Annuities hereby granted shall cease.

for establishing the same or any of them, shall continue a Corporation for the Purposes of this Act until the Consolidated Three Pounds *per Centum* Annuities by this Act granted shall be redeemed by Parliament as aforesaid; and the said Governor and Company of the Bank of *England*, or any Member thereof, shall not incur any Disability for or by reason of their doing any Matter or Thing in pursuance of this Act.

Penalty on Persons taking Fees for Receipts or Payments.

XXIII. No Fee, Reward, or Gratuity whatsoever shall be demanded or taken of any of Her Majesty's Subjects for receiving or paying the said Subscription or Contribution Moneys or any of them, or for any Receipt concerning the same, or for paying the said Annuities, or for any Transfer of any Sum, great or small, to be made in pursuance of this Act, upon pain that any Officer or Person offending by taking or demanding any such Fee, Reward, or Gratuity shall for every such Offence forfeit the Sum of Twenty Pounds to the Party aggrieved, with full Costs of Suit, to be recovered in any of Her Majesty's Superior Courts of Law at *Westminster*.

General Issue.

XXIV. If any Person or Persons shall be sued, molested, or prosecuted for anything done by virtue or in pursuance of this Act, such Person or Persons shall and may plead the General Issue, and give this Act and the special Matter in Evidence, in his, her, or their Defence or Defences; and if afterwards a Verdict shall pass for the Defendant or Defendants, or Plaintiff or Plaintiffs shall discontinue his, her, or their Action or Prosecution, or be non-suited, or Judgment shall be given against him, her, or them, upon Demurrer or otherwise, then such Defendant or Defendants shall have full Costs awarded to him, her, or them, against any such Plaintiff or Plaintiffs.

Provisions of 22 G. 3. c. 45. not to extend to Subscribers under this Act.

XXV. Provided, that none of the Provisions of an Act of the Twenty-second Year of His late Majesty King *George* the Third, Chapter Forty-five, shall be construed to extend to any Subscriber or Contributor under this Act.

CAP. XXII.

An Act to amend the Laws relating to the Duties on Fire Insurances.

[5th *June* 1856.]

'WHEREAS, under and by virtue of certain Acts passed in that Behalf, Persons insuring or keeping an Office for insuring Property from Loss by Fire are required to take out Licences for that Purpose from the Commissioners of Inland Revenue, and to give Security by Bond for duly rendering Accounts of such Insurances and paying the Duty chargeable in respect thereof, and a certain Stamp Duty is by Law chargeable upon any Policy or other Instrument whereby any Insurance is made of or upon Property from Loss or Damage by Fire, and a further Duty at and after the Rate of Three Shillings *per Centum per Annum* is also chargeable in respect of every such Insurance: And whereas a Practice has been established of insuring from Loss by Fire Property situate within the United Kingdom by Foreign Companies or by Policies or Insurances made abroad, and it is expedient that all such Insurances should be subject to the same Duties as the like Insurances made by Companies within the United Kingdom are now by Law chargeable with:' Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, as follows:

Duties to be chargeable on all Insurances of Property within the United Kingdom wheresoever made.

I. The said respective Duties by the said Acts granted as aforesaid shall extend to and be payable and paid for and in respect of every Insurance of Property situate within the United Kingdom from Loss or Damage by Fire, whether the same shall be made by any Company, Society, or Person or Persons within or out of the United Kingdom, and whether the Policy or other Instrument, Note, or Memorandum of or relating to any such Insurance shall

shall be made, signed, or issued in the United Kingdom or elsewhere, and whether there shall be any such Policy, Instrument, Note, or Memorandum, or not.

Persons insured chargeable with Duties where Insurances made by unlicensed Foreign Companies.

II. Where any such Insurance as aforesaid shall be made by any Company, Society, or Person or Persons out of the United Kingdom, the Person insured shall be chargeable with the Duties payable in respect of such Insurance, and shall pay the same to some Agent of such Company, Society, or Person or Persons who shall be duly licensed as herein-after mentioned, or, if there be no such Agent, then to the Receiver General of Inland Revenue, or some other Officer appointed by the Commissioners of Inland Revenue to receive the same, setting forth the Particulars of such Insurance in such Form as the said Commissioners shall require, and in Default of such Payment the said Duties shall be a Debt due from him to Her Majesty, Her Heirs and Successors, and be recoverable in the Manner provided by the Eighth Section of the Act passed in the Fourteenth Year of Her Majesty's Reign, Chapter Ninety-seven, or by any other Mode by which any such Debt may be recovered.

