

Saturday, 29th August, 1857

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF INDIA,

FROM

January to December 1857.

VOL. III.

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1857.

in the Straits Settlement, be exercised by the Police Magistrates."

The amendment was agreed to, and the Section then passed.

Sections XXVII to XXIX were passed as they stood.

Section XXX was passed after amendments.

The Preamble and Title were passed as they stood.

The Council having resumed its sitting, the Bills settled in Committee were reported.

THE VICE-PRESIDENT said, under ordinary circumstances, he should have proceeded with the Arms and Ammunition Bill to-day. But so many alterations had been made in it in Committee that he thought it better that it should be reprinted for general information. He should therefore move that the Bill, as amended by the Committee of the whole Council, be published in the *Gazette* for general information.

Agreed to.

LIQUOR LICENSE (BOMBAY).

MR. LEGEYT moved that a communication received by him from the Government of Bombay, respecting licenses to retail liquor in that Town, be laid upon the table and referred to the Select Committee on the Bill "for appointing Municipal Commissioners, and for raising a Fund for Municipal purposes in the Town of Bombay."

Agreed to.

The Council adjourned.

Saturday, August 29, 1857.

PRESENT :

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

Hon. the Chief Justice,	P. W. LeGeyt, Esq.
Hon. Major General	E. Currie, Esq.
J. Low,	and
Hon. B. Peacock,	Hon. Sir A. W. Buller.

STRAITS' FERRIES.

MR. CURRIE moved the third reading of the Bill "for regulating Ferries in the Settlement of Prince of Wales' Island, Singapore, and Malacca."

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

MADRAS UNIVERSITY.

MR. LEGEYT moved the third reading of the Bill "to establish and incorporate an University at Madras."

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

ARMS AND AMMUNITION.

On the Order of the Day being read for the third reading of the Bill "relating to the importation, manufacture, and sale of Arms and Ammunition, and for regulating the right to keep or use the same"—

THE VICE-PRESIDENT moved that the Bill be recommitted, for the purpose of considering proposed amendments.

Agreed to.

Section I required notice of possession of arms to be given to the Magistrate, or other Officer authorized, or, in the Presidency Towns or in the Straits Settlement, to the Commissioner of Police.

MR. PEACOCK moved that the word "authorized" after the word "Officer" in the 11th line of the Section be left out, in order that the word "specified" might be substituted for it.

MR. CURRIE said the words "or other Officer authorized" were not in the Bill before it was committed last Saturday. They were inserted on the motion of the Honorable Member for Bombay, with the view of making it lawful for notice of possession of arms to be given to the Superintendents of Police in that Presidency. It now appeared to him (Mr. Currie) that it would be better to omit the words from this Section, and to provide in another manner for the object which the Honorable Member had in view. As the Bill stood, it did not provide effectually for that which was intended. The words introduced into this Section would enable Superintendents of Police to receive notices. But there were no such words in Section III, which empowered "the Magistrate or Commissioner of Police" to cause a register to be prepared, and to grant certificates; nor in Section IV, which empowered "the

Magistrate or Commissioner of Police" to seize arms and ammunition; so that a Superintendent of Police, though he might be authorized to receive notice of the possession of arms, could neither cause a register to be kept, nor grant certificates, nor seize arms and ammunition. There was also, in another part of the Bill, a Section which provided for search for arms; and if the Superintendents of Police were to have any powers under the Bill, they certainly ought to have the power conferred by Section XXI. It would be better to omit the words "or other Officer authorized" in Sections I and V, and introduce at the end of the Bill some such words as these:—

"Whenever in any Presidency or place the immediate control and superintendence of the Police is vested in any person other than the Magistrate or such Commissioner of Police as aforesaid, all or any of the acts which, by Sections I, III, IV, V, and XXI of this Act, the Magistrate or Commissioner of Police is authorized or required to perform, may be performed by such person, if the Executive Government shall so direct."

