

Enclosure I in no. 5.

PROCLAMATION.

The Governor-General is pleased to constitute the territories at present under the administration of the Chief Commissioner of Assam to be, for the purpose of the Indian Councils Act, 1861 (24 and 25 Vict., c. 67), a Province to which the provisions of that Act touching the making of laws and regulations for the peace and good order of the Presidencies of Fort St. George and Bombay shall be applicable, and to direct that the said Province shall be called and known as *the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam*, and further to appoint . . . to be the first Lieutenant-Governor of that Province, with all powers and authority incident to such office.

2. The Governor-General in Council is pleased to specify *the sixteenth day of October one thousand nine hundred and five* as the period at which the said provisions shall take effect, and fifteen as the number of Councillors whom the Lieutenant-Governor.

**BENGAL
&
ASSAM**

NO. 1300 DMR



REPORT ON BENGAL AND ASSAM.

REPORT
ON
BENGAL AND ASSAM

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OF

BENGAL AND ASSAM

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ABOUT THE BOOK

IN THE LATTER half of the 19th Century, the British-administered Bengal grew into a vast, prodigious province sprawling over, besides Bihar and Orissa, the entire Bangladesh of the present day. Therefore, the government under Lord Curzon's viceroyalty sought territorial reconstruction of the province by transferring a big chunk to the neighbouring, economically backward and poorly administered province of Assam. The contemplated reconstitution (known in the Indian history as the 'Partition of Bengal') was effected in 1905, and this unfortunately brought about disintegration of Bengal, since it made East Bengal predominantly a Muslim province and turned West Bengal into a Hindu majority region.

This abominable act of Curzon's government not only hurt the native's 'patriotic sentiment, but also provoked them to intensify their defiance and opposition to the alien rule. The object of the measure, though cleverly projected under the mask of 'administrative convenience,' was interpreted by the country's intelligentsia and politicians as a sinister move to disrupt Hindu-Muslim unity and, consequently, weaken the nationalist movement. The inevitable effects of the measure, however, thwarted the divide-and-rule tactics of the British. And before the year 1911 was out, the Partition had to be abrogated by a declaration of King George V at the historic Royal Durbar in Delhi.

This volume, essentially a 'reprint' of the *Papers Relating to the Reconstitution of the Provinces of Bengal and Assam*, embodies the secret correspondence that went on for several years between the Government of India and (His Majesty's) Secretary of State for India, the correspondence, which produced the notorious, Partition of Bengal (1905)' Political in complexion as they ostensibly are, these letters, in their sweep, also highlight the social, cultural and economic conditions in the 19th Century Bengal and Assam.

Today when Assam problem captures the headlines of various news media, the appearance of this reprint acquires an added significance. It will, undoubtedly, help discerning readers and students of history look at Assam in its proper historical perspective.

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