

THE



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

PART V.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT, BOMBAY.

The following Extract from the Proceedings of the Governor of Bombay in the Legislative Department is published for general information:—

Abstract of the Proceedings of the Council of the Governor of Bombay, assembled for the purpose of making Laws and Regulations, under the provisions of "THE INDIAN COUNCILS ACT, 1861."

The Council met at Bombay on Tuesday the 19th January 1892, at 3-30 P.M.

PRESENT.

His Excellency the Right Honourable Lord HARRIS, G.C.I.E., Governor of Bombay,
Presiding.

The Honourable Sir R. WEST, K.C.I.E.

The Honourable Sir CHARLES PRITCHARD, K.C.I.E., C.S.I.

The Honourable the ADVOCATE GENERAL.

The Honourable RAO BAHÁDUR MAHADEO GOVIND RANADE, M.A., LL.B., C.I.E.

The Honourable MR. JAVERILAL UMASHANKAR YAJNIK.

The Honourable MR. L. R. W. FORREST.

The Honourable MR. FAZULBHOY VISRAM.

His Excellency the PRESIDENT :—I think it will accord with the feelings of my Honourable colleagues, if, after the few remarks I have to offer, instead of proceeding to the business of the day, I adjourn this meeting of Council to Friday next, that is, until after the day fixed for the funeral of His Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence. Gentlemen, the pity of the calamity that has befallen the Empire must have struck every heart that is capable of feelings of sorrow and of sympathy. There is no such leveller as Death, the palace and the cottage are alike open to the terrible king, but terrible though he be, there is an attribute of loving kindness attendant in his train, common only to occasions of supreme joy and of extreme sorrow. The high position of the Royal family does not even

in ordinary times place them beyond the need of that loving friendship which is the truest comfort attainable here below; but at moments of great joy or of sorrow they especially find that they are indissolubly bound up with the hopes and fears, the happiness and the misery, of the teeming millions of a mighty Empire. But a few weeks since—such short weeks they seem to us—our highest hopes were realized, our happiness was complete in that the future heir to the Crown of Great Britain was to take as his wife an English Princess, and now scarcely before the smiles of congratulation had faded from our lips, our hopes have been shattered and our happiness turned to the deepest grief. I venture to say that wherever the joyful news penetrated, be it to palace or to cottage, and wherever has followed so suddenly, all with such calamitous suddenness, this saddest news, there both amongst the lowly as well as the highly born have been struck by those notes of tender sympathy, of condolence, of loving kindness, which are merciful attendants on bereavement, which are the best and most fitting offerings that can be made to the bereaved and which, when given informally, spontaneously and from the heart, should bring some comfort to those most sorely stricken. Gentlemen, the Royal family of Great Britain, from Her Most Gracious Majesty downwards, have identified themselves with the peoples of this Empire in many ways; our sorrows have aroused their sympathies, our successes have won their congratulations; and now in the moment of their great grief the heart of the Empire responds, takes to itself its humble share of their grief, and endeavours by a common acclaim of sympathy to assuage it. Gentlemen, I say the pity of this calamity is patent to us all. We had been watching for years, and with approval, the wise system of education which had been adopted for their sons by the Prince and Princess of Wales. In the great schools of the University, of the Navy, of the Army and of travel, the Duke of Clarence has been and was still receiving that training which is most necessary for one who might some day ascend the throne of an Empire which is struggling hard to cultivate the seeds of a modern education which it has sown in so many lands; whose ships carry the great bulk of the sea-going exchanges of the world, and whose Navy is the strongest in the world; whose Army, small though it may appear, has probably more experience of active warfare than that of any European nation; and the stretch of whose domain is so wide, that nothing but travel through its lands and amongst its peoples can convey even a remote idea of its vastness and complexity, and the difficulties of its administration. We had watched this course of training with approval; and it, together with what we knew of the personal qualities of the Duke of Clarence, justified us in believing that when, at some future day, long distant we hoped, he was called to the throne, he would ascend it conscious of the magnificence of his inheritance, able to realize its grave responsibilities, and capable of filling adequately a post so anxious. More than that, we had hoped, and with good reason, that his domestic life would be softened and assisted by the presence of a gentle lady, who has already acquainted herself in no small degree with the want and the sadness that render so gloomy many corners of the busy heart of the Empire, and we had good right to feel satisfied that her influence combined with his Royal Highness' personal amiability would have led him in the same path as that followed by his father and grandfather, having for its benevolent object the solution of some of those most difficult and perplexing social problems which divide the poor from the rich. Gentlemen, the bright hopes which we had encouraged for a happy future for the Duke of Clarence and the Princess May have been dashed to the ground; and there is nought left us but to pray that that higher consolation which it is in the power of the Almighty alone to pour upon stricken hearts, may be accorded to Her Majesty and the Royal family, and to trust that the common note of mundane sympathy, which has rung out without a single discord, may bring some measure of comfort to them. Actuated by these feelings, gentlemen, I could not distinguish myself from a sorrow which I believe I share in common with everyone in this Presidency, and I, therefore, took a liberty, in which I believe I was justified in uniting myself with the peoples of the Presidency of Bombay, and I telegraphed to the Secretary of State, begging him to convey from all classes in this Presidency our most respectful sympathy to Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales and the Royal family, and also with our humble duty to Her Majesty the Queen-Empress.

