CHAPTER 2.

An Act to provide, during twelve months, for the Discipline and Regulation of the Army.

[29th March 1892.]

WHEREAS the raising or keeping of a standing army within the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland in time of peace, unless it be with the consent of Parliament, is against law:

And whereas it is adjudged necessary by Her Majesty and this present Parliament, that a body of forces should be continued for the safety of the United Kingdom and the defence of the possessions of Her Majesty's Crown, and that the whole number of such forces should consist of one hundred and fifty-four thousand and seventy-three men, including those to be employed at the depôts in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland for the training of recruits for service at home and abroad, but exclusive of the numbers actually serving within Her Majesty's Indian possessions:

And whereas it is also judged necessary for the safety of the United Kingdom, and the defence of the possessions of this realm, that a body of Royal Marine forces should be employed in Her Majesty's fleet and naval service, under the direction of the Lord High Admiral of the United Kingdom, or the Commissioners for executing the office of Lord High Admiral aforesaid:

And whereas the said marine forces may frequently be quartered or be on shore, or sent to do duty or be on board transport ships or vessels, merchant ships or vessels, or other ships or vessels, or they may be under other circumstances in which they will not be subject to the laws relating to the government of Her Majesty's forces by sea:

And whereas no man can be forejudged of life or limb, or subjected in time of peace to any kind of punishment within this realm by martial law, or in any other manner than by the judgment of his peers and according to the known and established laws of this realm; yet nevertheless it being requisite, for the retaining all the before-mentioned forces, and other persons subject to military law, in their duty, that an exact discipline be observed, and that persons belonging to the said forces who mutiny or stir up sedition, or desert Her Majesty's service, or are guilty of crimes and offences to the prejudice of good order and military discipline, be brought to a more exemplary and speedy punishment than the usual forms of the law will allow:

44 & 45 Vict. c. 58.

And whereas the Army Act will expire in the year one thousand eight hundred and ninety-two on the following days:

(*a.*) In the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands, and the Isle of Man, on the thirtieth day of April; and

(*b.*) Elsewhere in Europe, inclusive of Malta also in the West Indies and America, on the thirty-first day of July; and

(*c.*) Elsewhere, whether within or without Her Majesty's dominions, on the thirty-first day of December:

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:

1. This Act may be cited as the Army (Annual) Act, 1892. Short title.

2.—(1.) The Army Act shall be and remain in force during the periods herein-after mentioned, and no longer, unless otherwise provided by Parliament; that is to say, Army Act (44 & 45 Vict. c. 58.) to be in force for specified times.

(*a.*) Within the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands, and the Isle of Man, from the thirtieth day of April one thousand eight hundred and ninety-two to the thirtieth day of April one thousand eight hundred and ninety-three, both inclusive; and

(*b.*) Elsewhere in Europe, inclusive of Malta, also in the West Indies and America, from the thirty-first day of July one thousand eight hundred and ninety-two to the thirty-first day of July one thousand eight hundred and ninety-three, both inclusive; and

(*c.*) Elsewhere, whether within or without Her Majesty's dominions, from the thirty-first day of December one thousand eight hundred and ninety-two to the thirty-first day of December one thousand eight hundred and ninety-three, both inclusive;

and the day from which the Army Act is continued in any place by this Act is in relation to that place referred to in this Act as the commencement of this Act.

(2.) The Army Act, while in force, shall apply to persons subject to military law, whether within or without Her Majesty's dominions.

(3.) A person subject to military law shall not be exempted from the provisions of the Army Act by reason only that the number of the forces for the time being in the service of Her Majesty, exclusive of the marine forces, is either greater or less than the number herein-before mentioned.

3. There shall be paid to the keeper of a victualling house for the accommodation provided by him in pursuance of the Army Act the prices specified in the schedule to this Act. Prices in respect of billeting.

Amendments of Army Act.

4. Whereas by section forty-four of the Army Act the punishment of penal servitude when inflicted is required to be for a term not less than five years, and it is expedient to amend that section so as to bring it into conformity with the provisions of the Penal Servitude Act, 1891; be it therefore enacted that— Amendment of 44 & 45 Vict. c. 58. s. 44 as to term of penal servitude. 54 & 55 Vict. c. 69.

In the said section forty-four for the word "five" in each place where it occurs shall be substituted the word "three."

5. Whereas by section eighty of the Army Act the notice to be given to a person offering to enlist is required to direct that person to appear before a justice of the peace at the time and place therein Amendment of 44 & 45 Vict. c. 58. s. 80 as to mode of enlistment and attestation.

mentioned, and it is expedient to amend this enactment; be it therefore enacted that—

(1.) In sub-section one of the said section eighty, after the words "justice of the peace," shall be inserted the words "either forthwith or."

(2.) In sub-section two of the same section, after the words "the justice shall ask him," shall be inserted the words "whether he has been served with and understands the notice and."

Amendment of Second Schedule to Army Act as to billeting.

6. Whereas by Part I. of the Second Schedule to the Army Act, the keeper of a victualling house on whom any soldier is billeted must, if required by the soldier, furnish him with one hot meal on each of the days mentioned in that behalf in the said Part, and it is expedient that any such keeper should, if so required by the soldier, furnish him with a breakfast also; be it therefore enacted that—

To the paragraph numbered (2) in Part I. of the Second Schedule to the Army Act, after the word "pepper" shall be added "and "with a breakfast consisting of half a pound of bread and a cup of "tea."

SCHEDULE.

Accommodation to be provided.	Maximum Price.
Lodging and attendance for soldier where hot meal furnished.	Fourpence per night.
Hot meal as specified in Part I. of the Second Schedule to the Army Act.	One shilling and threepence halfpenny each.
Breakfast as so specified - - -	One penny halfpenny each.
Where no hot meal furnished, lodging and attendance, and candles, vinegar, salt, and the use of fire, and the necessary utensils for dressing and eating his meat.	Fourpence per day.
Ten pounds of oats, twelve pounds of hay, and eight pounds of straw per day for each horse.	One shilling and ninepence per day.
Lodging and attendance for officer - -	Two shillings per night.

Note.—An officer shall pay for his food.