CHAP. 77.

An Act for making better provision for the erection of a Lighthouse on the Great Basses Rock in the Colony of Ceylon, and for other purposes connected therewith. A.D. 1869.

[9th August 1869.]

WHEREAS by the Merchant Shipping Amendment Act, 1855, the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury and the Public Works Loan Commissioners are authorized to advance sums of money for the purpose of constructing a lighthouse on or near the coasts of any British possession:

And whereas a considerable sum has been advanced by the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury for the establishment of a lightship near the Little Basses Rock, off the coast of Ceylon, part of which has been repaid out of the dues received in respect of such lightship:

And whereas it is expedient to make further provision for the exercise of the said powers for the purpose of the construction of a lighthouse on the Great Basses Rock near the Little Basses Rock:

And whereas the Secretary of State in Council of India has agreed to guarantee one half of a loan for the purpose of such lighthouse:

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 Basses Lights Act, 1869." Short title.

2. This Act shall be construed as one with the Merchant Shipping Act, 1854, and the Merchant Shipping Amendment Act, 1855, in this Act referred to as "the principal Acts." Construction of Act.

3. For the purpose of constructing a lighthouse on the said Great Basses Rock, the Public Works Loan Commissioners are hereby required to advance, in pursuance of the principal Acts, out Loan by Public Works Loan Commissioners.

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of the moneys at their disposal which are applicable for advances under The Harbours and Passing Tolls, &c. Act, 1861, a sum or sums not exceeding in the whole seventy thousand pounds at interest at the rate of three and a quarter per cent. per annum, such sums to be repayable within a period not exceeding fifty years, and to be secured on the fund formed out of the dues mentioned in this Act.

Guarantee of loan.

4. The Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury are hereby authorized to guarantee jointly with the Secretary of State in Council of India the principal and interest of the advances made by the Public Works Loan Commissioners for the purpose aforesaid, not exceeding the sum of seventy thousand pounds.

The Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury are hereby authorized to cause to be issued from time to time, out of the growing produce of the Consolidated Fund, such sums of money as may at any time be required to be paid to fulfil the guarantee in respect of one moiety of the said principal and interest.

Amount of dues.

5. The Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury shall not give any guarantee under this Act until the dues to be paid in respect of the Great Basses Lighthouse and Little Basses Lightship have been fixed by Order in Council at such rate as they may think sufficient.

So long as such guarantee is in force, the said dues shall not be altered without the consent of the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury and the Secretary of State in Council of India.

So long as any money is due to the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury in respect of the sums advanced for the Little Basses Lightship the said dues shall not be altered without the consent of those Commissioners.

Accounts to be laid before Parliament.

6. The Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury and the Secretary of State in Council of India shall respectively cause to be prepared and laid before both Houses of Parliament an account of all sums issued and paid respectively for the purposes of the guarantee under this Act within three months after the same are so issued or paid, if Parliament be then sitting, or, if Parliament be not sitting, then within fourteen days after the then next meeting of Parliament.

Application of dues of Great and Little Basses Lights.

7. The dues levied under the authority of the principal Acts in respect of the lighthouse on the Great Basses Rock, and in respect of the lightship near the Little Basses Rock, after deducting any expenses incurred in collecting the same, shall form one fund, which shall be applied for the purpose of paying the expenses incurred in

erecting and maintaining such lighthouse and lightship, and for no other purpose whatever, and the priority according to which such expenses shall be paid shall (so far as conveniently may be, and subject to any other arrangement made with the consent of the guarantors under this Act) be as follows:

(1.) The expenses of maintaining such lighthouse and lightship:

(2.) Then the interest on the unpaid balance of the sum advanced by the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury for the Little Basses lightship, at the rate of three and a quarter per cent. per annum, and the interest on the unpaid balance of the loan under this Act pari passu:

(3.) Then the amount for the time being required for repaying the principal of the said advances and loan respectively pari passu:

(4.) Then the amount required for repaying pari passu to the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury and the Secretary of State in Council of India all sums which they may respectively have paid on account of the guarantee under this Act, with interest on such sums after the rate of five per cent. per annum from the time at which they were paid.

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