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PART VI.

BILLS OF THE COVERNMENT OF INDIA.

LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

The following Bill was introduced into the Council of the Governor General for making Laws and Regulations on the 19th May 1871, and was referred to a Select Committee with instructions to make their report thereon in six weeks:—

Bill No. 15 of 1871.

A Bill to give validity to the operation of the General Regulations and Acts within the Dehrá Dún.

Whereas it is necessary to give validity to the Preamble. Operation of the General Regulations and Acts within the tract of country called the Dehrá Dún; and to indemnify all officers and other persons who have acted in the Dehrá Dún under the said Regulations and Acts; It is hereby enacted as follows:—

1. The Regulations and Acts now in force in the district of Saharunpur shall be deemed to have been lawfully in force in the Dehrá Dún. The tract of country called the Dehrá Dún from the 12th August 1829, or, in the case of Regulations and Acts passed subsequently to that date, from the date of the passing thereof.

2. All officers and other persons are hereby inIndemnity-clause. demnified for anything done before the passing of this Act which might lawfully have been done if this Act had been in force; and no suit or other proceeding shall be maintained against any such officer or other person in respect of anything so done.

3. Nothing in this Act shall apply to that por-Saving of Jounsar Bawur from the operation of this Act. called Jounsar Bawur and referred to in section eleven of Act XXIV. of 1864.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS.

The tract of country known as the Dehrá Dún has been, on several occasions, removed by legislative enactment from one jurisdiction to another. The final effect of these transfers was assumed to be that the Dehrá Dún was subject to the operation of the General Regulations and Acts, and for many years past the administration of justice in that locality has been conducted on that assumption.

In the case of Dick v. Heseltine, the High Court ruled that the General Regulations and Acts were not legally in force in Dehrá Dún, and legislation for the purpose of giving validity to the past proceedings of the local courts, which by this decision were in effect declared to have been illegal, became necessary.

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With this object a Bill to 'declare and consolidate the law relating to the local extent of the General Regulations and Acts, and the local limits of the jurisdictions of the High Courts and Chief Controlling Revenue Authorities,' which provides for the case of Dehrá Dún amongst others, was introduced into the Council more than a year ago. That measure is of a somewhat complex character, and considerable difficulty and consequent delay in the adjustment of its details have been occasioned thereby.

Meanwhile, the state of things in Dehrá Dún caused by the misinterpretation of the law applicable to that tract of country calls for a more speedy remedy.

The object of the present Bill, therefore, which is to be regarded only as a temporary measure, to be eventually absorbed in the more comprehensive Consolidation Bill above referred to, is to give validity to the operation of the General Regulations and Acts within the Dehrá Dún, retrospectively; and to provide an indemnity for all acts done by those engaged in the local administration of that tract under a misapprehension of the law.

(Signed) F. R. COCKERBLL. Simla, the 17th May 1871.

H. S. CUNNINGHAM,

Officiating Secretary to the Cauncil of the

Governor General for making

Laws and Regulations.