

ACT NO. I OF 1918.

[PASSED BY THE INDIAN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.]

(Received the assent of the Governor General on the 27th
February, 1918.)

An Act further to amend the Indian Forest Act, 1878.

of 1878. **W**HEREAS it is expedient further to amend
the Indian Forest Act, 1878 ; It is hereby
enacted as follows :—

1. This Act may be called the Indian Forest Short title.
(Amendment) Act, 1918.

of 1878. 2. In clause (b) of section 29 of the Indian Amendment
Forest Act, 1878 (hereinafter referred to as the said of section
Act), for the word "twenty" the word "thirty" 29, Act VII
shall be substituted. of 1878.

3. After section 52 of the said Act, the following Insertion of
section shall be inserted, namely :— new section
52A, Act VII
of 1878.

" 52A. Any Forest-officer of a rank not inferior Power to
to that of a Ranger who, or whose subordinate, has release pro-
seized any tools, boats, carts or cattle under the perty seized
provisions of section 52, may release the same on the under sec-
execution by the owner thereof of a bond for the tion 52.
production of the property so released, if and when so
required, before the Magistrate having jurisdiction
to try the offence on account of which the seizure
has been made."

4. In section 63 of the said Act after the words Amendment
" without unnecessary delay," the words " and of section 63,
subject to the provisions of this Act as to release on Act VII of
a bond " shall be inserted. 1878.

5. After

Insertion of
new section
63A, Act
VII of 1878.

Power to
release on a
bond a person
arrested.

Amendment
of section 78,
Act VII of
1878.

5. After section 63 of the said Act, the following section shall be inserted, namely :—

“ 63A. Any Forest-officer of a rank not inferior to that of a Ranger who, or whose subordinate, has arrested any person under the provisions of section 63, may release such person on his executing a bond to appear, if and when so required, before the Magistrate having jurisdiction in the case, or before the officer in charge of the nearest police-station.”

6. (1) Section 78 of the said Act shall be re-numbered section 78 (1), and in the same section for the words “ shall assist any Forest-officer or Police-officer—

(a) in extinguishing any fire occurring in such forest ;

(b) in preventing any fire which may occur in the vicinity of such forest from spreading to such forest,”

the following words shall be substituted, namely :—

“ shall forthwith take steps, whether so required by any Forest-officer or Police-officer or not,—

(a) to extinguish any forest fire in such forest of which he has knowledge or information ;

(b) to prevent by any lawful means in his power any fire in the vicinity of such forest of which he has knowledge or information from spreading to such forest.”

(2) To the same section the following sub-section shall be added, namely :—

“ (2) Any person who, being bound so to do, without lawful excuse (the burden of proving which shall lie upon such person) fails—

(a) to furnish without unnecessary delay to the nearest Forest-officer or Police-officer any information required by sub-section (1) ;

(b) to take steps as required by sub-section (1) to extinguish any forest fire in a reserved or protected forest ;

(c) to

(c) to prevent, as required by sub-section (1), any fire in the vicinity of such forest from spreading to such forest; or

(d) to assist any Forest-officer or Police-officer demanding his aid in preventing the commission in such forest of any forest-offence, or, when there is reason to believe that any such offence has been committed in such forest, in discovering and arresting the offender,

shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one month, or with fine which may extend to two hundred rupees, or with both.

7. In section 84 of the said Act,—

(1) for the words "in compliance with any rule under this Act," the words "in accordance with any provision of this Act or in compliance with any rule made thereunder" shall be substituted;

(2) for the word "instrument" wherever it occurs, the words "bond or instrument" shall be substituted.

Amendment
of section 84,
Act VII of
1878.