The Bombay Hereditary Offices Act, 1874

Act 3 of 1874

Keyword(s):
Watan Property, Hereditary Office, Watandar, Family, Head of a Family, Representative Watandar, Officiator, Guardian

Amendment appended: 5 of 1886
THE BOMBAY HEREDITARY OFFICES ACT, 1874.

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BOMBAY ACT No. III OF 1874.\(^1\)

[THE BOMBAY HEREDITARY OFFICES ACT, 1874.]

[5th February 1875]

Repealed in part, by Act 12 of 1876;
" " " by Bom. 3 of 1886.
" " " and amended by—
Act 16 of 1895;
Bom. 5 of 1886;
" 3 of 1910.

Repealed in part, amended and supplemented (locally), by—
Bom. 6 of 1877.

Amended by Bom. 3 of 1915;
" " 11 of 1925;
" " 11 of 1930;
" " 15 of 1931;
" " 12 of 1932.

Adapted and modified by the Adaptation of Indian Laws Order in Council.
" " by the Adaptation of Laws Order, 1950.

Amended by Bom. 28 of 1950.
Amended by Bom. 8 of 1958.

An Act to amend the Law relating to Hereditary Offices.

WHEREAS it is expedient to declare and amend the law relating to Hereditary Preambles.
Offices; It is hereby enacted as follows:—

PART I.

PRELIMINARY.

1. This Act may be called the Bombay Hereditary Offices Act.

It extends to the Regulation Districts and to all villages therein, whether alienated
or otherwise, so far as its provisions shall not conflict with the terms, on which any
such alienated village may have been secured to the holder thereof.

Nothing in this Act shall affect the powers of [The [State] Government] to
deal with any water or parts of watans, or with the profits thereof respectively
under \(^4\) Act No. XI of 1852, or Bombay Acts Nos. II and VII of 1861, or any other
law at present in force with respect thereto.

\(^1\) For Statement of Objects and Reasons, see Bombay Government Gazette, 1873, Pt. V., and pp. 207
and 309, for Proceedings in Council, see ibid., pp. 429, 443 and 463, ibid., 1874, pp. 129, 148, 166 and
162.

\(^2\) As to the application of Bom. 3 of 1874 as amended by Bom. 5 of 1886, to Matudara in the districts
of Ahmedabad, Kaira, Broach and Surat, and in villages in the Dahan Mahaal District to which Bom.
6 of 1897, supra, is extended—see the Matudara Act, 1897 (Bom. 6 of 1897), ss. 1 and 2, infra.

\(^3\) Subject to modifications and repeals, Bom. 6 of 1887 is to be read as one with this Act—see Bom.
6 of 1887, ss. 4. For further modifications, see ss. 5 et seq. of the latter Act.

\(^4\) The words "the Provincial Government" were substituted for the word "Government" by
the Adaptation of Indian Laws Order in Council.

\(^5\) This word was substituted for the word "Provincial" by the Adaptation of Laws Order, 1950.

\(^6\) The Bombay Rent-free Estates Act, 1892.

3. Parts VI, VII, VIII and IX shall not apply to hereditary offices of lower degree than Patel or Kulkarni, nor to watanas appertaining to such offices.

4. In this Act, unless there be something repugnant in the subject or context—

"Watan property" means the moveable or immovable property held, acquired, or assigned for providing remuneration for the performance of the duty appertaining to an hereditary office. It includes a right to levy customary fees or perquisites, in money or in kind, whether at fixed times or otherwise.

It includes cash payments in addition to the original watan property made voluntarily by the Government and subject periodically to modification or withdrawal.

"Hereditary Office" means every office held hereditarily for the performance of duties connected with the administration or collection of the public revenue or with the police, or with the settlement of boundaries, or other matters of civil administration. The expression includes such office even where the services originally appertaining to it have ceased to be demanded.

The watan property, if any, and the hereditary office and the rights and privileges attached to them together constitute the watan.

"Watander" means a person having an hereditary interest in a watan. It includes a person holding watan property acquired by him before the introduction of the British Government into the locality of the watan, or legally acquired subsequent to such introduction, and a person holding such property from him by inheritance. It includes a person adopted by an owner of a watan or part of a watan, subject to the conditions specified in sections 33 to 35.

"Family" includes each of the branches of the family descended from an original watander: Provided that no sub-division shall be recognised except as hereinafter provided in section 26.

"Head of a family" includes the chief representative of each branch of a family.

"Representative watander" means a watander registered by the Collector under section 25 as having a right to perform the duties of an hereditary office.

"Officer" means the person actually performing the duties of an hereditary office for the time being, whether he be a representative watander or a deputy or a substitute appointed under any of the provisions of this Act.

"Guardian" means a relation or other person to whom the care, nurture, or custody of any child falls by natural right or recognized usage, or who has accepted or assumed directly or indirectly the care, nurture, or custody of any child, or in case of a dispute the holder of a certificate of guardianship from a competent court.

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1. The words "of the Act" were repealed by the Bombay General Clauses Act, 1886 (Bomb. 3 of 1886), Schedule B. This Schedule has been printed as an Appendix to the Bombay General Clauses Act, 1964 (Bomb. I of 1964).

2. The words "the Provincial Government" were substituted for the word "Government" by the Adaptation of Indian Laws Order in Council.

3. This word was substituted for the word "Provincial" by the Adaptation of Laws Order, 1960.

4. These words were repealed by the Bombay General Clauses Act, 1886 (Bomb. 2 of 1886), and re-inserted by the Amending Act, 1895 (16 of 1895).
PART II.

WATAN PROPERTY AND PROFITS THEREOF.

15. (1) Without the sanction of the State Government, or in the case of a mortgage, charge, alienation, or lease of not more than thirty years, of the Commissioner it shall not be competent—

(a) to a watanar to mortgage, charge, alienate or lease, for a period beyond the term of his natural life, any watan, or any part thereof, or any interest therein, to or for the benefit of any person who is not a watanar of the same watan;

(b) to a representative watanar to mortgage, charge, lease or alienate any right with which he is invested, as such, under this Act.

(2) In the case of any watan in respect of which a service commutation settlement has been effected, either under section 15 or before that section came into force, clause (a) of this section shall apply to such watan, unless the right of alienating the watan without the sanction of the Commissioner is conferred upon the watanars by the terms of such settlement or has been acquired by them under the said terms.

6. (1) In any case in which it shall appear to the Collector that the institution of legal proceedings is requisite or desirable with respect to any watan, or the estate, property, funds or affairs thereof, the Collector shall certify such case in writing under his hand to the Commissioner, together with such statements and particulars as in his opinion may be requisite or proper for the explanation of such case, and thereupon the Commissioner, if upon a watan: considered the circumstances shall authorize the Collector to institute and prosecute in the name of the Collector such legal proceedings as may appear requisite or proper for the protection of the watan, its estate, property, funds or affairs, by suit or petition in any Civil Court having jurisdiction in the matter. The cost of such proceedings, unless recovered from the opposite party, shall be paid out of the funds of the watan.

