

PROCEEDINGS



OF THE

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF INDIA,

FROM

January to December 1856.

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With these observations, he begged to move the first reading of the Bill.

The Bill was read a first time.

PORT-DUES AND FEES.

MR. ELLIOTT moved the second reading of the Bill "to authorize the levy of Port-dues and Fees at the present rates for a further period of twelve months."

The motion was carried, and the Bill read a second time.

MR. ELLIOTT moved that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Mr. Allen, Mr. Currie, and the Mover.

Agreed to.

MR. ELLIOTT moved that the 69th Standing Order (under which the Report of the Select Committee could not be presented before the expiration of twelve weeks from the date of the first publication of the Bill) be suspended, and that the Committee be instructed to report upon the Bill at the expiration of four weeks from the date of publication.

MR. GRANT seconded the motion, which was then carried.

TOLLS ON THE KURRATIYA RIVER (BENGAL).

MR. CURRIE moved the second reading of the Bill "for establishing a toll on boats and timber passing through the Kurratiya River in the district of Bogra."

The motion was carried, and the Bill read a second time.

MR. CURRIE moved that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Mr. Elliott, Mr. Allen, and the Mover.

Agreed to.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS.

MR. PEACOCK gave notice that, on Saturday next, he would move the second reading of the Bill "to amend the law relating to affidavits, affirmations, and solemn declarations."

MR. ELLIOTT gave notice of motion, for the same day, for the second reading of the Municipal Bills which had been read a first time to-day.

It was desirable that they should be brought into operation at the same time with the Police and Conservancy Bills; and, therefore, as much time should be saved as was possible in taking them through the remaining stages. They were

in type, and would be in the hands of Honorable Members on Monday.

The Council adjourned.

Saturday, June 21, 1856.

PRESENT :

The Honorable J. A. Dorin, *Vice President*, in the Chair.

His Excellency the Com- mander-in-Chief,	D. Elliott, Esq., C. Allen, Esq.
Hon. J. P. Grant,	E. Currie, Esq., and
Hon. B. Peacock,	Hon. Sir A. W. Buller.

CLOSING OF HOTELS, &c., ON SUNDAY IN CALCUTTA.

THE CLERK presented a Petition of Inhabitants of Calcutta, praying for the enactment of a law prohibiting the opening of all Hotels, Taverns, or Liquor Shops, for the sale of any intoxicating Liquor, on Sunday in Calcutta.

MR. CURRIE moved that the Petition be printed.

Agreed to.

PREVENTION OF FIRES (CALCUTTA).

MR. PEACOCK presented the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill "for the better regulation of buildings, and for the more effectually preventing accidents by fire, within the Town of Calcutta."

AFFIDAVITS, AFFIRMATIONS, AND SOLEMN DECLARATIONS.

MR. PEACOCK moved that the Bill "to improve the law relating to affidavits, affirmations, and solemn declarations" be now read a second time.

The motion was agreed to; and the Bill read a second time.

MUNICIPAL ASSESSMENT.

MR. ELLIOTT moved the second reading of the Bill "to comprise in one Act the provisions necessary for the assessment and collection of Municipal rates and taxes in the Towns of Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay, and the several stations of the Settlement of Prince of Wales' Island, Singapore, and Malacca."

In making this motion, the Honorable Member said he would venture to suggest that, if any objections had occurred to Honorable Members with respect to particular provisions in this or the connected

Bills, it might be convenient to reserve the discussion until a subsequent stage of the Bills, and allow them now to be read a second time and published, so that they might be considered by the communities which were affected by them, and also by the several local Governments. The Council would, in that case, have the benefit of any suggestions which might be offered by those communities and Governments, and also of the Report upon them of the Select Committee to whom the Bills might be referred. It appeared to him that the discussion would be of a more practical character if raised in Committees of the whole Council, when the Bills should have been prepared in the form in which they would be proposed to be passed.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill read a second time.

MUNICIPAL ASSESSMENT (MADRAS).

MR. ELIOTT moved the second reading of the Bill "for appointing Municipal Commissioners, and for levying rates and taxes, in the Town of Madras."

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill read a second time.

MUNICIPAL ASSESSMENT (STRAITS SETTLEMENT).

MR. ALLEN moved the second reading of the Bill "for appointing Municipal Commissioners, and for levying rates and taxes, in the several stations of the Settlement of Prince of Wales' Island, Singapore, and Malacca."

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill read a second time.

MR. ELIOTT moved that the three Municipal Bills read a second time to-day, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Mr. Allen, Mr. LeGeyt, Mr. Currie, and the Mover.

Agreed to.

AFFIDAVITS, AFFIRMATIONS, AND SOLEMN DECLARATIONS

MR. PEACOCK moved that the Bill "to improve the law relating to affidavits, affirmations, and solemn declarations" be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Mr. Allen, Sir Arthur Buller, and the Mover.

Agreed to.

NOTICE OF MOTION.

MR. CURRIE gave notice that, on Saturday next, he would move the second reading

Mr. Elliott.

of the Bill "for appointing Municipal Commissioners, and for levying rates and taxes, in the Town of Calcutta."

The Council adjourned.

Saturday, June 28, 1856.

PRESENT :

The Honorable J. A. Dorin, *Vice-President*, in the Chair.

His Excellency the Com- mander-in-Chief, Hon. J. P. Grant, Hon. B. Peacock,	D. Elliott, Esq., C. Allen, Esq., E. Currie, Esq. and Hon. Sir A. W. Buller.
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MARRIAGE OF HINDOO WIDOWS.

The CLERK presented two Petitions from Inhabitants of Ahmednuggur against the Bill "to remove all legal obstacles to the Marriage of Hindoo Widows".

MR. GRANT moved that the above Petitions be printed.

Agreed to.

CATTLE TRESPASS.

Also a Petition signed by the Members of the Indigo Planters' Association, praying for certain alterations in the Bill relating to Cattle Trespass, and that the Bill so altered might be speedily passed.

MR. CURBIE moved that the Petition be printed.

Agreed to.

HINDOO POLYGAMY.

Also a Petition from the Maha Rajah of Burdwan against Hindoo Polygamy.

The Petition stated—

"That, according to the doctrines of the Hindoo Law, every Hindoo is required to marry one wife, but is authorized, in the event of certain contingencies, and on certain conditions, to marry a second, third, or fourth time. The contingencies and conditions are specified in the Laws of Menu, whose authority in such matters is paramount, it being expressly declared that the authority of no sage, or legislator, can be recognized if at variance with his doctrine.

That it has become the practice in Bengal to marry several wives without regard to the restrictions imposed by the Hindoo Law. The practice obtains specially among the class of Brahmins called Coolins. Although the sacred writings of the Hindoos recognize no distinctions among the Brahmins, or even the classes below them in rank, Rajah Bullai Sen, a little time before the Mahomedan conquest, established distinctions among the Brahmins and Caysts, by which a portion of them, under the name of Coolins, were declared to be superior to the rest of their tribes. These distinctions, rendered general in course of time among all classes of Hindoos by the sanction of example, have been universally adopted in