1. Section thirty of the Friendly Societies Act, 1875, applies only to such friendly societies, whether registered or unregistered, and industrial assurance companies as receive contributions by means of collectors at a greater distance than ten miles from the registered office or principal place of business of the society or company. Interpretation of s. 30 of 38 & 39 Vict. c. 60.

2. This Act shall be construed as one with the Friendly Societies Act, 1875, and the Friendly Societies Amendment Act, 1876, and may be cited together with the same as "the Friendly Societies Acts." Act to be construed with 38 & 39 Vict. c. 60. and 39 & 40 Vict. c. 32.

CHAPTER 10.

An Act to amend the Poor Rate Assessment and Collection Act, 1869. [23d May 1879.]

BE it 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 Assessed Rates Act, 1879, and shall be construed as one with the Poor Rate Assessment and Collection Act, 1869, in this Act called the principal Act. Short title and construction. 32 & 33 Vict. c. 41.

2. Where by way of commission or abatement or deduction under the principal Act, or purporting or assumed to be under the principal Act, an allowance or deduction has, before the passing of this Act, been or shall hereafter be actually made, the same shall, for the purpose of every qualification or franchise depending upon rating or upon payment of rates, be deemed to have been duly made in pursuance of every or any agreement, order, notice, or proceeding necessary for the validity thereof under the principal Act, and to have been and to be an allowance or deduction which the overseers were and are empowered to make from the rate under the principal Act; and no qualification or franchise depending upon rating or upon payment of rates shall be defeated by reason of such allowance or deduction not having been made in pursuance of an agreement in writing, order in writing, or notice in writing, or by reason of the want or insufficiency of any agreement, order, notice, or proceeding necessary for the validity thereof under the principal Act, or by reason of any informality or defect in the making thereof; provided always, that this Act shall not relieve any overseers from any liability which they have incurred or may incur by making an allowance or deduction otherwise than in pursuance of the provisions of the principal Act, or affect any remedy for the recovery of the amount of such allowance or deduction. Effect of allowance or deduction as regards qualification or franchise.

CHAPTER 11.

An Act to amend the Law of Evidence with respect to Bankers' Books. [23d May 1879.]

BE it 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:

Short title.

1. This Act may be cited as the Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 1879.

Repeal of 39 & 40 Vict. c. 48.

2. The Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 1876, shall be repealed as from the passing of this Act, but such repeal shall not affect anything which has been done or happened before such repeal takes effect.

Mode of proof of entries in bankers' books.

3. Subject to the provisions of this Act, a copy of any entry in a banker's book shall in all legal proceedings be received as primâ facie evidence of such entry, and of the matters, transactions, and accounts therein recorded.

Proof that book is a banker's book.

4. A copy of an entry in a banker's book shall not be received in evidence under this Act unless it be first proved that the book was at the time of the making of the entry one of the ordinary books of the bank, and that the entry was made in the usual and ordinary course of business, and that the book is in the custody or control of the bank.

Such proof may be given by a partner or officer of the bank, and may be given orally or by an affidavit sworn before any commissioner or person authorised to take affidavits.

Verification of copy.

5. A copy of an entry in a banker's book shall not be received in evidence under this Act unless it be further proved that the copy has been examined with the original entry and is correct.

Such proof shall be given by some person who has examined the copy with the original entry, and may be given either orally or by an affidavit sworn before any commissioner or person authorised to take affidavits.

Case in which banker, &c. not compellable to produce book, &c.

6. A banker or officer of a bank shall not, in any legal proceeding to which the bank is not a party, be compellable to produce any banker's book the contents of which can be proved under this Act, or to appear as a witness to prove the matters, transactions, and accounts therein recorded, unless by order of a judge made for special cause.

Court or judge may order inspection, &c.

7. On the application of any party to a legal proceeding a court or judge may order that such party be at liberty to inspect and take copies of any entries in a banker's book for any of the purposes of such proceedings. An order under this section may be made either with or without summoning the bank or any other party, and shall be served on the bank three clear days before the same is to be obeyed, unless the court or judge otherwise directs.

Costs.

8. The costs of any application to a court or judge under or for the purposes of this Act, and the costs of anything done or to be done under an order of a court or judge made under or for the purposes of this Act shall be in the discretion of the court or judge, who may order the same or any part thereof to be paid to any party by the bank, where the same have been occasioned by any default or delay on the part of the bank. Any such order against a bank may be enforced as if the bank was a party to the proceeding.

Interpretation of "bank," "banker," and "bankers' books."

9. In this Act the expressions "bank" and "banker" mean any person, persons, partnership, or company carrying on the business of bankers and having duly made a return to the Commissioners of Inland Revenue, and also any savings bank certified under the Acts relating to savings banks, and also any post office savings bank.

The fact of any such bank having duly made a return to the Commissioners of Inland Revenue may be proved in any legal proceeding by production of a copy of its return verified by the affidavit of a partner or officer of the bank, or by the production of a copy of a newspaper purporting to contain a copy of such return published by the Commissioners of Inland Revenue; the fact that any such savings bank is certified under the Acts relating to savings banks may be proved by an office or examined copy of its certificate; the fact that any such bank is a post office savings bank may be proved by a certificate purporting to be under the hand of Her Majesty's Postmaster-General or one of the secretaries of the Post Office.

Expressions in this Act relating to "bankers' books" include ledgers, day books, cash books, account books, and all other books used in the ordinary business of the bank.

10. In this Act—

Interpretation of "legal proceeding," "court," "judge."

The expression "legal proceeding" means any civil or criminal proceeding or inquiry in which evidence is or may be given, and includes an arbitration;

The expression "the court" means the court, judge, arbitrator, persons or person before whom a legal proceeding is held or taken;

The expression "a judge" means with respect to England a judge of the High Court of Justice, and with respect to Scotland a lord ordinary of the Outer House of the Court of Session, and with respect to Ireland a judge of the High Court of Justice in Ireland;

The judge of a county court may with respect to any action in such court exercise the powers of a judge under this Act.

11. Sunday, Christmas Day, Good Friday, and any bank holiday shall be excluded from the computation of time under this Act.

Computation of time.

CHAPTER 12.

An Act to amend the Divided Parishes and Poor Law Amendment Act, 1876. [23d May 1879.]

BE it 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. The provisions contained in the twenty-third section of the Divided Parishes and Poor Law Amendment Act, 1876, shall not apply to any moneys which a pauper or pauper lunatic having a wife or other relative dependent upon him for maintenance may be entitled to receive as a member of any friendly or benefit society, but such moneys shall, subject to any deductions for keeping up his membership required by the rules of such society, or any branch thereof, from which such pauper or pauper lunatic is entitled to receive such moneys, be paid or applied by the trustees, committee, or other officers of such society or branch to or for the maintenance of such wife or relative; and where a pauper or pauper lunatic

The provisions of s. 23. of 39 & 40 Vict. c. 61. not to apply to moneys to which a pauper or pauper lunatic may be entitled as a member of friendly or benefit society.