(2) The Collector may, if he thinks fit, proceed as provided in sections 8, 9, 10, 11 or 13, in lieu of instituting or prosecuting legal proceedings under this section.

7. Watan property assigned under section 23 as remuneration of an officer, and the profits of watan property so assigned, shall not be alienated or assigned to any person whatever without the sanction of the State Government.

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1 Section 5 was substituted by s. 1, Bom. 5 of 1886. As to postponement of female members and as to interest of widow see ibid., s. 2.
3 The words "the Provincial Government" were substituted for the word "Government" by the Adaptation of Indian Laws in Council.
5 This word was substituted for the word "Provincial" by the Adaptation of Laws Order, 1970.
6 These words were inserted by Bom. 8 of 1958, s. 3, Schedule.
8 The word "Revenue" was replaced by the Bombay General Clauses Act, 1886 (Bom. 3 of 1886), Schedule B. The Schedule has been printed as an Appendix to the Bombay General Clauses Act, 1886 (Bom. 3 of 1886).
10 This word was substituted for the words "State Government" by Bom. 8 of 1958, s. 3, Schedule.
12 These words were substituted for the words "State Government", ibid.
14 The words "of this Act" were repealed by the Bombay General Clauses Act, 1886 (Bom. 3 of 1886).
8. Whenever any watan, or any part thereof, or any of the profits thereof, whether assigned as remuneration of an officier or not, has or have before the date of this Act coming into force passed by virtue of, or in execution of, a decree or order of any Court into the ownership or beneficial possession of any person other than the officier for the time being, or has or have before such date passed otherwise than by virtue of, or in execution of, a decree or order of any Court into the ownership or beneficial possession of a watanadar other than such officier; or

when any watan, or part or profits thereof, not being assigned as remuneration of an officier has, after the date of this Act coming into force, passed by virtue of, or in execution of, a decree or order of any Court or otherwise, into the ownership or beneficial possession of a watanadar other than such officier;

such watan, or any part thereof, or any of the profits thereof, shall be liable under the orders of the Collector to contribution for the remuneration of such officier in like manner and to the like extent as if no such decree had been passed or no such transfer had taken place.

9. (1) Whenever any watan or any part thereof, or any of the profits thereof, whether assigned as remuneration of an officier or not, has or have, before the date of this Act coming into force, passed otherwise than by virtue of, or in execution of, a decree or order of any British Court and without the consent of the Collector and transfer of ownership in the Revenue records, into the ownership or beneficial possession of any person not a watanadar of the same watan, the Collector may, after recording his reasons in writing, declare such alienation to be null and void, and order that such watan, or any part thereof, or any of the profits thereof, shall from the date of such order belong to the watanadar previously entitled thereto, and may recover and pay to such watanadar any profits thereof accordingly.

(2) If such part of a watan be land, it shall be lawful for the Collector, instead of transferring the possession of the land, to demand and recover the full rent ordinarily paid by tenants of land of similar description in the same locality, and the amount so recovered shall be considered as the profits. The decision of the Collector as to what is the full rent shall be final.

10. When it shall appear to the Collector that by virtue of, or in execution of, a decree or order of any Court any watan or any part thereof, or any of the profits thereof, recorded as such in the Revenue records or registered under this Act, and assigned under section 23 as remuneration of an officier, has or have, after the date of this Act coming into force, passed or may pass without the sanction of the Government into the ownership or beneficial possession of any person other than the officier for the time being; or that any such watan, or any part thereof, or any of the profits thereof, not so assigned has or have so passed or may pass into the ownership or beneficial possession of any person not a watanadar of the same watan, the Court

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1 This word was substituted for the word "British Court" by the Adaptation of Laws Act, 1950.
2 The words "of this Act" were repealed by the General Clauses Act, 1892 (Bom. 3 of 1892), Schedule B. This Schedule has been printed at an Appendix to the Bombay General Clauses Act, 1892 (Bom. 3 of 1892).
3 These words were inserted by the Bombay General Clauses Act, 1892 (Bom. 3 of 1892), and re-inserted by the Amending Act, 1895 (18 of 1895).
4 The words "the Provincial Government" were substituted for the word "Government" by the Adaptation of Indian Laws Act in Council.
5 This word was substituted for the word "Provincial" by the Adaptation of Laws Act, 1950.
6 These words were inserted by the Bombay Hereditary Offices (Amendment) Act, 1886 (Bom. 5 of 1886).
shall, on receipt of a certificate under the hand and seal of the Collector, stating that the property to which the decree or order relates is a watan or part of a watan, or that such property constitutes the profits or part of the profits of a watan, or is assigned as the remuneration of an officiator, and is therefore inalienable, remove any attachment or other process then pending against the said watan, or any part thereof, or any of the profits thereof, and set aside any sale or order of sale or transfer thereof, and shall cancel the decree or order, complained of so far as it concerns the said watan, or any part thereof or any of the profits thereof.

11. When any alienation of the nature described in section 10 shall Collector take place otherwise than by virtue of, or in execution of a decree or order of any Court, the Collector shall, after recording his reasons in writing, declare such alienation to be null and void.

11A. The Collector shall summarily resume possession of all property to which an order of a Court passed on receipt of his certificate under section 10, or his own declaration under section 11, relates or assess it at the rate prescribed in clause 2 of section 9, as he may think fit, and the said property shall thenceforward revert to the watan.

12. It shall be lawful for the Collector whenever it may be necessary, in carrying out the provisions of sections 8, 9 and 11 to summarily evict any person wrongly in possession of any land, or levy any rent due by any person in the manner that may be prescribed by any law for the time being in force for the levy of a revenue demand.

13. Watan property assigned as remuneration of an officiator under section 23 and the profits of such watan property are not liable to process of any Civil Court.

On receipt of a certificate under the hand and seal of a Collector to the effect that certain property designated therein is watan property so assigned, the Court shall remove any attachment or other process placed on, or set aside any sale of, or affecting, such property or the profits thereof.

14. (2) It shall be lawful for a Collector for reasons to be stated in writing, to combine two or more watans held for the performance of similar services in the same village or parts of the same village.


1 The words “of this Act” were repealed by the General Clauses Act, 1886 (Bom. 3 of 1886), Schedule B. This Schedule has been printed as an Appendix to the Bombay General Clauses Act, 1904 (Bom. 1 of 1904).

2 This word was substituted for the words “British Court” by the Adaptation of Laws Order, 1890.

3 The words “and shall either summarily resume possession of such property or assess it at the rate prescribed in section 9, clause 2, of this Act, as he may think fit, and it shall thenceforward revert to the watan” were repealed by s. 4, Bom. 5 of 1886.

