

*Friday,  
10th January, 1902*

**ABSTRACT OF THE PROCEEDINGS**  
**OF THE**  
**Council of the Governor General of India,**  
**LAWS AND REGULATIONS**

**Vol. XLI**

**Jan.-Dec., 1902**

ABSTRACT OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
OF  
THE COUNCIL OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF INDIA:  
ASSEMBLED FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAKING  
LAWS AND REGULATIONS

1902

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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).*

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The Council met at Government House, Calcutta, on Friday, the 10th January, 1902.

PRESENT:

His Excellency Baron Curzon, P.C., G.M.S.I., G.M.I.E., Viceroy and Governor-General of India, *presiding*.

His Honour Sir John Woodburn, K.C.S.I., Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.

His Excellency General Sir Arthur Power Palmer, G.C.I.E., K.C.B., Commander-in-Chief in India.

The Hon'ble Sir C. M. Rivaz, K.C.S.I.

The Hon'ble Mr. T. Raleigh.

The Hon'ble Sir E. F.G. Law, K.C.M.G.

The Hon'ble Major-General Sir E. R. Elles, K.C.B.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. T. Arundel, C.S.I.

The Hon'ble Sir J. Wingate, K.C.I.E.

The Hon'ble Mr. D. I. Smeaton, C.S.I.

The Hon'ble Mr. C. W. Bolton, C.S.I.

The Hon'ble Rai Sri Rám Bahadur.

The Hon'ble Mr. Gopal Krishna Gokhale.

The Hon'ble M. R. Ry. Panappakkam Ananda Charlu, Vidya Vinodha Ayargal, Rai Bahadur, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble Mr. L. P. Pugh.

The Hon'ble Sayyid Husain Bilgrami.

The Hon'ble Mr. R. G. Hardy, C.S.I.

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur B. K. Bose, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble Mr. M. C. Turner.

NEW MEMBER.

The Hon'ble MR. TURNER took his seat as an Additional Member of Council.

2 CANTONMENTS (HOUSE-ACCOMMODATION) BILL; INDIAN STEAM-SHIPS (AMENDMENT) BILL; INDIAN TRAMWAYS BILL; ADMINISTRATORS GENERAL AND OFFICIAL TRUSTEES BILL.

[Major-General Sir Edmond Elles; Sir Edward [10TH JANUARY, 1902.] Law; Mr. Arundel; Sir Charles Rivaz.]

CANTONMENTS (HOUSE-ACCOMMODATION) BILL.

The Hon'ble MAJOR-GENERAL SIR EDMOND ELLES presented the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to make better provision for securing house-accommodation for officers in cantonments. He said:—"With Your Excellency's permission, I propose not to bring up the case in the Legislative Council until after the 10th February, so as to give ample time for discussion."

INDIAN STEAM-SHIPS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Hon'ble SIR EDWARD LAW moved that the Bill further to amend the Indian Steam-ships Act, 1884, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Hon'ble Mr. Raleigh, the Hon'ble Sir Andrew Wingate, the Hon'ble Mr. Ashton, the Hon'ble Mr. Turner and the mover.

The motion was put and agreed to.

INDIAN TRAMWAYS BILL.

The Hon'ble MR. ARUNDEL moved that the Bill to apply the provisions of the Indian Railway Companies Act, 1895, to certain Tramway Companies be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Hon'ble Mr. Raleigh, the Hon'ble Mr. Nicholson, the Hon'ble Mr. Bolton, the Hon'ble Mr. Bilgrami, the Hon'ble Mr. Ashton, the Hon'ble Mr. Turner and the mover.

The motion was put and agreed to.

ADMINISTRATORS GENERAL AND OFFICIAL TRUSTEES BILL.

The Hon'ble SIR CHARLES RIVAZ moved that the Bill further to amend the Law relating to Administrators General and Official Trustees be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Hon'ble Mr. Raleigh, the Hon'ble Sir Andrew Wingate, the Hon'ble Mr. Smeaton, the Hon'ble Mr. Ananda Charlu, the Hon'ble Mr. Pugh, the Hon'ble Mr. Turner and the mover, with instructions to report by the 31st instant.

The motion was put and agreed to.

[10TH JANUARY, 1902.]

[Mr. Raleigh.]

