



Bombay Government Gazette.

Published by Authority.

THURSDAY, 9TH OCTOBER 1884.

Separate paging is given to this Part, in order that it may be filed as a separate compilation.

PART VI.

BILLS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

The following Bill was introduced into the Council of the Governor General of India for the purpose of making Laws and Regulations on the 2nd October 1884:—

Bill No. 14 of 1884.

A Bill to repeal the Straits Settlements Emigration Act, 1877, and to amend the Indian Emigration Act, 1883.

Whereas it is expedient to repeal the Straits Settlements Emigration Act, 1877, and to amend the Indian Emigration Act, 1883, in manner hereinafter appearing; It is hereby enacted as follows:—

1. The Straits Settlements Emigration Act v of 1877, is repealed.

2. For section 102 of the Indian Emigration Act, 1883, the following section shall be substituted:—

“102. On and from such a date as the Governor General in Council may, by notification in the *Gazette of India*, fix in this behalf, a Native of India who departs by sea out of British India under an agreement to labour for hire in any protected Native State adjoining the Straits Settlements to which the notification refers shall not be deemed to emigrate within the meaning of this Act.”

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS.

THE main object of this Bill is to repeal Act V of 1877 (the Straits Settlements Emigration Act, 1877), which extends only to the Madras Presidency. It is dictated by the policy which recently led to the enactment of Act VII of 1883 (to repeal the British Burma Labour Law, 1876). As in the case of Burma, it is found that there is a system of “free emigration” to the Straits which not only competes with, but altogether distances, the Government system for which Act V of 1877 provides. From the information before it, the Government of India is of opinion that that Act has impeded instead of promoting emigration, that labour flows as naturally to and from the Straits as it does between Burma and India, and that attempts to control its movement in British territory merely induce it to seek an outlet from the French ports of Pondicherry and Karikal. Such provisions as in the opinion of the Government are necessary for the protection and control of the Indian immigrant after his arrival in the Straits have been embodied in a revised Labour Regulation, which is now before the Straits legislature, and will, it is expected, shortly become law. Under these circumstances, the Government of India con-

siders that emigration from India to the Straits should be uncontrolled by law in this country save as regards the requirements of the Native Passengers Ships Act.

2. The repeal of Act V of 1877 necessitates, however, an amendment of section 102 of Act XXI of 1883 (the Indian Emigration Act, 1883). The first sub-section of that section provides for the extension of Act V of 1877 to other parts of British India. As the Act is itself now being repealed, it is clear that this sub-section should be repealed also. The second and third sub-sections of that section give the Governor General in Council power by notification to include any of the protected Native States adjoining the Straits Settlements within the scope of any law relating to emigration to those Settlements, and exempt, on and from the date of any such notification, emigration to the protected State specified therein from the operation of Act XXI of 1883. Though there will no longer be any special law relating to emigration to the Straits, it is deemed desirable to retain the power, which these sub-sections confer, of exempting emigration to the protected States from Act XXI of 1883. A new section has therefore been substituted by section 2 of the Bill for section 102 of Act XXI of 1883 empowering the Governor General in Council to exempt emigration to the protected States from that Act whenever he considers such exemption to be desirable.

The 25th September 1884.

(Signed) S. C. BAYLEY.

D. FITZPATRICK,
Secretary to the Government of India.