4 S. 11A was inserted by Bom. 5 of 1886.
PART III.

COMMUTATION OF WATANS.

15. (1) The Collector may, with the consent of the holder of a watan, given in writing, relieve him and his heirs and successors in perpetuity of their liability to perform service upon such conditions, whether consistent with the provisions of this Act or not, as may be agreed upon by the Collector and such holder.

(2) [Validation of prior settlements.] Rep. Act XVI of 1895.

(3) Every settlement made or confirmed under this section shall be binding upon both [the "[State] Government] and the holder of the watan and his heirs and successors.

(4) The word "holder" for the purposes of this section includes any sole owner or the whole number of joint owners or any person dealt with as representative of the persons beneficially interested or entered as such in the Government records at the time of the settlement.

16. Nothing in the last preceding section shall be held to affect any rights of individuals or village communities to exact such service as may be customary from village servants whose watans were originally granted or are now held for the performance of such service, but who have been relieved by [the "[State] Government] of liability to perform such service to the State.

17. When all or any of the property of a watan consist of payments of whatever description, whether in money or kind, made by Jahgirdars, Inamders, Mehsusi Chiefs, or others owning or occupying immovable property wholly or partially free from assessment, the Collector may from time to time determine the amount of such payments recoverable; provided that no larger demand shall be made than one equivalent to the amount that would be payable under the scale in force for the time being in the case of Government villages.

18. When all or any of the property of a village watan of lower degree than that of Patel or Kulkarni consists of a right to levy in money or kind directly from individuals, it shall be lawful for the Collector, on the application of any person interested, to cause the nature and extent of such right and of the duties to be performed, and the persons, families, or classes liable to make payment and to perform the duties, to be defined in writing by a panchayat of five persons, whereof two shall be appointed by the villagers, two by the watandars, and one, who shall be sar-panch by the Collector. The decision shall be in accordance with the opinion of the majority of the panchayat, provided that in case the villagers or the watandars fail to nominate members within seven days, the Collector shall appoint such members as may be required to constitute a panchayat of five:

Provided also that, in case the panchayat do not come to a decision within seven days from the appointment of the sar-panch, the Collector may himself pass a decision.

The decision of the panchayat or of the Collector, as above provided, shall be final and binding on all persons or classes whose rights, duties or liabilities have been submitted to such decision.

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1 The words 'the Provincial Government' were substituted for the word "Government" by the Adaptation of Indian Laws Order in Council.

2 The word was substituted for the word 'Provincial' by the Adaptation of Laws Order, 1950.
19. Whenever, on failure of the panchayat to come to a decision, the Collector, acting under the last preceding section, passes a decision, and it appears that the profits of the watan or part thereof are of fluctuating amount, or are payable in kind, it shall be lawful for the Collector to determine the amount payable and to decide whether the payment shall be made in kind or money.

20. Any settlement of the nature described in section 17, 18 or 19 made before the date of this Act coming into force, by a Collector or other officer duly authorised by the [State Government] shall have the same force as if made under this Act.

21. Settlements of the nature described in sections 17, 18 and 19 made after this Act comes into force, shall be made for such periods as the Government may from time to time direct.

PART IV.
CREATION AND LAPSE OF WATANS.

22. When no watan exists, it shall be lawful for the [State Government] to create one, and in so doing to assign, subject to such sanction as may be required by any law, for the time being in force, such property vested in the [State Government] as to the [State Government] may seem fit.

Such watan shall be subject to all the provisions of this Act, and the watandars shall exercise the powers and perform the duties conferred and imposed by this Act or any other law for the time being in force.

When a watan, or part of a watan, has lapsed or has been confiscated or otherwise lawfully resumed by the [State Government], or when the right of any particular family to hold a watan does not exist or is not established, it shall be lawful for the [State Government], subject to the sanction mentioned in the first clause of this section, to assign such watan, or part of a watan, to such person or persons as to the [State Government] may seem fit.

1. The words "of this Act" were repealed by the Bombay General Clauses Act, 1909 (Bom. 1 of 1909).
2. The words "the Provincial Government" were substituted by the Act of 1934 (Bom. 1 of 1934).
3. The word "of Government" was substituted for the word "Government" by the Act of Government in Council.
4. The word "Provincial Government" was substituted by the Act of Government in Council.
5. The words "of the Governor General in Council" were omitted by the Act of Government in Council.
6. The words "property vested in the Crown for the purposes of the Province" were substituted by the Act of Government in Council.
7. The words "the Crown for the purposes of the Province" were substituted by the Act of Government in Council.
PART V.

REMUNERATION OF OFFICIATORS.

23. Subject to the provisions of this Act and of any other law for the time being in force regarding Service Inams, Cash allowances and Pensions, it shall be the duty of the Collector to fix the annual emoluments of officiators appointed under the provisions of this Act, and to direct the payment thereof to the officiators for the time being.

It shall be lawful for the Collector for this purpose to assign watan property, or the profits thereof, towards the emoluments of officiators. The existing assignments shall, until altered by competent authority, be taken to have been made under this section. With the sanction of [the [State] Government] the Collector may, as occasion arises, alter the assignment and may increase or diminish it in value, such increase or diminution being made rateably among the holders in proportion to the profit derived by such holders respectively from the watan.

PART VI.

REPRESENTATIVE WATANDARS.

24. The duties appertaining to any hereditary office shall be performed by the representative watandars or by deputies or substitutes as hereinafter provided, and by no other persons.

25. It shall be the duty of the Collector to determine, as hereinafter provided, the custom of the watan as to service and what persons shall be recognized as representative watandars for the purpose of this Act, and to register their names.

26. In determining what heads of families shall be recognized as representative watandars and what is the custom of the watan as to service, the Collector shall inquire into and take into consideration the practice heretofore observed from the earliest period for which there are records or other evidence available provided that he shall not be bound to recognize appointments or sub-divisions which have been made subsequently to the introduction of Act No. XI of 1843, and which he considers to be contrary to the custom of the watan.

27. If it shall appear to the Collector that the custom has been for a member of one family only to serve, the Collector shall register the name of the head of such family only as the representative watandar and no other person.

28. If it shall appear to the Collector that the custom has been for a member of each of several families to perform the duties either contemporaneously or for successive periods, the Collector shall register the name of the head of each of such families as representative watandars and no other persons, and where the practice of service and successive periods is proved to exist, he shall decide the order in which the representative watandars shall officiate.

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1 The words "the Provincial Government" were substituted for the words "Government" by the Adaptation of Indian Laws Order in Council.
2 This word was substituted for the word "Provincial" by the Adaptation of Laws Order, 1950.
3 As to the local repeal of ss. 24 to 29 see the Watandars Act, 1887 (Bom. 6 of 1887), ss. 1 and 3.
4 Act 11 of 1843 was repealed by s. 2 of this Act.
29. (1) Where the practice of service in successive periods appears to have existed but is not proved to the satisfaction of the Collector to have existed at the date of the introduction of \(^1\) Act No. XI of 1843, or when the practice of selection by the eldest \(^2\) Collector from several families prevails, he shall determine who is the head of the eldest family descended from the original wadanar and shall register his name as sole representative wadanar.