MR. PEACOCK said, he should have no objection to the introduction of the Section proposed; but the word "authorized" was not correct. A Magistrate was not authorized by the Section to do anything except by implication that, if a person was bound to give notice to a Magistrate, the Magistrate would be authorized to receive it. He thought that the words in this Section which the Honorable Member proposed to omit, should, with the amendment he had moved, be retained.

MR. LEGEYNT said, he had no objection to the amendments proposed by the Honorable Member for Bengal. He had had some doubts as to whether it was necessary that the powers given by Sections III and IV should be vested in the Superintendents of Police. But if it was intended to vest them either in the Superintendents of Police or the Magistrates, it might be useful to insert the amendments, since they would prevent any conflict between those Officers.

MR. PEACOCK'S amendment was put, and carried, and the Section then passed.

Section II provided a fine not exceeding five hundred Rupees, and confiscation of arms, for not giving notice of possession.

MR. PEACOCK said, since last Sa-

turday, he had seen a letter from the Advocate General suggesting that this penalty would be inadequate in certain cases. The penalty had been fixed with reference to cases in which the quantity of arms might be small. But if a person should have in his possession a large quantity, and should wilfully neglect to give notice, he could have but one object in concealing the fact from the Government—namely, that the arms might be used against the public peace; and, certainly, a severer penalty than confiscation and a fine of five hundred Rupees ought to be provided for such cases. He should, therefore, move that the following words be added to the Section:—

"And in case the arms of which he shall so neglect to give notice, shall exceed what may be considered reasonable for the private use of such person, he shall be liable to imprisonment with or without hard labor for a term not exceeding two years, and shall also be liable to a fine not exceeding five thousand Rupees; and all the arms and any ammunition or military stores in the possession of such person, or on his premises, shall be confiscated."

The Section as it now stood allowed the Magistrate to confiscate or not, as he might think fit; but it appeared to him that, where the quantity of arms was large, and the neglect to give notice wilful, the arms should be confiscated as a matter of course, and that it should be only in the power of the Government to give them up.

He had made the amendment applicable to ammunition also, because he thought that, the intention of a person concealing any considerable quantity of arms being to use them for a bad purpose, any ammunition found on his premises should also be confiscated to Government.

The amendment was agreed to, and the Section then passed.

Section V provided for the disarming of persons being armed without leave of the Magistrate in any place "other than the places in which Section XLVII. of Act XIII of 1856 * * is in force."

MR. PEACOCK said, he had an amendment to move in this Section, also at the suggestion of the Advocate General. By Act XIII of 1856, which was the Police Act for the Presidency Towns and the Straits Settlement, the Officer disarming could only keep the arms if the person disarmed refused to pay a penalty of ten Rupees. That would

not be a sufficiently stringent provision in the cases contemplated by this Bill. He should, therefore, move that the Presidency Towns be put in this respect on the same footing as other places as regarded this temporary measure. The terms of his motion were as follows:—That the words, “other than places in which Section XLVII of Act XIII of 1856 (entitled an Act for regulating the Police of the Towns of Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay, and the several stations of the Settlement of Prince of Wales’ Island, Singapore, and Malacca) is in force,” be left out of the Section. These words had been inserted in Select Committee; and he must say that it had not occurred to him, at the time, that their effect would be to entitle a person disarmed in a Presidency Town to the redelivery of his arms on payment of ten Rupees.

The amendment was agreed to.

MR. PEACOCK next moved that the words

“unless by leave of the Magistrate or other Officer authorized by the Executive Government in that behalf, he shall, unless he shall produce some certificate that he has obtained such leave”

be left out, in order that the following might be substituted for them:—

“and shall not produce a certificate from a Magistrate or other Officer authorized by Government to grant licenses to go armed, that he has obtained such a license.”

