

Thursday, October 1, 1868

**COUNCIL OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL
OF INDIA**

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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 & 25 Vic., Cap. 67.

The Council met at Simla on Thursday, the 1st October 1868.

PRESENT :

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

His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, G.C.S.I., K.C.B.

The Hon'ble G. N. Taylor.

The Hon'ble H. S. Maine.

The Hon'ble John Strachey.

The Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I.

The Hon'ble Colonel H. W. Norman, C.B.

The Hon'ble F. R. Cockerell.

The Hon'ble Sir George Couper, Bart., C.B.

The Hon'ble Sir George Couper took the oath of allegiance and the oath that he would faithfully discharge the duties of Additional Member of the Council of the Governor General for making Laws and Regulations.

INOCULATION (KUMAON AND GARHWAL) BILL.

The Hon'ble Mr. STRACHEY presented the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to prohibit the practice of inoculation in Kumaon and Garhwál, and asked the President to suspend the Rules for the Conduct of Business.

The President declared the Rules suspended.

The Hon'ble Mr. STRACHEY then moved that the Report be taken into consideration. He said that the Committee had made no alterations, and had recommended the Bill to be passed. When he introduced the Bill, he had explained that the Government of the North-Western Provinces had come to the conclusion that legislation on the subject was necessary, and in consequence of this conclusion, the present measure had been prepared. For some time past, the practice of inoculation had been prohibited in Kumaon and Garhwál under the belief that such prohibition was lawful under a certain section in the Penal Code. It had, however, been recently ascertained that such a belief was erroneous. He had explained when he introduced the Bill that the case of Garhwál and

Kumaon was peculiar. Thanks to the administrative energy and good sense of Dr. F. Pearson, Superintendent General of Vaccination, the people of those Districts were said to be protected against small-pox to an extent hardly surpassed in any country. This fact was the sole but sufficient justification for prohibiting locally the practice of inoculation. Hon'ble Members would observe that the Bill gave no power to the Local Government to extend the Act to other parts of the North-Western Provinces, although, under the corresponding Act of the Bengal Council, the Lieutenant Governor had that power. The reason for the conclusion that no such power should be given in the present instance was, that it would be unjustifiable to prohibit inoculation unless where really complete arrangements for vaccination existed. The best authorities were decidedly of opinion that inoculation, however inferior to vaccination, was preferable to the total omission of any such precaution. Now it was and always would be difficult to establish a system of vaccination throughout a great part of the North-Western Provinces, for, in the plains of India, successful vaccination was possible only during a few months of the cold weather, and much of what was called vaccination was not vaccination at all. It was only in the hills, where the temperature for the greater part of the year remained at a comparatively low degree, that it was possible to carry out vaccination so as to protect the whole community. He had recently received a valuable report by Dr. Edmonstone Charles, Superintendent General of Vaccination in Bengal, on the subject of inoculation in that Province, and the facts given in that report entirely bore out the conclusions which he (Mr. STRACHEY) had now stated.

He believed those conclusions to be in accordance with the opinions of the highest medical authorities in India. As Dr. Charles says in the report which he had cited, what was wanted in the plains of India except under those unusual circumstances in which it might be possible to give complete protection by vaccination, was the regulation of inoculation rather than its prohibition.

The Motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble Mr. STRACHEY then moved that the Bill be passed.

The Motion was put and agreed to.

COORG COURTS BILL.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAYLOR presented the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to define the jurisdiction of the Courts in Coorg.

LOCK-HOSPITALS BILL.

The Hon'ble Mr. MAINE moved that the Bill to enable the Municipalities to provide for Lock-Hospitals be referred to a Select Committee, with instructions to report in a week. He said that in last July, he had introduced the Bill for the purpose of being published in the Gazette, so that the opinion of the public on the measure might be elicited. No remarks, so far as he was aware, had been made hostile either to the principle or the details of the Bill. The Bill in fact was merely an enabling measure, and no objection could, he thought, reasonably be made to its enactment.

The Motion was put and agreed to.

The following Select Committee was named :—

On the Bill to enable Municipalities to provide for Lock-Hospitals—the Hon'ble Mr. Cockerell, the Hon'ble Sir George Couper, and the Mover.

The Council then adjourned till the 8th October 1868.

WHITLEY STOKES,

*Asst. Secy. to the Govt. of India,
Home Department (Legislative).*

SIMLA,
The 1st October 1868. }