(2) In cases where such several families are not descended from a common ancestor, the Collector shall register as representative wadandars the heads of such families, and establish the practice of service in successive periods.

30. When the practice of service in successive periods has been introduced under the British rule, in consequence of the reduction in the number of \(^3\) [officiators] or the amalgamation of watanas by \(^4\) [the Provincial Government], the head of each family that formerly officiated shall be separately entered as a representative wadanar.

31. But if in any case described in section 29 \(^5\) the heads of families at any time before the completion of the register prescribed by this Act agree unanimously in writing, or have in writing agreed during the inquiry made in the preparation of the existing registers, as to who are the representative wadandars and as to the order of service, then the register, prescribed in this Act shall be prepared in accordance with such agreement.

32. When watan property or profits have been voluntarily relinquished without abandonment of right of service, such right of service shall be dealt with as if the wadandars were still in receipt of such emoluments.

33. In any case in which, before the coming of this Act into force, any registered representative wadanar or his widow shall have adopted an heir, notice of the same shall, within twelve months from the coming into force of this Act, be given in writing by or on behalf of such adopted heir to the Collector, who shall register the name of such heir accordingly. But if such adoption shall be shown to have been or shall subsequently be set aside by decree of a competent Court, the Collector shall remove such name from the register.

34. In any case in which, after the coming of this Act into force, any registered Notice of representative wadanar or his widow shall adopt an heir, report of such adoption shall within three months be made to the Collector by such wadanar or by his widow, or in case of their death then by such adopted heir, or by the guardian of the latter, and the Collector shall register the name of such heir accordingly. But if such adoption shall subsequently be set aside by decree of a competent Court, the Collector shall remove such name from the register.

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\(^1\) As to the local repeal of ss. 24 to 29, see the Matadars Act, 1887 (Bom. 6 of 1887), ss. 1 and 3.
\(^2\) Act 11 of 1843 was repealed by s. 2 of this Act.
\(^3\) As to the local modification or repeal of ss. 30 and 31, see Bom. 6 of 1887.
\(^4\) This word was substituted for the word "sharees" by s. 6 of the Bombay Hereditary Offices (Amendment) Act, 1886 (Bom. 5 of 1886).
\(^5\) The words "the Provincial Government" were substituted for the word "Government" by the Adaptation of Indian Laws Order in Council.
\(^6\) The words "of this Act" were repealed by the Bombay General Clauses Act, 1886 (Bom. 3 of 1886).
35. In any case in which [notice or] report of such adoption shall not be made as hereinafter directed, the Collector shall not recognize the same without the production of a certificate of heirship, or of a final decree of a competent Court establishing the validity of such adoption.

36. When any representative watanadar dies it shall be the duty of the pesh and village accountant to report the fact to the Collector; and the Collector shall, if satisfied of the truth of the report, and subject to the provisions of section 2 of Bombay Act V of 1886, register the name of the person appearing to be the nearest heir of such watanadar as representative watanadar in place of the watanadar so deceased.

Provided that—

(1) in determining who is the nearest heir for the purposes of this section the rule of lineal primogeniture shall be presumed to prevail in the watan family;

(2) in any case where the deceased watanadar was not a sole representative watanadar, if his nearest heir is not a member of the branch of the family to which the deceased watanadar belonged but is another representative watanadar of the same watan or is a member of the branch of another representative watanadar of the same watan, the share entered in the register against the name of the deceased watanadar shall—

(a) if there is only one remaining representative watanadar of the same watan who is descended from the same original watanadar as the deceased, pass to that remaining representative watanadar,

(b) if there are more than one such remaining representative watanadars, be divided among such remaining representative watanadars in proportion to their shares

and the register shall be corrected accordingly:

(3) *If any person shall by production of a decree] of a competent Court, satisfy the Collector that he is entitled to have his name registered as the nearest heir of such deceased watanadar in preference to the person whose name the Collector has ordered to be registered, *at any time within six years of such order, the Collector shall subject to the foregoing proviso, cause the entry in the register to be amended accordingly.*

37. When a head of a family or representative watanadar is under the age of eighteen years his guardian may subject to the provisions of section 51 *exercise all powers and perform all duties conferred and imposed by this Act.*
PART VII.

PERIODS OF SERVICE.

438. Subject to the provisions of sections 45 and 46, representative watanadars shall be entitled to office for the following periods, respectively (namely):

(a) in cases falling under section 28 or section 29, clause (2), or section 30 or section 31, in which the representative watanadars are entitled to office contemporaneously, and in cases falling under section 27 or section 29, clause (1), for life;

(b) in cases falling under section 28 or section 29, clause (2), or section 30 or section 31, in which the representative watanadars are entitled to office in successive periods, for such period as the Collector shall in each case determine, the same being not less than five nor more than ten years.]

439. In the event of the officiating watanadar dying before the expiration of his fixed period of service, his heir shall, subject to the provisions of Part VIII, be entitled to officiate for the remainder of that period.

440. (1) In the case of a watan in which the representative watanadars are entitled to perform the duties in successive periods, the Collector shall, on the occurrence of the turn of any such representative watanadar to perform the duties, issue a notice to the whole body of registered representative watanadars calling upon them to appear before him at a certain time and place to elect an offciator, or such number of offciators as may be required by the Collector under the provisions of section 43.

(2) If not less than three fourths, including the watanadar whose turn it is to officiate, of the representative watanadars appear at the appointed time and place and unanimously nominate a fit and proper person or persons, being a watanadar or watanadars of the same watan, the person or persons, so nominated shall be entitled to officiate in the place and for the period of service of the representative watanadar whose turn it is to perform the duties.

(3) If the person or persons so nominated be other than the representative watanadar whose turn it is to perform the duties, he or they shall for all the purposes of this Act be deemed to be the duly appointed deputy or deputies of the said representative watanadar.

441. If in the case of a watan in which the representative watanadars are entitled to perform the duties in successive periods, the representative watanadars shall not appear at the time and place appointed under the provisions of the last preceding section, or shall fail to nominate an offciator, or the requisite number of offciators, unanimously, then the provisions of this Act as to service by the representative watanadar entitled to officiate and as to appointment of deputies shall apply.

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1 Section 38 was substituted by s. 8 of the Bombay Hereditary Offices (Amendment) Act, 1886 (Bom. 5 of 1886). As to the local repeal of s. 38, see Bom. 6 of 1887.
2 As to the local repeal of ss. 39, 40, 41, 42 and 43, see Bom. 6 of 1887.
3 The words "of this Act" were repealed by the Bombay General Clauses Act, 1886 (Bom. 3 of 1886):
PART VIII.
OFFICiating WATANDARS AND DEPUTIES.

