

Tuesday, August 15, 1871

ABSTRACT OF THE PROCEEDINGS

**COUNCIL OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF INDIA**  
**LAWS AND REGULATIONS.**

VOL 10

Book No. 2

March to Dec.

1871

**PL**

*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 Tuesday, the 15th August 1871.

P R E S E N T :

His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General of India, K. P.,  
G. M. S. I., *presiding*.

The Hon'ble John Strachey.

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

The Hon'ble J. Fitzjames Stephen, Q. C.

The Hon'ble B. H. Ellis.

Major-General the Hon'ble H. W. Norman, C. B.

The Hon'ble F. R. Cockerell.

The Hon'ble R. E. Egerton.

His Highness Sarámade Rájáháe Hindústán Ráj Rájendra Sri Mahárájá  
Dhiráj Sivái Rám Sing Bahádur, of Jaypúr, G. C. S. I.

His Highness the Mahárájá of Jaypúr made a solemn declaration of allegiance to Her Majesty, and that he would faithfully fulfil the duties of his office.

INDIAN TARIFF ACT (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Hon'ble SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, in moving for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Schedule of the Indian Tariff Act, 1871, said that the necessity for legislation had arisen in the following manner: The Indian Tariff Act, 1871, imposed an *ad valorem* duty of one per cent. on the export of indigo. Their French neighbours at Pondicherry had evaded this tax by exporting indigo leaf (on which no duty at present was levied) to Pondicherry, where, on reaching the factories, it was manufactured into indigo; and since the French Government levied no duty on exported indigo, the French manufacturer obtained a slight advantage over those who exported from British territory. This state of things naturally gave rise to complaints, and the present Bill was intended to remedy an admitted hardship, by imposing a duty on indigo leaf, and thus placing the French and English manufacturer on a footing of equality.

The Motion was put and agreed to.

## INDIAN WEIGHTS AND MEASURES OF CAPACITY BILL.

The Hon'ble MR. STEPHEN moved for leave to introduce a Bill to regulate the Weights and Measures of capacity of British India. He said that the Bill had been placed in his hands, not because he was in any way especially familiar with the subject, but under somewhat peculiar circumstances, of which it was right that he should inform the Council. His Excellency the President having signified to the Council the disallowance of the Weights and Measures Act passed last year, it was right that the grounds of that disallowance should be publicly known, and that it should be understood that there was not any difference of opinion as regarded matters of principle between the Secretary of State and those with whom this measure had originated. All parties were agreed as to the great desirability of establishing an uniform standard of weights, and it was unnecessary to repeat the instances brought forward by Colonel Strachey last year to show the confusion and inconvenience to which the existing diversity of standards in various parts of the country at present gave rise. The Act, however, had gone somewhat beyond the original scheme in dealing with measures of length, and the Secretary of State had, in the exercise of that abundant caution which such a matter demanded, shrunk from sanctioning a measure which might seem in any manner to interfere with the existing customs and tastes of the people. If any such result was likely to ensue, the Government of India entirely concurred that it was too high a price to pay for any conveniences and advantages which the Act might have secured. The difference between the Government of India and the Secretary of State was, accordingly, one of degree rather than of principle; and, since it had been resolved to postpone the passing of the measure in its entirety, the course proposed was to re-enact those parts of the Act as to which no difference of opinion existed. This would precisely carry out the views of the Secretary of State, those provisions which he considered undesirable being omitted. This was the object of the present Bill. It was believed that the introduction of a recognized standard of weights and measures would offend no existing custom, and would gradually make its way among the people as the advantages of uniformity on such a subject came to be generally appreciated. The Railway and other great Companies had already adopted an uniform standard, and, he believed, that, in no long time, the people at large would spontaneously follow their example. On these grounds he hoped that leave would be given.

His Excellency THE PRESIDENT said—"As the Indian Weights and Measures Act of 1870 has been disallowed by Her Majesty, and will, from the date of this my signification of that disallowance, cease to have any legal

validity, I wish to say a few words as to the position of the Government of India with reference to it, and to the measure by which it is contemplated to replace it. It never was the intention of the Government to force any measure on the public against the wishes and tastes of the community at large. Those who proposed the original measure did not intend that such of its provisions as were other than permissive should come into operation till it appeared that the public mind was ready to accept them. I am well aware that the forcible introduction of a measure of this sort, before the public was alive to its advantages, might be calculated only to defeat the hopes and intentions of those who advocate it. The Government of India has never had any intention of attempting any such forcible introduction. I trust, however, that the present disallowance of the measure will not have the effect of indefinitely postponing what I believe to be a most useful reform; but that the Bill, for the introduction of which leave is now asked, will practically lay the foundations of a system of uniform weights and measures throughout the empire. The Railway Companies have shown that they are anxious to second the Government in the attempt to introduce the new system, and I hope that the present Bill will be found to arm Companies, Municipalities and other bodies with adequate powers to facilitate the gradual and permissive adoption of a system which I believe to be likely, at no distant time, to conduce to the public convenience."

The Motion was put and agreed to.

### CRIMINAL TRIBES BILL.

The Hon'ble MR. STEPHEN also presented the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill for the Registration of Criminal Tribes and Eunuchs.

The Council adjourned to Tuesday, the 29th August 1871.

H. S. CUNNINGHAM,

SIMLA; }  
The 15th August 1871. }

*Offg. Secy. to the Council of the Governor  
General for making Laws and Regulations.*