr. Gokhale ; Mr. Finlay.*) [31ST JANUARY, 1908.]

their favour against the injustice and indignities to which they are being subjected under the Asiatic Registration Act in the Transvaal ?

“(b) Is the Government aware of the depth and intensity of public feeling that has been aroused in this country in all quarters by the arrest and imprisonment of several Indian subjects of His Majesty the King Emperor in the Transvaal under the Asiatic Registration Act ?

“(c) Will the Government be pleased to state what steps it has already taken or it proposes to take to bring this state of public feeling in India to the notice of His Majesty’s Government in England and to secure for the Indian settlers in the Transvaal the protection that they seek at its hands ?”

The Hon’ble MR. FINLAY replied :—

“(a) The Government of India have not received any telegram from the Indian settlers in the Transvaal. But they have received papers from the Secretary of State which include a telegram from British Indians in the Transvaal to the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the effect stated in the question. They have also received numerous representations from persons and bodies in other parts of South Africa and in India.

“(b) The Government of India are fully aware of the depth and intensity of public feeling which has been aroused in India and are grateful to the various bodies and individuals, representing so many classes and creeds in this country, who have taken so much trouble to keep them informed of the views taken of the legislation affecting Asiatics in the Transvaal.

“(c) The matter has received throughout the careful consideration of the Government of India. They are in full sympathy with the Indian subjects of His Majesty in whatever part of the world they may be, and though they are obviously not in a position to pronounce authoritatively on the merits of the situation in the Transvaal they have let no opportunity pass of keeping His Majesty’s Government informed of the state of feeling in India with regard to that situation and of pleading the cause of the different sections of the Indian community in South Africa whenever it appeared that the status and privileges of Indian emigrants as subjects of the British Empire were affected.

“The Government of India have good reason to hope that negotiations now in progress will result in the removal of the just grievances of His Majesty’s Indian subjects.”

[31ST JANUARY, 1908.] (*Sir, Harvey Adamson.*)

CORONERS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Hon'ble SIR HARVEY ADAMSON presented the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill further to amend the Coroners Act, 1871, and the Prisoners Act, 1900.

The Council adjourned to Friday, the 14th February, 1908.

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

CALCUTTA ;
The 31st January, 1908. }