The amendment was only verbal, except in this, that it enabled any Officer authorized by the Government, other than Magistrates, to grant certificates. It would be useful to empower the Government to give such authority to Assistants to Magistrates, because it might be very inconvenient to a person at a distance from a Sudder Station wishing to go armed on a journey, to wait for a certificate from the Magistrate.

The amendment was agreed to.

After verbal amendments in subsequent parts—

MR. PEACOCK said, as the Section now stood, it would allow Magistrates to grant permission to carry any quantity of arms on a journey. They ought to be allowed to grant permission to carry only so much as might be necessary for the licensee’s private use on his journey. That was the intention of the Section; and he should, therefore,

Mr. Peacock.

move that the words “such arms as the Magistrate may consider reasonable for his private use” be inserted after the word “journey” in the 35th line of the Section.

Agreed to.

MR. PEACOCK then moved that the words “the name or address of the licensee” be inserted after the word “stating” in the 36th line of the Section.

The amendment was agreed to, and the Section then passed.

MR. PEACOCK said, he should move a new Section after Section V. The effect of Section V was merely to authorize the Magistrate or other Officer to disarm a person if, in his judgment, it was dangerous to the public peace to allow him to go armed. But there might be persons as to whom the Officer might be satisfied, not only that it was dangerous to the public peace that they should have arms, but that they were going armed with intent to use the arms for an illegal purpose themselves, or to make them over for the use of rebels. Such persons ought to be arrested without a warrant, and handed over to the Magistrate in order that they might be dealt with according to Law. He should, therefore, move that the following new Section be inserted after Section V:—

“If any person shall be found carrying or conveying arms or ammunition in such a manner, or under such circumstances, as to afford just grounds of suspicion that the same are being carried by such person with intent to use the same or that the same may be used for any unlawful purpose dangerous to the public peace, it shall be lawful for any of the public officers mentioned in Section V of this Act, or for any other person, to apprehend without warrant the person so carrying or conveying such arms or ammunition, and to detain such person in custody in order that he may be dealt with according to Law. If any person be apprehended by a person not being a Magistrate, Deputy Magistrate, or Assistant to a Magistrate, or Police Officer, he shall be delivered over as soon as possible to a Police Officer; and all persons apprehended by or delivered to a Police Officer under the provisions of this Act, shall be carried before a Magistrate or other Officer competent by Law to punish him for the offence or to commit him for trial.”

THE CHIEF JUSTICE suggested that the words “sulphur or saltpetre” should be inserted after the word “ammunition” at the commencement of the Section.

MR. CURRIE said, the Section mov-

ed by the Honorable and learned Member on his right (Mr. Peacock), if he understood him aright, proposed to deal with a matter which was distinct from the transport of sulphur and saltpetre. He imagined the intention of the new Section, which came in connection with Section V, to be that, if a person going armed was deemed an enemy to the public peace, he might be arrested even if he was carrying only a reasonable quantity of arms. The transport of sulphur and saltpetre, it appeared to him, was quite unconnected with the subject of these Sections, and was sufficiently provided for in a subsequent part of the Bill. Section XV provided that "the Governor-General in Council may by order prohibit the transport of arms, ammunition, military stores, sulphur, and saltpetre, * * from one part of India to another, or the transport thereof in any particular direction;" and Section XVI provided confiscation and a fine not exceeding five hundred Rupees for the violation of such prohibition. It did seem to him that that was quite sufficient, and that the words proposed to be introduced by the Honorable and learned the Chief Justice would be out of place.