142. Every representative watandar whose duty it is to officiate shall, if a fit and proper person, perform the duties of the hereditary office himself on being so required by the Collector, but may be permitted by the Collector to appoint a deputy.

143. The Collector shall determine the number of officials required for the proper performance of the duties of any office from time to time, and for this requirement may call upon the representative watandar aforesaid to appoint a sufficient number of fit and proper persons as deputies, or may direct service in successive periods by representative watandars who have hitherto served or are serving contemporaneously.


2345. The Collector shall refuse to accept the service of any representative watandar or of any person nominated by a representative watandar to be his deputy, if such representative watandar or person—

(a) is under eighteen years of age;
(b) has not passed such educational test, if any, as the State [Government] think fit from time to time to prescribe in this behalf;
(c) has attained sixty years of age, except when such person’s appointment or continuance in office is specially permitted by the Collector;
(d) is in the opinion of the Collector disabled by lunacy or imbecility of mind, or by deafness, blindness, or other permanent infirmity of body;
(e) has been adjudged by the Collector after a summary inquiry held in accordance with the provisions relating to summary inquiries contained in the Bombay Land-Revenue Code, 1879, to be of general bad character;

[(ee) is considered by the Collector to be unfit for office on the ground that he is a wilful defaulter in respect of land revenue or any sum expressly declared by any law for the time being in force to be recoverable as an arrear of land revenue:]

(f) has been sentenced by a criminal court to imprisonment or whipping for an offence punishable with imprisonment for a term exceeding six months, or to transportation, such sentence not having been subsequently reversed or quashed, and whose disqualification on account of such sentence has not been removed by an order which the Commissioner is hereby empowered to make if [he] shall think fit, in this behalf;

(g) declines to forsook, whilst officiating, some other employment which is in the opinion of the Collector incompatible with the due discharge of the duties of the office:

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1 As to the repeal of ss. 39, 40, 41, 42 and 43, see Bom. 6 of 1887.
Section 45 was substituted by s. 9 of the Bombay Hereditary Offices (Amendment) Act, 1886 (Bom. 5 of 1886).
2 As to local repeal of s. 45, see Bom. 8 of 1887.
3 The words "the Provincial Government" were substituted for the word "Government" by the Adaptation of Indian Laws Order in Council.
4 This word was substituted for the word "Provincial" by the Adaptation of Laws Order, 1950.
5 [ee] in clause, inserted by s. 2 of the Bombay Hereditary Offices Act, 1910 (Bom. 3 of 1910).
6 This word was substituted for the words "State Government" by Bom. 8 of 1953, s. 2, Sch.
7 This word was substituted for the word "it", ibid.
[(a) has been removed from office or declared to be ineligible for re-employment under section 58 unless his re-employment is expressly sanctioned by the [Commissioner]

3[ 446. If an officer at any time becomes unfit to officiate for any of the reasons specified in section 45, the Collector shall remove him from office and, subject to the other provisions of this Part, appoint another officer.

A deputy appointed by a representative watandar may at any time be removed from office by the Collector at the request of the representative watandar, if, in the opinion of the Collector, there are good grounds for such request.]

[ 447. If a representative watandar whose duty it is to officiate is rejected or removed under section 45 or 46, he may, subject to the provisions of section 49, appoint a deputy:

Provided that, whenever such representative watandar ceases to be disqualified under section 45, he shall become entitled, if otherwise fit, to serve in person in supersession of any such deputy, or to serve in person or (subject to the provisions of section 42) to appoint a deputy in supersession of any deputy appointed by the Collector.]

[ 448. If a deputy dies or resigns, or is rejected or removed by the Collector under section 45 or 46, the representative watandar whose duty it is to officiate may himself if otherwise fit, perform the duties in place of such deputy or, subject to the provisions of sections 42 and 49, appoint another deputy.]

[ 449. The Collector, instead of the representative watandar whose duty it is to officiate, shall himself appoint a deputy in any of the following cases:

(a) where the representative watandar is disabled by lunacy or imbecility of mind from appointing a deputy;

(b) where the representative watandar is disqualified under clause (c), (f) or (h) of section 45, whether or not he was a representative watandar at the time of his incurring such disqualification;

(c) where the representative watandar fails to comply with any requisition of the Collector to serve in person or to appoint a deputy under section 42, 43, 47 or 48, within two months from the date thereof;

(d) where the first person nominated by the representative watandar is rejected under section 45, and the second person nominated is also rejected under that section;

(e) where the representative watandar declines to appoint a person as his deputy in accordance with section 53;

(f) where a deputy appointed by the Collector under any of the above clauses dies or resigns.]

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1 Clause (a) was inserted by s. 2 of the Bombay Hereditary Office Act, 1910 (Bom. 3 of 1910).

2 This word was substituted for the words "State Government" by Bom. 3 of 1956, s. 2, Sch.

3 Sections 46, 47, 48 and 49 were substituted by s. 2 of the Bombay Hereditary Office Act, 1910 (Bom. 3 of 1910).

4 As to local repugnancy of ss. 46 to 49, see Bom. 6 of 1897.
Bombay Hereditary Offices Act

50. [Collector may nominate deputy if representative watanar is rejected or removed.] Rep. Bom. III of 1910.

51. No female shall perform in person the duties of any hereditary office; but if a representative watanar or the guardian of a representative watanar, she may appoint a deputy.

52. During the suspension of an officiating representative watanar or deputy and during any vacancy, the duties shall temporarily be performed by a substitute, whether a watanar or not, appointed by the [Mainlatdar or the Mahalkari, as the case may be]

53. Except as is otherwise provided in the last preceding section and in section 56, and except as the "[State] Government] shall by a general or special order from time to time otherwise direct, every deputy appointed under this Act shall be a member of the same family to which the representative watanar whose duty it is to officiate belongs, if there be a member of such family fit and willing to officiate for, in default of such member, a watanar of the same watan who is fit and willing to officiate and who is descended from the same original watanar as the representative watanar whose duty it is to officiate.

54. When the Collector appoints a deputy, it shall be for a term not exceeding five years.

When a watanar entitled to officiate appoints a deputy, it shall be for a term not less than five years or for life. The term of appointment of a deputy shall cease and determine on the right of his principal ceasing, or on the death of his principal, and any appointment of a deputy on behalf of a representative watanar under the age of eighteen years shall terminate on the attainment by such representative watanar of that age.

55. In the event of temporary absence or illness, an officiator may arrange with any fit person for the temporary conduct of the duties, but shall be liable in the penalties prescribed in sections 57 to 61

56. When the hereditary right to perform the duties of an hereditary office as deputies of the original watanar is vested in a family distinct from that of the original watanar, the custom shall be recognized, and the heads of the family entitled to perform the duties shall be registered and treated as representative watanars.