The Honourable Mr. JAVERLAL UMIASHANKAR YAJNIK said:—Your Excellency,—Words fail to express adequately the deep sorrow which has been felt by the varied communities which make up the population of this great city, on account of the sudden and untimely death of the Duke of Clarence and Avondale; but it seems to me that if anything should tend to assuage the grief of Her Gracious Majesty and the Royal Family in the calamity

which has overtaken them at this moment, it is the widespread, unmistakeable, and heartfelt manifestations of the one common feeling of melancholy sorrow among every race and creed in this country. The memory of the Prince's visit to India, two years ago, is still fresh among the people, and it enhances this grief. It was in course of that visit that all sections of the people had opportunities of observing the Prince and of estimating at its true worth that nobility and simplicity of character, which constitutes real greatness in Royalty. This fact, joined to the circumstance that the Prince was heir to a great name and a mighty Empire, excited great hopes about him here. That a promising career should be cut off at the very period when the Prince was on the threshold of married life or *Grahashtashram*, is what intensifies the sorrow and excites the loyal sympathies of people of all races and creeds in India. Let us hope that grief shared with grief may lessen in intensity and afford some consolation to Her Majesty the Queen-Empress and the Royal Family, and that Providence give them strength and courage to bear the shock caused by the overwhelming grief into which they have been thrown. I beg to offer the heartfelt sympathy of the whole Hindu community on this calamitous occasion.

The Honourable Mr. FAZULBHOY VISRAM said :—Your Excellency,—I need scarcely say that I concur in what has so pathetically and eloquently fallen from your Lordship on this mournful occasion. I am sure the words used by you, Sir, correctly represent the feelings not only of all present here to-day, but also those of every one throughout the length and breadth of the Empire. Two years ago when His Royal Highness Prince Albert Victor was here, and some of us had the privilege at the hands of your distinguished predecessor Lord Reay to make his acquaintance, no one, of course, ever dreamed that that young and hopeful life would so soon be no more. But death is as inscrutable as it is indiscriminating and cruel, and although it must come to all of us sooner or later, and as, I believe, your Lordship once expressed it elsewhere, we must all be ever prepared for it, its work sometimes is more terrible than on other occasions, as happens to be the case in the present sad instance. However, it is to be hoped that the manifestations of sympathy that are pouring in upon Her Majesty and Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales from all parts of the world, will tend in some measure to mitigate the great grief in which they have been plunged for some days past.

The Honourable RAO BAHÁDUR MAHADEO GOVIND RANADE said :—I join with a heavy heart my friends the Honourable Messrs. Yajnik and Fazulbhoj in expressing on behalf of the native community, how deeply the feelings of our people have been touched with overwhelming grief ever since the sad announcement of the death of His Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence and Avondale was made in the local papers. Our people mourn the loss of one whom they had only a year ago been taught to look up to as a possible ruler in God's own far distant time over this great dominion. They mourn his loss because they feel that his loss must weigh down with sorrow Her Majesty the Queen-Empress and Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales and other members of the Royal family. A mother's sorrow, a father's grief, a wife's desolation, these afflictions appeal at once to the heart of our people, because, owing to our family system, these domestic and sacred feelings constitute all that is dear to us. Ever since the direct assumption of the administration of India by Her Majesty the Queen-Empress the people have learnt to feel with the sorrow of the Royal family as though it were their own. The Queen is not only the Empress of India, but she is revered and loved as the Mother, and she herself has always looked upon her Indian subjects as her loving children. This sacred affection moves the nation, and fills the country with one universal sorrow, in that it should have pleased Providence thus to send this great trial on us all. The expressions of condolence and sympathy from all parts of the Empire will not have power to remove the heavy weight of affliction, but they will help us all to submit to it with resignation.

The Council then adjourned till Friday the 22nd, at 3-30 p.m.

By order of His Excellency the Right Honourable the Governor in Council,

C. H. A. HILL,

Secretary to the Council of the Governor of Bombay
for making Laws and Regulations only.