MR. PEACOCK said, he could not see the force of the Honorable Member's objection. In the previous Sections relating to arms and ammunition, it had not been thought necessary to include sulphur and saltpetre; but that was no reason why sulphur and saltpetre should be excluded from subsequent Sections also. The Honorable Member said the Bill, as it stood, provided sufficiently against the transport of sulphur and saltpetre. He (Mr. Peacock) took issue on that point. If a person was found carrying sulphur or saltpetre under circumstances which raised reasonable grounds of suspicion—such as the time, place, or manner of carrying—that he intended using it, or making it over to be used, for some improper purpose, it should be lawful for any one, whether a Police Officer or not, to stop him and take him before a Magistrate. Under the Bill, as it now stood, a person would be liable to be punished for having in his possession sulphur or saltpetre of which he had given no notice; but no one would have a right to stop him without a warrant if he saw him

carrying sulphur or saltpetre under suspicious circumstances. He would have to go and apply to the Magistrate for a warrant; and by the time he could return with it, the offender would have escaped. The object was to stop such persons at once, in order that there might be no opportunity of escape.

MR. PEACOCK'S Section was then put, after the insertion of the words "military stores, sulphur, or saltpetre" after the word "ammunition" at the commencement.

MR. CURRIE said, he must repeat the objection he had taken before. He thought the provisions of the new Sections entirely out of place. The preceding Sections provided for notice being given of the possession of arms, the registration of arms, the seizure and detention of arms of which no notice had been given, and the disarming of persons going armed without leave. These followed in regular sequence. But the Section now proposed would be entirely out of place in connection with Section V. If it was inserted at all, it ought to be inserted later in the Bill—after the Sections relative to the illegal importation and transport of arms, ammunition, sulphur, and saltpetre.

MR. PEACOCK said, if the objection was merely to the Section being inserted after Section V, he would agree to insert it in any other part of the Bill which might be shown to be proper. He should not have the slightest objection to inserting it after the Sections relative to the transport of arms and ammunition, and he would, therefore, withdraw his motion for the present. He must mention, however, that the Section was very similar to a provision in an Act which had been passed at home for the repression of the Lancashire riots.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Sections VI, VIII, and X, were passed after verbal amendments.

Section XIV was passed after an amendment.

Section XVI was passed after a verbal amendment.

MR. PEACOCK moved that the new Section which he had withdrawn, be inserted after Section XVI.

MR. CURRIE said, he did not wish to renew his opposition to it, but it appeared to him to be unnecessary.

The Section was put, and carried.

Section XVII authorized the Government to prohibit the sale of sulphur without license, and to require all persons having sulphur in their possession to give notice thereof.

MR. PEACOCK said, he proposed to insert a new Section in a later part of the Bill for the purpose of authorizing the Government to require, if it should think fit, all persons who had ammunition or military stores in their possession, to give notice of them. The Bill at present provided such notice with respect to arms, but not with respect to ammunition. He did not think it necessary that the Act should be as stringent in requiring notice of possession of ammunition as in requiring notice of possession of arms; but if a person had in his possession a large quantity of ammunition, he ought to give notice to some public Officer, if Government considered notice necessary, leaving it to the Government to deal with the case as they might think proper. Section VII said if any person should "manufacture, or sell, or keep, or expose for sale percussion-caps, gun-powder, or other ammunition, without a license," he should be liable to a penalty not exceeding five hundred Rupees, and the ammunition should be forfeited. It would be rather unreasonable to require notice of the possession of sulphur because it might be used in the manufacture of gun-powder, and yet not to require notice of the possession of gun-powder. He proposed to omit from this Section those words which required notice to be given of the possession of sulphur, because he thought that it would be better to put sulphur on the same footing as ammunition, and should include it in the Section relating to ammunition which he proposed to introduce into a later part of the Bill.

The amendment was agreed to.

MR. PEACOCK said, the Section, as it now stood, provided a penalty for "neglecting to give such notice" (that is, the notice required by the words just struck out), but not for the sale of sulphur contrary to the orders of Government. He should move that the words "neglecting to give such notice" be omitted, in order that the words

"selling sulphur contrary to such order."

might be substituted for them, the Section would then be, in effect, only a prohibition against the sale of sulphur contrary to the orders of Government.

The amendment was agreed to, and the Section then passed.