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2 As to local repeal of ss. 53 to 55, see Bom. 6 of 1887.
3 These words were substituted for the word "Collector" by s. 2 and Sch. I of the Bombay Decentralization Act, 1916 (Bom. 3 of 1916).
4 Section 53 was substituted by s. 12 of the Bombay Hereditary Offices (Amendment) Act 1886 (Bom. 6 of 1886).
5 The words "[Provincial Government]" were substituted for the words "Governor in Council" by the Adaptation of Indian Laws Order in Council.
6 The word "[Provincial]" was substituted for the word "Provincial" by the Adaptation of Laws Order, 1950.
7 These words were added by s. 2 of the Bombay Hereditary Offices Act, 1910 (Bom. 3 of 1910).
8 The following paragraph was repealed by Bom. 3 of 1910, s. 3:
9 The words "of this Act" were repealed by the Bombay General Clauses Act, 1885 (Bom. 3 of 1886).
10 As to the local repeal of ss. 53 to 56 see Bom. 6 of 1887.
PART IX.

Penalties.

157. It shall be lawful for the Collector to suspend any officiator from office during inquiry into alleged misconduct, and to punish any such officiator for misconduct or neglect of duty by suspension from office for a period not exceeding six months, or by fine not exceeding the fourth part of the annual emolument provided for the officiator. The order of the Collector shall be final in such cases, except when the penalty is inflicted on an hereditary district officer.

158. It shall be lawful for the Collector, with the previous sanction of the Collector Provincial Government, in case of fraud, the wilful framing of incorrect records, habitual neglect of duty, or other grave misconduct on the part of an officiator, to remove him from office or if he has ceased to officiate, to declare that he is ineligible for re-employment in any hereditary office except with the sanction of the Provincial Government.


160. When any representative watandar or any deputy or substitute appointed by him is convicted by a criminal Court not inferior to a Court of Session, or by the collector, or by any other competent authority, of any offence in the discharge of his official duties, or of any of the offences direct the forfeiture of the life interest of the person convicted or if he be not the representative watandar also of the representative watandar; or, if the offence is as is described in Chapter VI of the Indian Penal Code, direct the forfeiture of the whole or of any part of any watan in which he has an interest. Such forfeiture may be either absolute or for such period as the Provincial Government thinks fit.

161. All deputies appointed under this Act shall be subject to the same rules as otherwise provided, as the representative watandars themselves are subject to when officiating, and in the case specified in section 59 of this Act, it shall be lawful for the Provincial Government to direct the forfeiture of the life interest in the watan of the representative watandar entitled to officiate whether the deputy officiator guilty of misconduct be such representative watandar himself or a deputy appointed by him:

1 As to the local repeal of ss. 56 to 58 see Bom. 6 of 1887.
2 The words "the Provincial Government" were substituted for the word "Government" by the Adaptation of Indian Laws Order in Council.
3 These words were added by s. 2 of the Bombay Hereditary Office Act, 1910 (Bom. 3 of 1910).
4 Section 60 was substituted by s. 13 of the Bombay Hereditary Office (Amendment) Act, 1886 (Bom. 5 of 1886). As to the local modification of s. 60, see Bom. 5 of 1887.
5 The words "Provincial Government" were substituted for the words "Governor in Council" by the Adaptation of Indian Laws Order in Council.
6 The words "direct the forfeiture of the whole or of any part of any watan in which he has an interest. Such forfeiture may be either absolute or for such period as the Governor in Council thinks fit." were deleted and Clauses (a) and (b) were inserted by Bom. 11 of 1926, s. 2.
7 As to the local repeal of ss. 61 and 62 see Bom. 6 of 1887.
PART X.

INTERIOR VILLAGE HEREDITARY OFFICES.

63. This part applies only to hereditary village offices of lower degree than that of Patel or Kulkarni.

64. [(1)] The Collector is empowered, subject to the general control of [the Provincial Government]—

(a) to register the names of individual watanars as holders of the office, or to register it as held by the whole body of watanars;

(b) to determine, when individual names are so registered, the rights, duties and responsibilities among themselves of the persons so registered, and the mode in which they shall be selected to perform the duties, whether by selection by the Collector or by defined rotation, or by election by the watanars or otherwise, as may be expedient;

(c) to require, in cases where the registration is made in the name of the whole body of watanars, that the appointment of such persons as may be necessary to perform the duties which the Collector may assign to them severally and jointly; such appointment to be made within a reasonable time to be previously fixed and notified to them by the Collector. In default of such appointment being made, the Collector may himself appoint;

(d) to provide for and enforce the joint responsibility of the whole body for the neglect of duty or misconduct of any of their number or their representatives and in cases where the crime of cattle poisoning is prevalent, with the sanction of [the Provincial Government] to attach, during the pleasure of [the Provincial Government], the watanars of the persons whom he may have reason to believe to have been guilty of, or to have connived at, the commission of the crime;

[(e) to pass orders in regard to the dismissal of persons officiating;]
[(f) to permit the wazandar whose duty it is to officiate, to appoint a deputy for performing the duties of his office.]

[(2) The Collector, when he is satisfied that a person who produces a decree or order of a competent court is entitled to have his name entered in the register as nearest heir of a deceased wazandar in preference to the name of another already in the register, provided that the said order or decree is produced within six years of the date of the entry in the said register sought to be amended, shall amend the said entry in the said register accordingly.

[(3) The Collector is empowered to delegate to the Mamlatdar or Mahalkari the powers exercisable by him under clause (a) of sub-section (1)].

[(4) The Mamlatdar and the Mahalkari are empowered to pass orders in regard to the appointment, remuneration, period of service, suspension and retiring of persons officiating, the grant of leave of absence and other matters of discipline not expressly provided for by this or any other law for the time being in force.]

PART XI.

THE REGISTER.

65. The Collector shall prepare and keep all Registers necessary for the purposes of this Act in the form which the State Government may from time to time prescribe. There shall be one Register of lands and allowances in consideration of which liability to perform service exists and another of lands and allowances in respect of which no such liability exists.

66. In the Register of lands and allowances the holders whereof are exempt from service, the Collector shall specify—
(a) the area of the lands, the survey number and assessment, the quit-rent leviable, and the net revenue alienated by the Government;
(b) the amount and nature of the cash or other allowances, and the source from which they are payable;
(c) the terms of the settlement under which the exemption is enjoyed;
(d) the names of the parties to such settlement with the Government as indicated in the Sanads issued to them;
(e) such other particulars as the State Government may from time to time order to be recorded.

