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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 in the Council of the Governor General of India for the purpose of making Laws and Regulations on the 20th August 1896:—

No. 19 of 1896.

A Bill to amend the Indian Post-office Act, 1866.

WHEREAS it is expedient to amend the Indian Post-office Act, 1866; It is hereby enacted as follows:

XXV of
1866.

1. After section 66 of the said Act (as amended by section 7 of Act III of 1895) the following section shall be added, namely:

“67. When a letter, parcel or other article on which any duty of customs is payable, has been received by post from any place beyond the limits of British India and such duty has been paid by the postal authorities at any Customs-port or elsewhere, the amount of such duty shall be recoverable in the same manner as postage under this Act.”

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS.

As the officers of the Customs Department cannot release articles arriving from abroad without realization of any customs-duty due upon them, it is the practice of the Post-office to pay the customs-duty leviable on articles received with the mails from abroad and to recover the amount as if it were postage from the addressees on delivery. The postal authorities have, however, no legal authority to enforce such recovery, and cases have occurred in which the addressees, though taking delivery of the articles, have refused to pay the charge. This is a state of things which clearly ought not to be allowed to continue, and the object of this Bill is to add to the Indian Post-office Act (XIV of 1866) a provision which has become necessary by reason of the Post-office undertaking a class of business which was not contemplated at the date of the Act in question.

The 19th August 1896.

(Signed) J. WESTLAND.

S. HARVEY JAMES,
Secretary to the Government of India.