Section XVIII provided that the Government might also seize all sulphur in the possession of any person without a license, and detain it for such time as they might think necessary for the public safety, unless the owner should consent to sell it to them at the fair market-price.

MR. PEACOCK said, if the Government should prohibit the sale of sulphur, there would be no market-price of sulphur. Under this Section, a person might in such a case, say to the Government—"I have a large quantity of sulphur; I cannot dispose of it in the market; you must buy it"—and he might purchase sulphur for the purpose of carrying on a trade with Government in sulphur. To obviate this, it ought to be made optional with the Government to enter into a contract for the purchase of sulphur or not, applying to sulphur the same rule in this respect as was provided with regard to arms. If the Government should require sulphur for any particular purpose, they might enter into a contract and purchase; but they ought not to be compelled to purchase. He, therefore, moved that the words "unless the owner shall consent to sell the same to Government at the fair market-price thereof" at the end of the Section, be omitted.

The amendment was agreed to, and the Section then carried.

Section XIX was passed after an amendment.

MR. PEACOCK moved that the following new Section be introduced after Section XX:—

"The Government may require all persons having in their possession ammunition, or other military stores, or sulphur, in any greater quantities than are considered reasonable for private use, to give notice thereof to the Magistrate or other Officer specified by Government; and any person who wilfully neglects to give such notice, shall be liable to imprisonment with or without hard labor for a term not exceeding two years, and shall also be liable to a fine not exceeding five thousand Rupees; and all ammunition, military stores, or sulphur in the possession of such person, or upon his premises, shall be confiscated."

Agreed to.

Section XXIII was passed after an amendment.

Section XXVI was the Interpretation Clause.

MR. PEACOCK said, this Section had been amended at the last Meeting so as to prevent Commissioners of Police and others not vested with the full powers of a Magistrate, from exercising any judicial powers under the Act. It now stood thus:—

“The word ‘Magistrate’ shall include any person exercising the full powers of a Magistrate. All powers of conviction, and confiscation upon conviction, given by this Act to a Magistrate, shall, within the Presidency Towns and in the Straits Settlement, be exercised by the Police Magistrate.”

There were some Sections in the Bill which only used the words “Magistrate,” and which conferred powers, not of a judicial, but of an executive character. In the Presidency Towns and the Straits Settlement these ought to be exercised by the Commissioners of Police; and, therefore, he should move amendments which would make the Section run thus:—

“The word ‘Magistrate’ shall include any person exercising the full powers of a Magistrate. All powers of conviction, and confiscation upon conviction, given by this Act to a Magistrate, shall be exercised by the Police Magistrate. And all other powers given by this Act to a Magistrate may be exercised by the Commissioner of Police; and all notices hereby required to be given to a Magistrate shall, in any such Presidency Town, or in the Straits Settlement, be given to the Commissioner of Police.”

MR. CURRIE asked if the Honorable and learned Member had looked carefully through the Bill with reference to this point. His impression was that, wherever the Bill authorized the performance of an executive act, it expressly provided that it might be performed by “the Magistrate or the Commissioner of Police.” Amendments had been introduced in Committee for the purpose of making it clear that the Officer intended was the Commissioner of Police in the Presidency Towns.

MR. PEACOCK said, it was not so in every case. Section V, for instance, did not authorize a Commissioner of Police to disarm persons going armed without leave.

MR. CURRIE said, if the words “or, in Presidency Towns, by the Commis-

sioner of Police” did not occur in this Section as it had been amended in Committee to-day, but did occur in others, the better course would be to insert them in it.

MR. PEACOCK said, there was another Section which did not vest an executive power in Commissioners of Police in Presidency Towns. He alluded to the Section which authorized the stopping of persons carrying arms with intent to use them for an improper purpose. It appeared to him that there could be no harm in inserting the amendments he proposed in Section XXVI. All that was wanted was to guard against Commissioners of Police in the Presidency Towns exercising judicial powers, and Police Magistrates in the Presidency Towns exercising executive powers. If the Honorable Member for Bengal would guarantee that the Bill as it stood would prevent this, he (Mr. Peacock) would withdraw his motion.

