

*Friday,
10th September, 1909*

ABSTRACT OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Council of the Governor General of India,

LAWS AND REGULATIONS

Vol. XLVIII

April 1909 - March 1910

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

The Council met at the Viceregal Lodge, Simla, on Friday, the 10th September 1909.

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 Louis Dane, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab.

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

The Hon'ble Mr. W. L. Harvey, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble Sir G. F. Wilson, K.C.B., K.C.M.G.

The Hon'ble Mr. S. P. Sinha.

The Hon'ble Sir Herbert H. Risley, K.C.I.E., C.S.I.

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

The Hon'ble Sardar Sundar Singh, Majithia.

ANAND MARRIAGE BILL.

The Hon'ble SARDAR SUNDAR SINGH presented the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to give legal sanction to a marriage ceremony common among the Sikhs called Anand.

INDIAN MUSEUM BILL.

The Hon'ble MR. HARVEY said:—"My Lord, in asking permission to introduce the Bill to amend and consolidate the law relating to the Indian Museum, I think that a brief explanation of the proposals embodied therein and of the reasons why this legislation is being undertaken may be of interest to the Council. In 1904 the Government of India made a grant of five lakhs of rupees in furtherance of a scheme for the structural improvement of the Museum and for the re-arrangement of its exhibits. Simultaneously with the scheme for the enlargement of the Museum, the Trustees had naturally to take into consideration

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the question of the organisation necessary for its administration. The defects of the existing system had, indeed, come more than once under the notice of the Trustees. The organisation, as it then stood, and as it now stands, is the result of compromises and expedients. The Museum includes Geological, Zoological, Archæological, Anthropological, Industrial and Art collections. The Geological collections, almost all of which are the property of the Geological Survey, are controlled by the Director of the Survey and not by the Trustees. Of the remainder, some are held in trust on behalf of the Asiatic Society, others belong to the Government of India or to the Government of Bengal: all are, however, administered directly by the Trustees through the Superintendents in charge of the Natural History section and of the Industrial section, each of whom is also a Secretary to the Trustees for his respective section. Moreover, the scientific grouping of the collections is defective; part of the Anthropological collections are, for instance, in the Natural History section, and part in the Industrial section. Finally, though the Director, Geological Survey, has in practice been a Trustee, the Superintendent of the Natural History section has no seat on the Board. The result of the defects in the existing system, the most prominent of which only I have noticed, was that the machinery of administration did not work without considerable friction.

“The Bill now before Council presents a scheme which has been drawn up by Government in consultation with the Trustees, and as its main features have been summarised in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, I need not detain Hon'ble Members with a lengthy explanation of its details. I will however point out that it has received the unanimous support of the Trustees, and is intended to secure that the Museum shall be in a position thoroughly to carry out its work of research without losing its character as an educative institution for the benefit of the general public. With this object in view it is an integral part of the scheme to group the sections representing the different sciences under experts, each of whom is to be given a free hand in the development of the particular subject with which his section is concerned. At the same time uniformity of management throughout the institution will be secured by the powers of inspection and general control vested in the Trustees.

“This scheme appears to give every prospect of improvement in the general work of administration whilst maintaining the scientific efficiency of each section of the Museum. Legislative action is necessary to carry it into effect, since it involves the handing over by the Trustees to the head of each section, as an

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indefinite loan, of the exhibits which have been held in trust by them on behalf of the Government of India and the Asiatic Society. An amendment of the Act is also necessary to alter the constitution of the Trust since it is intended that the head of each section should have a seat on the Board, the absence from the present law of such a provision having, as I have already pointed out, resulted in not inconsiderable friction. At the same time, in view of the difficulties experienced in the past as a result of the unwieldy character of the Board, we have reduced the number of Trustees to 17, and we provide in the new constitution of the Board for the representation of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, the British Indian Association and the Calcutta University as well as of the Asiatic Society. The representation of the Government of Bengal, which has a large interest in the Museum, is effected by giving that Government the nomination of three Trustees, in addition to the Principal, School of Art, and the Accountant-General, Bengal; and finally the Trustees will have the power to co-opt three members.

"My Lord, I move for leave to introduce the Bill."

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble MR. HARVEY introduced the Bill.

The Hon'ble MR. HARVEY moved that the Bill, together with the Statement of Objects and Reasons relating thereto, be published in English in the Gazette of India and the Calcutta Gazette.

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Council adjourned to Friday, the 8th October 1909.

J. M. MACPHERSON,

Secretary to the Government of India,

Legislative Department.

SIMLA; }
The 10th September 1909. }