

THE



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PART VI.

BILLS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

HOME DEPARTMENT (Legislative).

The following Bill was introduced into the Council of the Governor General of India for the purpose of making Laws and Regulations on the 21st February 1868, and was referred to a Select Committee with instructions to make their report thereon in a month:—

Bill No. 7 of 1868.

A Bill to provide for the collection of fees by means of stamps in the High Courts at the Presidency Towns.

WHEREAS it is expedient to amend the law relating to the collection of fees in the High Courts of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal, Madras, and Bombay; it is hereby enacted as follows:—

1. This Act may be called "The High Courts Fees' Act, 1868."

2. Sections one, three, and four of Act No. XX. of 1862 (to provide for the levy of Fees and Stamp Duties in the High Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal; and to suspend the operation of certain sections of Act VIII. of 1859 in the said High Court) are hereby repealed.

3. All fees for the time being chargeable in the High Courts of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal, Madras, and Bombay, and

their several offices, shall be collected by stamps from such date, in the said High Court of Judicature at Fort William, as the Governor General of India in Council shall notify in the *Gazette of India*, and from such date, in each of the said other High Courts, as the Local Government shall notify in the local official *Gazette*.

4. All or any stamps to be used under this Act shall be impressed or adhesive as the Local Government may from time to time direct.

5. The Local Government, with the concurrence of the Chief Justice of the High Court, may, from time to time, make general rules to be made by Local Government. for regulating the use of stamps under this Act, and particularly for prescribing the application thereof to documents from time to time in use or required to be used for the purposes of such stamps, and for insuring the proper cancellation of adhesive stamps, and keeping accounts of all stamps used in the High Court under this Act.

6. No document which ought to bear a stamp under this Act shall be of any validity unless and until it is properly stamped; but if any such document is, through mistake or inadvertence, received, filed, or used, without being properly stamped, a Judge of the High Court may, if he thinks fit, order that the same be stamped as in such order may be directed, and on such document being stamped accordingly, the