

Saturday, 2 May, 1857

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF INDIA,

FROM

January to December 1857.

VOL. III.

Published by the Authority of the Council.

CALCUTTA :
PRINTED BY J. THOMAS, BAPTIST MISSION PRESS.
1857.

UNCOVENANTED SERVANTS (FORT ST. GEORGE.)

MR. ALLEN moved that the Bill "for the more extensive employment of Uncovenanted Agency in the Revenue and Judicial Departments in the Presidency of Fort St. George" be read a third time and passed.

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

SONTHAL DISTRICTS.

MR. CURRIE moved that the Council resolve itself into a Committee on the Bill "to amend Act XXXVII of 1855;" and that the Committee be instructed to consider the Bill in the amended form in which the Select Committee had recommended it to be passed.

Agreed to.

The Bill passed through Committee without amendment, and was reported.

MESSENGER.

MR. ALLEN moved that Mr. Peacock be requested to take the Bill "for the acquisition of land for public purposes," and the Bill "for the more extensive employment of Uncovenanted Agency in the Revenue and Judicial Departments in the Presidency of Fort St. George," to the Governor-General for his assent.

Agreed to.

SMALL CAUSE COURTS.

MR. LEGEYT moved that a communication which he had received from the Government of Bombay be laid upon the table and referred to the Select Committee on the Bill "to amend Act IX of 1850."

Agreed to.

CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (BENGAL).

MR. PEACOCK moved that the Petition of British Subjects, presented on the 14th ultimo, against the Bill "for extending the jurisdiction of the Courts of Criminal Judicature of the East India Company in Bengal, for simplifying the procedure thereof, and for investing other Courts with Criminal Jurisdiction," be referred to the Select Committee on the Bill.

Agreed to.

The Council adjourned.

Saturday, May 2, 1857.

PRESENT :

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

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

CARRIAGE AND HORSE TAX.

THE CLERK presented a Petition of Mr. A. M. Murdoch, an Undertaker in Calcutta, praying that the exemption contained in Section XIV Act XXVIII of 1856 may be extended to conveyances used by him.

BOMBAY UNIVERSITY.

MR. LEGEYT moved that a Bill "to establish and incorporate an University at Madras" be now read a first time.

The Bill was read a first time.

COMPULSORY LABOR (MADRAS).

MR. CURRIE moved that the Bill "to make lawful compulsory labor for the prevention of mischief by inundation, and to provide for the enforcement of customary labor to certain works of irrigation in the Presidency of Fort St. George" be now read a second time.

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

SONTHAL DISTRICTS.

MR. CURRIE moved that the Bill "to amend Act XXXVII of 1855" (to remove from the operation of the general Laws and Regulations certain Districts inhabited by Sonthals and others, and to place the same under the superintendence of an Officer to be specially appointed for that purpose) be read a third time and passed.

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

UNDER-TENURES.

MR. CURRIE moved that a correspondence between himself and the

Bengal Government on the subject of Under-tenures be laid upon the table and referred to the Select Committee on the Bill "to improve the law relating to sales of land for arrears of Revenue in the Bengal Presidency."

Agreed to.

The Council adjourned.

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Saturday, May 9, 1857.

PRESENT :

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

Hon. the Chief Justice, Hon. Major General J. Low, Hon. J. P. Grant,	Hon. B. Peacock, P. W. LeGeyt, Esq. E. Currie, Esq., and Hon. Sir A. W. Buller.
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THE CLERK presented the following Petitions :—

CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (BENGAL.)

A Petition of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce against so much of the Bill "for extending the Jurisdiction of the Courts of Criminal Judicature of the East India Company in Bengal, for simplifying the Procedure thereof, and for investing other Courts with Criminal jurisdiction" as proposes to entrust powers of imprisonment to Native Officers in the two lower Courts: and also praying that such amendments may be introduced into the Bill as will ensure to the two higher Courts competent and independent Judges, before the jurisdiction of those Courts is extended.

MR. PEACOCK moved that the above Petition be referred to the Select Committee on the Bill.

Agreed to.

CIVIL PROCEDURE (BOMBAY.)

A Petition of Inhabitants of Surat praying that the Clauses of the Bill "for simplifying the Procedure of the Courts of Civil Judicature of the East India Company in Bombay" concerning suits against Officers of Government, may be omitted; and that such suits may be placed on the same footing as suits against private persons.

MR. LEGEYT moved that the above Petition be referred to the Select Committee on the Bill.

Agreed to.

PIRATICAL VESSELS (STRAITS SETTLEMENT.)

MR. PEACOCK presented the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill "to authorize the arrest and detention, within the Ports of the Settlement of Prince of Wales' Island, Singapore, and Malacca, of Junks or Native Vessels suspected to be piratical."

PORT-DUES (MOULMEIN, RANGOON &c.)

MR. CURRIE moved that a Bill "for the levy of Port-dues in the Ports of Moulmein, Rangoon, Dalhousie, Akyab, and Chittagong" be now read a first time.

He said, when he lately introduced the Bill for levying port-dues in the Port of Calcutta, he mentioned that there were other ports under the Government of Bengal at which port-dues were levied, and that he was not then in possession of the information necessary to enable him to include them in that Bill, or to frame another Bill concerning them. He had since been furnished with information respecting the ports of Akyab and Chittagong; but it had appeared to him that the other ports on the Eastern side of the Bay of Bengal—Moulmein, Rangoon, and Bassein or Dalhousie—should be included in any Bill that might be framed for Akyab and Chittagong. The Commissioner of Pegu had furnished full information respecting the port of Rangoon, and recommended that the port-due now levied there—namely, four annas per ton—should be raised to six annas. Calculated on the quantity of shipping which now frequented Rangoon, the Commissioner shewed that even this enhanced rate would not be sufficient to cover the expenses of the port. He was, however, of opinion that no higher tax should be levied; and he (Mr. Currie) had taken the rate which that Officer recommended should not be exceeded, as the maximum rate to be levied under the Bill. The Commissioner of Pegu proposed that the Harbour Act should not, at present, be extended to the new port of Dalhousie, and