667. In the Register of lands and allowances in consideration of which liability to serve still exists, the Collector shall specify—
(a) the area of the lands, the names of the occupants, the survey number and assessment, the quit-rent, if any, leviable, and the net revenue alienated by the Government, the amount and nature of the cash or other allowances, the

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Footnotes:
1 Clause (f) was inserted by Bom. 15 of 1931, s. 2.
2 Sub-sections (2) and (3) were inserted by Bom. 12 of 1932, s. 2.
3 Sub-section (2) which was added by s. 2 and Sch. 1 of Bom. 3 of 1915 was renumbered as sub-section (4), ibid.
4 The words "the Provincial Government" were substituted for the word "Government" by the Adaptation of Indian Laws Order in Council.
5 This word was substituted for the word "Provincial" by the Adaptation of Laws Order, 1950.
6 The words "the Crown" were substituted for the word "Government" by the Adaptation of Indian Laws Order in Council.
7 This word was substituted for the word "Crown" by the Adaptation of Laws Order, 1950.
8 As to the local repeal of s. 67, see Bom. 6 of 1887.
source from which they are payable, and the land and allowances assigned for the
renumeration of officiators;
(b) the names of the heads of families and of the representative watan-dars;
(c) weather the service is performed by one representative watan-dar or
otherwise; if by several in successive periods, the order in which they are to
succeed each other;
(d) the proportional share of the watan possessed by each head of family
which may be expressed in annas or fractions of a rupee;
(e) the number of officiators required to perform the duties;
(f) the nature of the settlement of inferior village wannas referred to in Part X

* * *

(g) such other particulars as the Government may [from time
to time] order to be recorded.

68. The Register kept under this Act shall be corrected or added to on the
occasion of any change being made in accordance with the provisions of this Act in
the particulars above specified.

PART XII.
MISCELLANEOUS.

49. All wannas of whatever denomination whose liability to serve has not
been commuted are legally bound, subject to the provisions of this Act, to render
such service as has been customary or as is required by law.

50. All records which have been or may be prepared by any wannadar or by
any officiator in an hereditary office in pursuance of the duties of the office, or by
order of a superior officer or of the present or former Government are hereby
declared to be the [property of the Government], and the Mamladars or
the Mahalkari] may enforce their production or the production of any State records
in the possession of a wannadar or of an officiator, in accordance with the provisions
of sections 25 and 26 of the Bombay Land Revenue Code, 1879.

71. With regard to hereditary offices not inferior to that of Patel or Kulkarni
it is hereby declared that every head of family shall have the privilege of signing
the abstract of village land and revenues or other village papers which it may be
customary for him to sign.

PART XIII.
PROCEDURE AND APPEALS.

72. (1) It shall be lawful for the Collector or other officer conducting an investi-
gation under this Act to take evidence, and in sections 193 and 228 of the
Indian Penal Code the words "judicial proceeding" shall be taken to include any proceed-
ing under this Act.

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1 The words "of this Act" were repealed by the Bombay General Clauses Act, 1886 (Bom. 3 of 1886), Sch. B. This Schedule has been printed as an Appendix to the Bombay General Clauses Act, 1904 (Bom. 1 of 1904).
2 The words "the Provincial Government" were substituted for the words "Government" by the Adaptation of Indian Laws Order in Council.
3 This word was substituted for the word "Provincial" by the Adaptation of Laws Order, 1900.
4 As to the local repeal of 68, 69 and 71, see Bom. 6 of 1887.
5 Section 70 was substituted by 8, 16 of the Bombay Hereditary Offices (Amendment) Act, 1886 (Bom. 5 of 1888).
6 The words "property of the Crown for the purposes of the Province" were substituted for the words "property of Government" by the Adaptation of Indian Laws Order in Council.
7 These words were substituted for the words "the Crown for the purposes of the Province" by the Adaptation of Laws Order, 1900.
8 These words were substituted for the word "Collector" by 2, 2 and Sch. I of the Bombay Delegation Act, 1915 (Bom. 3 of 1915).
9 This word was substituted for the word "Crown" by the Adaptation of Laws Order, 1900.
10 Central Acts.
(2) Every person who shall have been summoned to give evidence or to produce any document in his possession, by the Collector or other officer conducting an investigation under this Act, shall be legally bound to attend, or to produce such document.

172. (1) Except as hereinafter provided in clause 2 of this section, no order under Part III directing commutation of a watan, or under Part V assigning the remuneration of officers, or under Part VI determining the custom of the watan as to service and what persons should be registered as heads of families or representative watanandars, or under Part VII determining the periods of service, shall be passed, unless after an investigation recorded in writing and a proper opportunity afforded for the hearing of claims and the production of evidence.

In each such investigation, and in removals from office under section 58 the Collector or other officer shall record his decision with the reasons therefor in his own handwriting.

(2) Unless the Government shall otherwise direct, decisions passed subsequently to the year 1866 after an investigation recorded in writing, and after a proper opportunity had been afforded for the hearing of claims and the production of evidence, and which are recorded, with the reasons therefor, in the handwriting of a Collector or his Assistant or Deputy, shall be accepted, in so far as they may not be inconsistent with the provisions of this Act in lieu of fresh investigation and decision under this Act for the purpose of framing the register required in section 67. If any details necessary for the said register have not been recorded in any decision of the nature described above, but are forthcoming from the evidence taken in connection with such decision, they may be supplied from such evidence in lieu of fresh investigation for the completion of the register. Such details as may not be forthcoming shall be obtained by such further investigation as the Collector may deem necessary.

74. The proceedings of the Collector shall be under the general control of [the Commissioner and of] [the Government].

75. The Collector may save in respect of any matter in which he has delegated his powers to a Mamlatdar or Mahalkari under sub-section (2) of section 64, require any investigation under Part X to be made by a Mamlatdar or Mahalkari, but the decision thereon shall be made by the Collector.

76. No appeal shall lie from any order made under section 64, clause (e) before final order nor from any order registering any fact specified under section 67, clauses (b), (c), (d) and (e) where the effect of such order is merely to register the same facts as are already recorded in the existing register as kept according to law or under the orders of Government.

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1 As to local repeal of part of s. 73, see Bom. 6 of 1887.
2 The words "of this Act" were repealed by the Bombay General Clauses Act, 1886 (Bom. 3 of 1886), S. 66. This Schedule has been printed as an Appendix to the Bombay General Clauses Act, 1904 (Bom. 1 of 1904). The words "Provincial Government" were substituted for the words "Governor in Council" by the Adaptation of Indian Laws Order in Council.
3 This word was substituted for the word "Provincial" by the Adaptation of Laws Act, 1906 (Bom. 3 of 1896), S. 3. These words were repealed by the Bombay General Clauses Act, 1886 (Bom. 3 of 1886), and re-inserted by the Amending Act, 1896 (16 of 1896). The word "thereof" was repealed by the Bombay General Clauses Act, 1886 (Bom. 3 of 1896), S. 2. This Schedule has been printed as an Appendix to the Bombay General Clauses Act, 1904 (Bom. 1 of 1904). The words "Provincial Government" were substituted for the words "Government" by the Adaptation of Indian Laws Order in Council.
4 These words were inserted by Bom. 8 of 1908, s. 2, Schedule.
77. Except as hereinbefore provided, one appeal only shall lie from every decision passed after investigation recorded in writing by a Collector, or by an Assistant Collector, or Deputy Collector [or from every decision passed by a Mamlatdar or Mahalkari exercising the powers delegated to him under sub-section (2) of section 64] 23 * * *

Such appeal, if from the decision of an Assistant Collector, or Deputy Collector [or Mamlatdar, or Mahalkari] 23 * * shall lie to the Collector and shall be made within sixty days from the date of the order appealed against.

