

Friday, December 9, 1864

**COUNCIL OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL
OF INDIA**

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P. L.

Abstract of the Proceedings of the Council of the Governor-General of India assembled for the purpose of making Laws and Regulations under the provisions of the Act of Parliament 24 and 25 Vic., cap. 67.

The Council met at Government House on Friday, the 9th December, 1864.

PRESENT :

His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India, *presiding*.

Major-General the Hon'ble Sir R. Napier, K.O.B.

The Hon'ble H. B. Harrington.

The Hon'ble H. Sumner Maine.

The Hon'ble Sir O. B. Trevelyan, K.O.B.

The Hon'ble W. Grey.

The Hon'ble H. L. Anderson.

The Hon'ble J. N. Bullen.

The Hon'ble Maharaja Vijayarama Gajapati, Raj Bahadur of Vizianagram.

The Hon'ble Raja Sahib Dyal Bahadur.

The Hon'ble G. Noble Taylor.

The Hon'ble W. Muir.

The Hon'ble R. N. Oust.

The Hon'ble Maharaja Dhiraj Mahtab Chand Bahadur, Maharaja of Burdwan.

The Hon'ble D. Cowie.

The Hon'ble Mr. Cowie took the oath of allegiance, and the oath that he would faithfully discharge the duties of his Office.

RURAL POLICE (N. W. PROVINCES) BILL.

The Hon'ble Mr. Muir applied to His Excellency the President to suspend the Rules for the Conduct of Business, in order to enable him to move that the Bill which he obtained permission last Friday to introduce, be introduced to-day, although it had not been in the hands of the Members for seven days, as required by Rule 16, in order that it might thus be passed within a shorter period than was provided in Rule 20.

The President declared the Rules suspended.

The Hon'ble Mr. Muir then introduced the Bill to provide for the maintenance of the Rural Police in the Territories under the Government of the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces, and moved that it be

referred to a Select Committee, with instructions to report in five weeks. He said that the object in having the Bill passed quickly was, that the Settlement which had been commenced in the North-Western Provinces was making rapid progress in various districts, and all that was done under the present rules relating to the appointment of Village Watchmen would have to be amended when the Bill became law. The Settlement of the Land Revenue would, as explained on a former occasion, be subjected to some modifications under the new rules, and the records would also have to be altered. Unless, therefore, the Bill became law at an early period, a good deal of inconvenience would be caused both to the Officers of Government and the people, and considerable expense in doing again what had been done before. As the Bill related to the North-Western Provinces, five weeks would, he supposed, be amply sufficient to enable all persons concerned to consider its provisions and report their opinions.

The Motion was put and agreed to.

ACTS AND REGULATIONS' EXTENSION BILL.

The Hon'ble Mr. Harington applied to His Excellency the President to suspend the Rules for the Conduct of Business. He said, as the Bill merely proposed to give power to the Governor-General in Council to extend Acts and Regulations now in existence, to places under the immediate administration of the Government of India in which those Acts and Regulations were not in force, the publication of the Bill for any long period seemed unnecessary, and he believed that great public convenience would result from the Bill passing into law on an early date. This was his reason for proposing that the Select Committee should be required to make their report in two weeks.

The President declared the Rules suspended.

The Hon'ble Mr. Harington then introduced the Bill to authorize the Governor-General of India in Council to extend to the Non-Regulation Provinces under the immediate administration of the Government of India, Acts and Regulations not in force in those Provinces, and moved that it be referred to Select Committee, with instructions to report in a fortnight. He said that when he had asked for leave to introduce the Bill, he had explained the objects and reasons of it, and he had nothing more to say on those heads. But it had been suggested to him that the Bill would be rendered more useful if the power proposed to be given to the Governor-General in Council, as regards the places under the immediate administration of the Government of India, were extended to the Governments of the North-Western Provinces and of the Punjab—to the former Government for the Non-Regulation Provinces subject to its authority, and to

the latter Government for the Punjab and its dependencies. The suggestion deserved consideration, and he proposed in Committee to move the insertion of a Section which, if adopted, would effect what had been suggested.

The Motion was put and agreed to.

CHIEF COURT (PUNJAB) BILL.

The Hon'ble Mr. Cust said that, as the Bill for amending the constitution of the Court of the Judicial Commissioner of the Punjab and its dependencies had been only a short time in the hands of Hon'ble Members, he begged leave to postpone the motion which stood in the list of Business, relating to that Bill.

Leave was granted.

The following Select Committees were named :—

On the Bill to provide for the maintenance of the Rural Police in the Territories under the Government of the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces—The Hon'ble Messrs. Harington, Maine and Anderson, the Hon'ble the Maharaja of Vizianagram, the Hon'ble Raja Sahib Dyal Bahadur and the Hon'ble Messrs. Taylor, Muir and Cust.

On the Bill to authorize the Governor-General of India in Council to extend to the Non-Regulation Provinces under the immediate administration of the Government of India, Acts and Regulations not in force in those Provinces—The Hon'ble Messrs. Harington, Maine, Muir and Cust.

The Council then adjourned.

WHITLEY STOKES,
Offg. Asst. Secy. to the Govt. of India,
Home Dept. (Legislative).

CALCUTTA, }
The 9th December 1864. }