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Part II.-Legal and Judicial.

Separate paging is given to each Part in order that it may be filed separately.

DRAFT ORDINANCES.

MINUTE.

The following Draft of a proposed Ordinance is published for general information :----

An Ordinance to increase the Customs Duty on the importation of Salt.

HEREAS it is expedient that the Customs duty on the

Preamble.

Short title.

Increase of duty on salt. VV importation of salt into Ceylon should be increased from two rupees and thirteen cents the hundredweight to three rupees the hundredweight: Be it (herefore enacted by the Governor of Ceylon, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof, as follows:

1 This Ordinance may be cited as "The Customs Duties (Salt) Amendment Ordinance, 1909," and this Ordinance, the Ordinance No. 17 of 1869, and the Ordinances amending the same shall be read and construed together, and may be cited collectively as "The Customs Ordinances, 1869 to 1909."

2 In the schedule which by "The Customs Duties Amendment Ordinance, 1908," was enacted as schedule B to Ordinance No. 17 of 1869, the words and figures "Salt, per cwt., Rs. 3" shall be substituted for the words and figures "Salt, per cwt., Rs. 2·13."

By His Excellency's command,

HUGH CLIFFORD, Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Colombo, February 22, 1909.

Statement of Objects and Reasons.

THE Draft Ordinance increases the duty on the importation of salt from Rs. 2.13 to Rs. 3 per cwt

2. The present rate of duty was fixed at a time when salt was sold by Government at Rs. 2.24 per cwt. Salt is now sold by Government at Puttalam for Rs. 3.25 per cwt., and for Rs. 3 per cwt. at other salt-producing centres.

3. The difference between the present import duty and the sale price offers an opportunity for outside competition with the Government monopoly, which it is the object of the Draft Ordinance to prevent.

Attorney-General's Chambers, Colombo, February 22, 1909. ALFRED G. LASCELLES, Attorney-General.