Such appeal, if from the decision of the Collector, shall lie to the 23 * * "Commissioner", and shall be made within ninety days from the date of the order appealed against.

In computing the above periods the time required to prepare a copy of the order or decision appealed against shall be excluded.

78. Every petition of appeal shall be accompanied by a copy of the order or decision appealed against: and it shall be competent for the officer before whom the appeal is presented to reject the appeal if on perusal of the petition it appears to him that there is no sufficient ground for questioning the correctness of the decision, or for interfering with the order appealed against.

79. "[The [State] Government] may call for and examine the record of the proceedings of any officer for the purpose of satisfying itself as to the legality or propriety of any order passed, and may reverse or modify the order as it shall seem fit, or, if it seem necessary, may order a new inquiry.

[The State Government may delegate all or any of its powers under this section to any Commissioner and such Commissioner may thereupon exercise such powers within the local limits of his jurisdiction, subject to the revisional powers of the State Government under this section, and to any restrictions that the State Government may deem fit to impose.]

80. Service of any notice given under this Act shall be deemed to have been made by the notice being affixed in writing to the wall of the village chawdi or other public place in the village not less than seven days before action is required to be taken by any person thereon.

81. All recoveries of profits from land, assessments, emoluments or penalties under this Act, may be made as provided by any law for the time being in force relating to the recovery of the land-revenue.

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1 These words were inserted by Bom. 12 of 1932, s. 4.
2 The words and figures "empowered under the provisions of Bombay Act I of 1883" and the words "so empowered" were repealed by the Bombay General Clauses Act, 1886 (Bom. 3 of 1886), Sch. B. This Schedule has been printed as an Appendix to the Bombay General Clauses Act, 1904 (Bom. 1 of 1904).
3 The word "Revenue" was repealed by the Amending Act, 1895 (16 of 1895).
4 The word was substituted for the words "State Government" by Bom. 8 of 1958, s. 3, Schedule.
5 The words "the Provincial Government" were substituted for the word "Government" by the Adaptation of Indian Laws Order in Council.
6 This word was substituted for the word "Provincial" by the Adaptation of Laws Order, 1960.
7 This paragraph was added by Bom. 3 of 1958, s. 3, Schedule.
82. The Government may frame rules not inconsistent with this Act for the guidance of its officers in cases not expressly provided for, and may from time to time modify or revoke any such rules.

83. Except as is otherwise provided in section 18 and the Government shall have power, in cases where doubt exists, to determine what duties appertain to any hereditary office.

84. The Government may from time to time confer on any officer specially selected for the purpose or, so far as concerns any alienated village, on the holder or on any of the holders of such village or on any agent of the holder of such village all or any of the powers and duties which under this Act are required to be performed by a Commissioner or a Collector, and may authorize the delegation to any Mamiладar or Mahalkari of the power to fine hereditary village officers in sums not exceeding two rupees.

85. Nothing in this Act contained shall be deemed to affect the Bombay Act VIII of 1867 or any other law for the time being in force, defining the duties and powers of village officers or imposing penalties for misconduct and all references in such laws to Act XI of 1843 shall be taken as made to this Act.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description of offence</th>
<th>Sections of the Penal Code under which punishable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1) Every offence described in Chapter VI of the Indian Penal Code.</td>
<td>121, 121A, 122—124, 124A, XLV of 1860.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2) Causing disappearance of evidence of any offence committed, or giving false information touching it to screen the offender, when the offence committed is a capital offence, or punishable with transportation for life or imprisonment for ten years.</td>
<td>201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3) Harbouring an offender, if such offender's offence be capital, or punishable with transportation or imprisonment for ten years.</td>
<td>212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(4) Taking gift, etc., to screen an offender from punishment, if such offender's offence be capital, or punishable with transportation for life or with imprisonment for ten years.</td>
<td>213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(5) Harbouring an offender who has escaped from custody, or whose apprehension has been ordered, if such offender's offence be capital or punishable with transportation for life or with imprisonment for ten years.</td>
<td>216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(6) Harbouring robbers and dacoits</td>
<td>216A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 This schedule was added by s. 16 of the Bombay Hereditary Offices (Amendment) Act, 1886 (Bom. 5 of 1886).
2 Central Acts.
3 This entry was added by s. 2 (11) of the Bombay Hereditary Offices Act, 1910 (Bom. 3 of 1910).
BOMBAY ACT No. V OF 1886.¹

[The Bombay Hereditary Offices (Amendment) Act, 1886.]

[23rd January, 1887]

Repealed in part, by Act 16 of 1895.

" and amended locally, by Bom. 6 of 1887.

Sections 10 and 11 virtually repealed, by Bom. 3 of 1910, s. 2.

Amended, by Bom. 10 of 1923.

An Act to amend Bombay Act III of 1874.

WHEREAS it is expedient to amend the Bombay Hereditary Offices Act, 1874, in manner hereinafter appearing; It is enacted as follows:—

2. Every female member of a watan family other than the widow [mother or paternal grand-mother] of the last male owner, and every person claiming through a female, shall be postponed in the order of succession to any watan, or part thereof, or interest therein, developing by inheritance after the date when this Act comes into force to every male member of the family qualified to inherit such watan, or part thereof, or interest therein.

The interest of a widow [mother or paternal grand-mother] in any watan or part thereof shall be for the term of her life or until her marriage only.

§3-16.

¹ For the Statement of Objects and Reasons, see Bombay Government Gazette, 1886, Pt. V, p. 5, and ibid., 1886, p. 165; for Report of the Select Committee see ibid., p. 31; and for Proceedings in Council, see ibid., p. 26, and ibid., 1889, pp. 94 and 178.

As to the local repeal and amendment of Bom. 5 of 1886, see s. 3 of the Matadars Act, 1887 (Bom. 6 of 1887), infra.

Short Title.—"The Bombay Hereditary Offices (Amendment) Act, 1886". See the Bombay Short Titles Act, 1921 (Bom. 2 of 1921).

Amendments made by section 1 and sections 3 to 16 have been incorporated in Bom. 3 of 1874.

These words were inserted by Bom. 10 of 1923, s. 2.