

Saturday, 23rd December, 1854

**PROCEEDINGS**

**OF THE**

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF INDIA**

**Vol. I**

**(1854 - 1855)**

Motion carried, and Bill read a first time accordingly.

SIR JAMES COLVILLE moved the second reading of the Bill "to amend the English Law in force within the Territories in the possession and under the Government of the East India Company, relating to the administration of the estates of deceased persons charged with any money by way of mortgage, and descending or devised."

Motion carried, and Bill read a second time accordingly.

Moved by the same that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Sir Lawrence Peel, Mr. Peacock, and the Mover.

Agreed to.

The Order of the Day for the third reading and passing of the Bill "to extend and amend the provisions of Act XII of 1843" having been read—Mr. ELIOTT moved that the Bill be re-committed to a Committee of the whole Council for the purpose of considering certain proposed amendments in the Preamble and Title.

Motion carried, and Council accordingly resolved itself into a Committee on the above Bill.

A few verbal amendments were agreed to; and the Bill, as settled, was certified by the CHAIRMAN.

The Council thereupon resumed its sitting, and the CHAIRMAN reported the Bill with amendments.

MR. ELIOTT moved that the Bill "to extend the provisions of Act XII of 1843" be now read a third time and passed.

Motion carried, and Bill certified accordingly by the PRESIDENT.

Ordered that MR. ALLEN carry the Act to the Most Noble the Governor General for his assent.

MR. ALLEN moved that the Council do again resolve itself into a Committee on the Bill relating to Electric Telegraphs in India.

THE PRESIDENT explained that the Report of the Select Committee this day presented and read, was on a special reference of a question which had arisen during the discussion of this Bill in Committee of the whole Council. Such a Report did not fall under the 71st Standing Order, and the present motion was therefore regular.

The Motion was carried, and the Council accordingly resolved itself into a Committee for the further consideration of the above Bill.

Verbal amendments were made in Sections II, III, and XV; and a new Section

was introduced after Section XIV, declaring persons other than European British Subjects, committing offences under this Act, liable to be punished, upon conviction by any Magistrate.

The Bill, as settled, having been certified by the CHAIRMAN, the Council resumed its sitting, and the CHAIRMAN reported the Bill to the Council.

MR. ALLEN gave notice of third reading of the Bill for next Saturday.

Mr. DORIN gave notice that he would, on the same day, move that the Council do adjourn for three weeks.

The Council adjourned.

*Saturday, December 23, 1854.*

PRESENT :

The Most Noble the Governor General, *President.*

Hon. J. A. Dorin,	A. J. M. Mills, Esq.
Hon. Major Genl. Low,	D. Elliott, Esq.,
Hon. J. P. Grant,	and
Hon. B. Peacock,	C. Allen, Esq.

The following Message from the Most Noble the Governor General was brought by MR. ALLEN, and read.

MESSAGE No. 23.

The Governor General informs the Legislative Council, that he has given his assent to the Act which was passed by them on the 16th December 1854, entitled "An Act to extend the provisions of Act No. XII of 1843."

By Order of the Most Noble the Governor General.

CECIL BEADON,

*Secy. to the Govt. of India.*

FORT WILLIAM, }  
The 22nd December 1854. }

THE CLERK presented a Petition from the Secretary to the British Indian Association, praying that Uncovenanted Officers in the Judicial and Revenue Departments may be placed on the same footing with Covenanted Officers in respect to suspension and dismissal from Office.

THE CLERK reported that he had received, from the Officiating Secretary to Government in the Financial Department, a communication from the Resident Councillor at Singapore, representing the difficulties under which the subordinate servants of Government labor at that Station in the

present state of the Copper Currency in the Straits' Settlements.

Mr. GRANT moved that the above communication be referred to the Select Committee on the Bill "to improve the Law relating to the Copper Currency in the Straits."

Agreed to.

Mr. ELIOTT presented the Report of the Select Committee on the project of Law for the establishment of a new Civil and Criminal Court on the Neilgherry Hills.

Mr. MILLS moved the first reading of a Bill "to modify Act XXVI of 1850, so far as it relates to places in the Bengal Division of the Presidency of Fort William."

Bill read a first time accordingly.

Mr. ELIOTT moved the second reading of the Bill "to amend the Law relating to District Moonsiffs in the Presidency of Fort St. George."

Motion carried, and Bill read a second time accordingly.

Moved by the same, that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee, consisting of Mr. Mills, Mr. Allen, and the Mover, with a special instruction to submit a preliminary Report upon the Bill, with a view to its alteration previously to its publication in the *Government Gazette*.

Agreed to.

Mr. ALLEN moved the third reading and passing of the Bill "for regulating the establishment and management of Electric Telegraphs in India."

Motion carried, and Bill certified accordingly by the PRESIDENT.

Ordered that Mr. ALLEN carry the Bill to the Most Noble the Governor General for his assent.

The Council, on Mr. ALLEN'S motion, adjourned for five minutes; and afterwards met pursuant to adjournment.

The following Message from the Most Noble the Governor General was brought by Mr. ALLEN, and read:

MESSAGE No. 24.

The Governor General informs the Legislative Council that he has given his assent to the Act passed by them this day, entitled "An Act for regulating the establishment and management of Electric Telegraphs in India."

By Order of the Most Noble the Governor General.

CECIL BEADON,

Secy. to the Govt. of India.

FORT WILLIAM,  
The 23rd December 1854. }

Mr. GRANT moved that the new Standing Orders, concerning the admission of strangers, be published in the *Government Gazette*.

Agreed to.

The Council adjourned, on Mr. DORIN'S motion, till the 13th of January 1855.

Saturday, January 13, 1855.

PRESENT :

The Hon. Sir Lawrence Peel, Vice President.

Hon. J. P. Grant, D. Elliot, Esq.,  
Hon. B. Peacock, A. Mallet, Esq., and  
Hon. Sir James Colville, C. Allen, Esq.  
A. J. M. Mills, Esq.,

The Governor General was prevented by indisposition from attending.

The Hon'ble Sir LAWRENCEPEEL was in the Chair.

THE CLERK presented the following Petitions:—

A Petition from certain Members of the Indigo Planters' Association, stating, that Cattle Trespass is one of the greatest evils affecting the Agricultural Community of Bengal; and that the Association have lately brought the subject under the notice of the Government of Bengal, in a letter annexed to the Petition, which they pray may be taken into consideration by the Council.

A Petition from certain Inhabitants of Chittagong, praying that the Regulation proposed with regard to the Chowkeedar's Tax may not be carried into effect in that district, and that they may be relieved from the Tax at present in force.

Mr. MILLS moved that this Petition be printed and referred to the Select Committee on the Bill.

Motion carried.

A Petition from Mr. E. Lantour, the Additional Judge of Patna, forwarding the Draft of an Act to alter the provisions of Regulation III of 1797, relating to fines and penalties.

Another Petition from the same gentleman, forwarding the Draft of an Act respecting stamps.

Sir JAMES COLVILLE presented the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill "for the further improvement of the Law of Evidence."

Mr. MALET presented the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill "for the better prevention of desertion from the Indian Navy."

Mr. ELIOTT presented the preliminary Report of the Select Committee on the Bill "to amend the Law relating to District Moonsiffs in the presidency of Fort St. George."