MR. CURRIE said, he was not prepared to say that the Bill was consistent in itself throughout. It might be so; but so many alterations had been introduced into it in Committee that he certainly was not disposed to give the required guarantee. He thought it could hardly be read a third time until Honorable Members had had time to examine the several alterations.

MR. PEACOCK said, the Honorable the Vice-President, who was in charge of the Bill, was in a position to move the third reading of the Bill after it should be reported. He (Mr. Peacock) proposed to insert in Section XXVI an amendment which he conceived to be necessary in order to set the Bill right. The Honorable Member for Bengal said that the Bill was right as it stood. If he would not guarantee that it was right as it stood, he (Mr. Peacock) could not agree to withdraw his amendment. The amendment was consistent with the intentions of the Council, and it could not do any harm.

THE VICE-PRESIDENT said, he should have no objection to postpone the third reading of the Bill.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE said, if the Bill should undergo revision in this particular, he thought it would be better to omit all mention of Commissioners of Police in the Sections conferring executive powers, and to insert a new

Section at the end providing that, in the Presidency Towns and the Straits Settlement, those powers might be exercised by Commissioners of Police.

MR. PEACOCK'S amendments were severally put, and carried, and the Section was then passed.

MR. CURRIE moved that the following new Section be introduced after Section XXVII:—

“Whenever, in any Presidency or place, the immediate control and superintendence of the Police is vested in any person other than the Magistrate or such Commissioner of Police as aforesaid, all or any of the acts which, by Sections, I, III, IV, V, and XXI of this Act, the Magistrate or Commissioner of Police is authorized or required to perform, may be performed by such person, if the Executive Government shall so direct.”

The Section was agreed to.

MR. PEACOCK moved that the following new Section be introduced after Section XXIV:—

“Whoever assaults or resists, or aids or assists any person in assaulting or resisting any person in the execution of any power vested in him by this Act, shall be liable, on conviction before a Magistrate, to a fine not exceeding two hundred Rupees, or to imprisonment with or without hard labor for any term not exceeding six calendar months.”

The Section was agreed to.

MR. PEACOCK moved that after the above Section the following new Section be introduced:—

“No suit, action, or other proceeding shall be commenced or prosecuted against any person for any thing done in pursuance of this Act without giving to such person a month's previous notice in writing of the intended action, and of the cause thereof; nor after tender of sufficient amends; nor after the expiration of three months from the accrual of the cause of action or other proceeding.”

The Section was agreed to.

Sections XXIX and XXXI were passed, after verbal amendments.

Sections I, III, IV, VIII, X, XXI, and XXIV were re-committed, and passed after verbal amendments rendered necessary by the amendment of Section XXVI.

The Council having resumed its sitting, the Bill was reported.

LAND CUSTOMS (BOMBAY).

MR. LEGEYT moved that the Council resolve itself into a Committee on the Bill “to make better provision for the collection of Land Customs on certain Foreign Frontiers of the Presidency

of Bombay;” and that the Committee be instructed to consider the Bill in the amended form in which it had been recommended by the Select Committee to be passed. In doing so, he said he should mention that, since the Bill had been reported upon by the Select Committee, he had communicated with the Authorities at Bombay, and had been informed by the Collector of Customs there that, after a careful perusal, the Authorities were of opinion that the Bill would do very well in its present shape.

The Honorable Member's motion was agreed to.

Section I was passed as it stood.

Section II was passed after a verbal amendment.

Sections III and IV were passed as they stood.

Section V was passed after the insertion of a Proviso requiring that no new office under the Act should be created without the previous consent of the Governor-General of India in Council.

Sections VI to XVII were passed as they stood.