## IMPERIAL LIBRARY (INDENTURES VALIDATION) BILL.

The Hon'ble MR. RALEIGH moved for leave to introduce a Bill to confirm and validate certain indentures made between the Agricultural and Horticultural Society of India and the Calcutta Public Library, respectively, and the Secretary of State for India in Council. He said:—"Hon'ble Members are familiar at least with the outer aspect of the building to which this measure relates. It occupies a commanding site in the business quarter of Calcutta, and it was erected as a memorial to the distinguished career of Lord Metcalfe. For a long time past this building has been occupied by two useful institutions: the Agricultural and Horticultural Society, which is best known to us in connection with its experimental garden at Alipour—a Society founded in 1821 for the purpose of conducting enquiries with a view to the introduction of new plants and the improvement of the staple products of India. The upper part of the building was assigned to the Calcutta Free Public Library—a library of circulation and reference—a library which, I may say, has been enriched from time to time by gifts from the Government and from public persons, and which, therefore, may be considered as a public institution. But in dealing with the existing Society and the Committee of the Library, and in making arrangements with them to secure this building for the uses of an Imperial Public Library worthy of the name, Your Lordship has preferred to proceed upon a basis of agreement, and although by taking this course we have interposed certain inevitable delays, I hope that the negotiations, which were conducted by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, may have the effect of starting the new or re-organised library, which Your Lordship has projected, with the harmonious co-operation of all who are concerned. The foundation of the new library will be the Imperial Library, which was formed, not very long ago, by combining together certain collections of books which belonged to the various Departments of the Government of India, and during the last 12 years we have combined this collection of books with the Imperial Record Office. As, unfortunately, we are all aware, the preservation of public records is a matter in which the Government of this country for some time showed deplorable indifference, but, within the last ten years, great improvements have been effected, and it is to be hoped that the administration of the Record Office in its new quarters and with more room for a proper arrangement will conduce to the preservation of a proper record of the acts of Government, and will be found, in the future, extremely useful to the students of history in this country.

"The Indentures which represent the result of our negotiations with the Society and the Committee of the Free Public Library, have now been executed,

[*Mr. Raleigh; The President.*] [10TH JANUARY, 1902.]

and the Bill which I now ask leave to introduce has been prepared upon the advice of our Standing Counsel. It is not usual to refer Bills of this character to a Select Committee, but if any Hon'ble Member of Council should be of opinion that there is any point in the Bill which requires to be discussed in detail, I shall be very glad to consider it and to meet his wishes, if possible. On some future occasion I hope to move that the Bill be taken into consideration and passed. We present it merely as a formal legal stage in what we believe to be a great and useful undertaking, and we hope that the re-organised library will remain for all time to come as an enduring monument of Your Lordship's administration."

His Excellency THE PRESIDENT said:—"I should only like to add one or two words to the very clear statement that has just been made by my Hon'ble Colleague on my left. My object in carrying out the scheme, which has taken shape in this Bill, has been to present Calcutta with a public library worthy of the name. When I came to India we could not be said to possess here any such institution. There was the collection to which my Hon'ble Colleague has referred, consisting of the records and writings and documents of Government which was contained in one of the buildings of one of our Departments. This collection, valuable as it was to officers of Government, was not, and could not in the nature of the circumstances, be accessible to the public, nor indeed was its existence generally known except to those officers who from time to time had occasion to refer to it. On the other hand, the existing public library in the upper storey of the Metcalfe Hall, while it contained an enormous number of books, had practically degenerated, so far as the use made of it was concerned, into a library of light literature and of fiction. It seemed to me desirable to consolidate these collections as far as possible, and to constitute a library which would both have the solid foundations that would recommend it to the student and at the same time possess all the necessary works of reference upon India and Indian subjects. I therefore decided to hand over to this new institution, should I be fortunate enough to obtain the building, the Government collection to which I have referred, while by the arrangements that I was enabled to make with the proprietors of the existing Metcalfe Library, and which, if I may say so in his presence, were conducted with great skill by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor—I was enabled to secure the existing collections that were at that time housed in the first floor of the Metcalfe building. My next step was to procure from home a competent librarian and student from the British Museum, who has now for a year been in charge of the new undertaking.

[10TH JANUARY, 1902.] [The President; Mr. Raleigh.]

"The Metcalfe Hall itself has been painted and renovated, and I think would hardly be recognised by many Honourable gentlemen at this table, if they paid it a visit. Shortly the whole collection will be thoroughly revised and re-housed, and I hope that, within about a year from now, this building will be a place for the student, a place for the historian, and a place for the casual reader as well. It seemed to me highly necessary that there should be somewhere in India, and obviously in Calcutta as the capital of the Empire, some library to which any man should be at liberty to go who wanted to know anything about India. My desire is to collect there every book that has been written in an intelligible tongue about this Continent, so that material not merely for casual reference, but for the publications and compilations of the historian of the future, may be there available. This I think we can effect. I hope that, before I have left this country, we may have in the Metcalfe building on a small scale what the Reading Room of the British Museum supplies to the student and reader at home, and although many of us in the busy lives we live out here do not find much time for other than official reading, yet I hope that we may attract to the interior of this new library a race of scholars and may gradually build up in the future works of investigation and research that may add to the credit of British rule in this country. These are the objects with which this institution has been founded, and this Bill that has been introduced is intended to give legislative form to the arrangements to which I have referred."

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble MR. RALEIGH introduced the Bill.

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

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Council adjourned to Friday, the 31st January, 1902.

CALCUTTA:  
The 13th January, 1902.

H. W. C. CARNDUFF,  
} Offg. Secretary to the Government of India,  
Legislative Department.