

LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

(The Military Lunatics Act, 1877)

An Act to facilitate the admission of Military Lunatics into Asylums. ACT NO. XI. OF 1877.

RANGOON, SATURDAY, JULY 7TH, 1877.

THE following Act of the Governor-General of India in Council received the assent of His Excellency the Governor-General on the Thirty-first May 1877, and is hereby promulgated for general information:-

An Act to facilitate the admission of Military Lunatics into Asylums.

Preamble.

WHEREAS it is expedient to facilitate the admission of European Military Lunatics into asylums, and to amend the law now in force with regard to the admission thereto of Native Military Lunatics; It is hereby enacted as follows:-

Short title.

1. This Act may be called the “**Military Lunatics Act, 1877:**”

Local extent.

It extends to the whole of British India, and, so far as regards subjects of Her Majesty, to the dominions of Native Princes and States in India in alliance with Her Majesty;

Commencement.

And it shall come into force on the passing thereof.

Repeal of Act XXI. of 1872.

2. Act XXI. of 1872 (to facilitate the admission of Native Military Lunatics into Asylums) shall be repealed.

Procedure in respect of European officer or soldier declared a lunatic.

3. Whenever any European officer, Warrant officer, Non-commissioned officer, soldier or other person subject to the provisions of the Act for punishing Mutiny and Desertion and for the better payment of the Army and their quarters for the time being in force has been declared a lunatic, in accordance with the provisions of the military regulations of the Presidency to which he belongs, and has been ordered to be forwarded to any one of the Presidency towns, and it appears to one of the Surgeons-General, either of the British Forces or of the Indian Medical Service, according to the Presidency and the service to which the said lunatic belongs, that it is inexpedient that he should be removed to England, or that he should be detained in military custody until he can be conveniently sent to England, such Surgeon-General may, if he think fit, make an order under his hand for the reception of the said lunatic into the Lunatic Asylum at Bhawanipur, Madras or Bombay, or such other Lunatic Asylum as may be duly authorized for the purpose by the Governor-General in Council;

and the officer in charge of such Asylum shall receive the lunatic in the asylum, and detain him therein until he is discharged therefrom, in accordance with the local military regulations in force for the time being, or until the Surgeon-General applies for his transfer to the military authorities in view to his removal to England.

Report in case of Native officer or soldier appearing to be insane.

4. Whenever any Native officer, Non-commissioned officer or soldier appears to be insane, the officer commanding the regiment or detachment to which he belongs shall report the case to the general officer commanding the division or district or force in which such regiment or detachment is serving.

Examination of Native by committee.

5. Such general officer shall thereupon cause the said Native to be examined by a committee composed of at least two medical officers, or (if this be impracticable) by a regimental committee comprising the officer in command of the wing or squadron to which the Native belongs and the medical officer in charge of the corps or detachment of which such wing or squadron forms part.

Procedure on Native being found by committee to be insane.

6. If the said committee or regimental committee (as the case may be) are satisfied that the Native is insane, the officer commanding the division or district or force may, if he think fit, make an order under his hand for the reception of the said Native into a Lunatic Asylum, and shall then send him thither under military escort; and the officer in charge of such asylum shall receive the Native into the asylum and detain him therein until he is discharged therefrom in accordance with the local military regulations in force for the time being.

Procedure for discharge of European or Native military lunatic.

7. Whenever it appears to the officer in charge of a Lunatic Asylum that the discharge of a military lunatic, whether European or Native, is necessary, either on account of his recovery, or for any other purpose, such person shall be brought before the visitors of the asylum, and on the visitors recording their opinion that the discharge should be made, the general officer commanding the division, district, or force, or other officer authorized to order the admission of military lunatics into asylums, shall forthwith direct him to be discharged, and such discharge shall take place in accordance with the local military regulations in force for the time being.

Payment of expenses of lunatic.

8. The Paymaster of the military circle within which any such asylum is situate shall pay to the officer in charge of such asylum the expense of the lodging, maintenance, clothing and medicine of every lunatic, whether European or Native, received and detained under this Act.

Legalization of past receptions in asylum.

9. All military lunatics heretofore received into Lunatic Asylums shall be deemed to have been so received in accordance with law.

A. PHILLIPS,
Secretary to the Government of India.