

Saturday, 13th January, 1855

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

OF INDIA

Vol. I

(1854-1855)

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. DORRIS'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. Elliott, Esq.,
Hon. B. Peacock, A. Malet, 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 LAWRENCE PEEL 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 Chowkedar 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. Lautour, 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."

SESSIONS COURT AT OOTACAMUND.

MR. ELIOTT moved the first reading of a Bill "to empower the Session Judge of Coimbatore to hold Sessions at Ootacamund on the Neilgherry Hills." The Honorable Member said, the Madras Government had proposed to establish a Court of novel constitution, to be called the Auxiliary Civil and Sessions Court. This proposition had been referred for report to a Select Committee, who reported that it appeared to them that a Court constituted according to Regulations VII and VIII of 1827 of the Madras Presidency would be sufficient for the present exigency. Such a Court the Governor of Madras could constitute of his own authority, and all that was required to be done by a Legislative Act, was to empower the Session Judge of Coimbatore to hold Sessions at Ootacamund. The Bill of which he now moved the first reading, had been prepared by the Select Committee for that purpose.

ABSENCE OF GOVERNOR GENERAL.

MR. DORIN said, he was sorry to be obliged to ask the indulgence of the Council for postponing the reading of the Bill to provide for the exercise of certain powers by the Governor General during his absence from the Council of India, (of which he had given notice), until next week. The Bill had been drawn, and would have been brought forward to-day, if it had not been necessary, with reference to some of the arrangements proposed, to consult the Executive Council upon it. This would have been done yesterday, had not the Governor General been prevented from holding a Council by indisposition.

The reading of the Bill, therefore, stood postponed until Saturday next.

BOUNDARY MARKS (MADRAS.)

MR. ELIOTT moved the first reading of a Bill for the establishment and maintenance of boundary marks in the Presidency of Fort St. George. He said a survey was now in progress in Madras, one of the objects of which was to fix the boundaries of fields, &c., and it was an object of great importance to establish land-marks to denote those boundaries. The Bill submitted followed Act III of 1846 and I of 1847, which provided for the same object in the Presidency of Bombay and the North-Western Provinces respectively.

CATTLE TRESPASS.

MR. PEACOCK moved that the Petition from Members of the Indigo Planters' Association read this day, be printed. He had thought that this would have been done as a matter of course. On looking at the Standing Orders, he found that this was not the case. As Mr. Theobald, the Secretary of the Association, seemed to desire that he should be informed of what had been done with the Petition, there would be no objection to the Clerk of the Council communicating to him, under Section XXX of the Standing Orders, that the petition had been ordered to be printed; and he (Mr. Peacock) would therefore also move that such a communication should be made.

Both motions carried.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

SIR JAMES COLVILLE gave notice that, on Saturday next, he would move that the Council resolve itself into a Committee of the whole Council on the Bill "for the further improvement of the Law of Evidence."

MR. MALET gave notice that, on Saturday next, he would move that the Council resolve itself into a Committee to consider the Bill "for the better prevention of Desertion from the Indian Navy."

MR. ELIOTT gave notice that, on Saturday next, he would move that the Council do adopt the preliminary Report of the Select Committee to consider the Bill "to amend the Law relating to District Moonsiffs in the Presidency of Fort St. George," and that the Bill be amended according to their suggestion and published for general information.

MR. LAUTOUR'S PETITIONS.

MR. MILLS moved that the two Petitions from Mr. E. Lautour, Additional Judge of Patna, read this day, be printed. These petitions related to points of importance connected with Civil procedure.

Agreed to.

The Council Adjourned.

Saturday, January 20, 1855.

PRESENT :

The Most Noble the Governor General, *President*.

Hon. Sir Lawrence Peel,	Hon. Sir James Colville,
Hon. J. A. Dorin,	A. J. M. Mills, Esq.,
Hon. Major Genl. Low,	D. Elliott, Esq.,
Hon. J. P. Grant,	A. Malet, Esq., and
Hon. B. Peacock,	C. Allen, Esq.,

THE CLERK presented a Petition from certain inhabitants of Howrah against the