All Persons who shall as Agents receive Proposals, &c. for Insurances by Companies out of the United Kingdom deemed to be Persons keeping an Office for insuring Property from Loss by Fire.

III. Every Person in the United Kingdom who shall as Agent receive or accept any Proposal or Instructions for the Insurance of Property from Loss or Damage by Fire by any Company, Society, or Person or Persons out of the United Kingdom, or who shall keep or have or conduct or manage any Office or Place for accepting or receiving or issuing any such Proposals or Instructions, or who shall be held out by any public Advertisement or Notice, with his Consent, as a Person to or by or from whom any such Proposals or Instructions may be given or received or obtained, or through or by means of whom any such Insurance as aforesaid may be effected, and every Person who shall in any Manner effect or negotiate or be concerned in effecting or negotiating any such Insurance as aforesaid for or on behalf of any such Company, Society, or Person or Persons as aforesaid, or who shall issue or deliver out any Policy or other Instrument or any Note or Memorandum of or relating to any such Insurance as aforesaid, made or proposed or intended, shall be held and deemed to be a Person keeping an Office for insuring Property from Loss by Fire within the Meaning of the several Acts before mentioned, and shall be and is hereby required to take out a proper Licence in that Behalf, and to give Security in the Manner directed by the said Acts respectively, and in such Form as the Commissioners of Inland Revenue shall think proper, for accounting for and paying the Duties with which he shall be chargeable as herein-after mentioned; and if any such Person hereby required to take out such Licence and to give such Security as aforesaid shall neglect or omit so to do, he shall forfeit the Sum of One hundred Pounds, and the like Penalty for every Day that such Neglect or Omission shall continue.

Such Persons required to take out Licence and give Security for Payment of the Duties.

Penalty for Neglect.

Persons keeping Offices for Insurances on behalf of Foreign Companies to be chargeable with the Duties on such Insurances.

IV. Every Person who by reason of any such Act or Means as in the preceding Clause mentioned shall be deemed to be a Person keeping such Office as aforesaid within the Meaning of this Act and the several Acts aforesaid, shall account for and shall be chargeable with the Duties in respect of all such Insurances as aforesaid made or undertaken or agreed to by any Company, Society, or Person or Persons out of the United Kingdom for whom or on whose Behalf or in respect of whose Business of Insurance he shall do any such Act as aforesaid, or become a Person keeping such Office as aforesaid.

Not to limit Charge of Duty under former Acts, &c.

V. Provided always, That nothing herein contained shall extend to limit or restrict the charging of the said Duties under any former Act now in force, or to charge with Duty any Insurance expressly exempted by any such former Act.

Re-insurances from Loss by Fire not to be chargeable with the Per-centage Duty, but with the Policy Stamp only.

VI. 'And whereas a Practice prevails amongst certain Insurance Companies, on their 'granting Policies of Insurance from Loss by Fire for large Sums, to procure from other 'Companies, in consideration of Portions of the Premiums for such Insurances, Indemnity 'by way of Guarantee in case of any such Loss happening, against the Payment of certain 'Parts of the Sums insured, and it is expedient to exempt such Indemnity or Guarantee 'from the yearly Per-centage Duties which would otherwise be chargeable in respect 'thereof as an Insurance from Loss by Fire:' Be it enacted, That where an Insurance from Loss by Fire shall be made by any Company who shall duly account for and pay

pay the full and proper Duties chargeable in respect thereof, the yearly Per-centage Duty shall not be payable in respect of any Re-insurance effected by such Company with any other Company by way of Indemnity or Guarantee against the Payment on the original Insurance of any Portion of the Money insured thereby, and no other Duty than the Stamp Duty of One Shilling chargeable upon a Policy of Insurance from Loss by Fire shall be payable upon such Re-insurance.