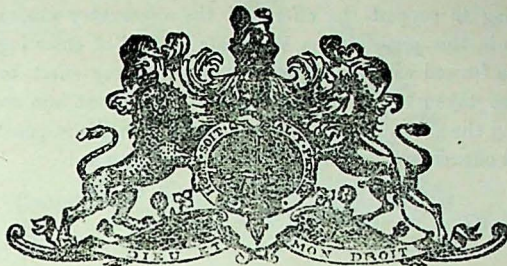


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Separate paging is given to this Part, in order that it may be filed as a separate compilation.

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 21st December 1900:—

No. 9 of 1900.

A Bill further to amend the Indian Forest Act, 1878.

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the Indian Forest Act, 1878; It is hereby enacted as follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Indian Short title and com- Forest (Amendment) Act, mencement, 1901; and

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. To section 32 of the Indian Forest Act, 1878, Addition to section 32, the following clause shall be added namely:—

“Whenever fire is caused wilfully or by gross negligence in a protected forest, the Local Government may (notwithstanding that any penalty has been inflicted under this section) direct that in such forest or any portion thereof the exercise of all rights of pasture or to forest-produce shall be suspended for such period as it thinks fit.”

3. In Section 33 of the said Act, after the words and figures “except as regards any portion of a forest closed under Section 29” the words and figures “or any rights the exercise of which has been suspended under Section 32” shall be inserted.

4. From Section 78 of the said Act the words “demanding his aid” shall be omitted.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS.

THE necessity for the Bill now proposed was suggested by a representation from the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab with a view to the enforcement of communal responsibility in cases of wilful or grossly negligent incendiarism in forests. Upon reference to local authorities, the Government of India are of opinion that the principle of actually fining the neighbouring communities, while well adapted to regulations specially prescribed for some of the less advanced portions of the country, would not be suited to a measure of more general application. There appears, however, to be a preponderance of opinion in favour of extending to “protected” areas the power, already given by the concluding paragraph of section 25 of

the Indian Forest Act, 1878, with regard to "reserves," to suspend the exercise of the rights abused and so to stimulate public feeling to support the efforts of the conservancy-administration. The Governor General in Council concurs in this proposal as a legitimate method of enforcing communal obligations; and the present Bill has been framed with the object of giving statutory effect to this decision. At the same time, occasion has been taken to introduce a cognate amendment into section 78 with a view to casting upon persons enjoying the advantages of forest-administration the responsibility for giving assistance in suppressing fires and offences without waiting for a formal demand.

(Signed) C. M. RIVAZ.

The 13th December 1900.

J. M. MACPHERSON,
Secretary to the Government of India.