MR. LEGEYT moved that the following new Section be inserted after Section XVII:—

“Whoever intentionally obstructs any Officer in the exercise of any powers given by this Act to such Officer, shall be liable, on conviction before a Magistrate, to imprisonment for any term not exceeding six months, or a fine not exceeding one thousand Rupees, or both.”

Agreed to.

MR. LEGEYT moved that the following new Section (which was Section XI of the original Bill slightly amended) be inserted after the above:—

“Whoever offers a bribe to any Officer appointed under this Act in order to induce such Officer to act in a manner inconsistent with his duty, shall be liable for every such offence, on conviction before a Magistrate, to a fine not exceeding one thousand Rupees, or to imprisonment for any term not exceeding six months, or both.”

Agreed to.

Section XVIII was passed as it stood.

Section XIX was passed after an amendment.

Section XX, and the Preamble and Title, were passed as they stood.

The Council having resumed its sitting, the Bill was reported.

STRAITS' FERRIES.

MR. CURRIE moved that General Low be requested to take the Bill "for regulating Ferries in the Settlement of Prince of Wales' Island, Singapore, and Malacca" to the Governor-General for his assent.

Agreed to.

MADRAS UNIVERSITY.

MR. LEGEYNT moved that General Low be requested to take the Bill "to establish and incorporate an University at Madras" to the Governor-General for his assent.

Agreed to.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS.

THE VICE-PRESIDENT gave notice that he would, on Saturday the 5th of September, move the third reading of the Bill "relating to the importation, manufacture, and sale of Arms and Ammunition, and for regulating the right to keep or use the same."

MR. LEGEYNT gave notice that he would on the same day move the third reading of the Bill "to make better provision for the collection of Land Customs on certain Foreign Frontiers of the Presidency of Bombay."

PORT-DUES (BOMBAY, TUNKARIA, AND BROACH).

MR. LEGEYNT moved that a communication received by him from the Government of Bombay be laid on the table and referred to the Select Committees on the Bill "for the levy of Port-dues and fees in the Port of Bombay" and the Bill "for the levy of Port-dues in the Ports of Tunkaria and Broach."

Agreed to.

The Council adjourned.

Saturday, September 5, 1857.

PRESENT :

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

Hon. the Chief Justice, His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, Hon. Major General J. Low,	Hon. B. Peacock, P. W. LeGeyt, Esq., E. Currie, Esq., and Hon. Sir A. W. Buller.
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STRAITS' FERRIES.

The following Message from the Governor-General was brought by General Low, and read :—

MESSAGE No. 113.

The Governor-General informs the Legislative Council that he has given his assent to the Bill which was passed by them on the 29th August 1857, entitled "A Bill for regulating Ferries in the Settlement of Prince of Wales' Island, Singapore, and Malacca."

By order of the Right Honorable the Governor-General.

CECIL BEADON,

Secy. to the Govt. of India.

FORT WILLIAM, }
The 5th Sept. 1857. }

MADRAS UNIVERSITY.

The following Message from the Governor-General was also brought by General Low, and read :—

MESSAGE No. 114.

The Governor-General informs the Legislative Council that he has given his assent to the Bill which was passed by them on the 29th August 1857, entitled "A Bill to establish and incorporate an University at Madras."

By order of the Right Honorable the Governor-General.

CECIL BEADON,

Secy. to the Govt. of India.

FORT WILLIAM, }
The 5th Sept. 1857. }

CIVIL PROCEDURE (BOMBAY).

THE CLERK reported that he had received from the Officiating Under-Secretary to the Government of India in the Home Department a copy of a communication from the Government of Bombay on the working of Act XVI of 1853 ("for amending the Law of Special Appeals"), forwarded for consideration in connection with the new Codes of Civil Procedure.

MR. LEGEYNT moved that the above communication be referred to the Select Committee on the Bill "for simplifying the Procedure of the Courts of Civil Judicature of the East India Company in Bombay."

Agreed to.