CHAPTER 12.

An Act for the prevention of Accidents by Threshing Machines.

[16th April 1878.]

Factories: 7 & 8 Vict. c. 15. s. 21. Coal Mines: 35 & 36 Vict. c. 76. s. 51. sub-sects. (14), (24), (27). Metalliferous Mines: 35 & 36 Vict. c. 77. s. 23, sub-sects. (7), (17), (19).

WHEREAS by certain Acts of Parliament provision is made for the fencing of dangerous machinery in factories and mines, and it is expedient that similar provision should be made with respect to threshing machines:

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:

Steam threshing machines to be fenced.

Penalty.

1. The drum and feeding mouth of every threshing machine as defined by this Act shall at all times during the working thereof be kept sufficiently and securely fenced so far as is reasonably practicable and consistent with the due and efficient working thereof.

If any person permits any threshing machine belonging to him or used for his service or benefit to be worked without its being fenced as aforesaid:

Or, if any foreman, engineer, or other person in charge of any threshing machine, works it or permits it to be worked without its being fenced as aforesaid:

Or, if any person during the working of any threshing machine removes any guard or thing used as a fence for any such machine:

Every person so offending on any day shall be liable on summary conviction to a penalty not exceeding five pounds.

If in the prosecution of any person to whom the threshing machine belongs or for whose service or benefit it is used, it is shown that the machine was not in fact kept sufficiently and securely fenced during the working thereof, such person shall be deemed to have permitted the same unless he satisfy the court that he took all reasonable precautions to ensure the observance of this Act.

Commencement and extent of Act.

2. This Act shall not come into operation until the first day of August one thousand eight hundred and seventy-nine.

This Act shall not extend to Scotland or Ireland.

Evidence.

3. On the prosecution of any person for an offence against this Act he may, on his own application, be sworn and examined as a witness.

Entry on premises.

4. Any constable may at any time enter on any premises on which he has reasonable cause to believe that a threshing machine is being worked contrary to the provisions of this Act, for the purpose of inspecting such machine.

Interpretation.

5. In this Act "threshing machine" means a threshing machine which is worked by steam or by any motive power other than manual labour.

CHAPTER 13.

An Act to declare the law relating to the Acceptance of Bills of Exchange.

[16th April 1878.]

19 & 20 Vict. c. 97. 19 & 20 Vict. c. 60.

WHEREAS by the Mercantile Law Amendment Act, 1856, and the Mercantile Law Amendment Act (Scotland), 1856, it is enacted that "no acceptance of any bill of "exchange, whether inland or foreign, made after the 31st day of December 1856, shall "be sufficient to bind or charge any person, unless the same be in writing on such bill, "or if there be more than one part of such bill on one of the said parts, and signed by "the acceptor or some person duly authorised by him":

And whereas doubts have arisen as to the true effect and intention of the said enactment, and as to whether the signature of the drawee alone can constitute a sufficient

acceptance of the bill so as to satisfy the requirements of the said Statute, and it is expedient that the meaning of the said enactment should be further declared:

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. An acceptance of a bill of exchange is not and shall not be deemed to be insufficient under the provisions of the said Statutes by reason only that such acceptance consists merely of the signature of the drawee written on such bill. Declaration of law.

2. Nothing in this Act shall affect the validity or invalidity of any verdict or judgment recovered or given before the passing of this Act. Saving.

3. This Act may be cited for all purposes as the Bills of Exchange Act, 1878. Short title.

CHAPTER 14.

An Act to amend the Law relating to Public Baths and Washhouses.

[27th May 1878.]

WHEREAS the Act passed in the session held in the ninth and tenth years of the reign of Her present Majesty, chapter seventy-four, intituled "An Act to encourage "the establishment of Public Baths and Washhouses," was amended by the Act passed in the session held in the tenth and eleventh years of the reign of Her present Majesty, chapter sixty-one, intituled "An Act to amend the Act for the establishment of Public Baths "and Washhouses," and it is expedient further to amend the said first-recited Act, and to provide for the establishment of covered swimming baths and other purposes: 9 & 10 Vict. c. 74. 10 & 11 Vict. c. 61.

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 for all purposes as the Baths and Washhouses Act, 1878. Short title.

The words "covered swimming bath" in this Act shall mean a swimming bath protected by a roof or other covering from the weather. "Covered swimming bath."

2. This Act and the recited Acts, as amended by the Statute Law Revision Act, 1875, and the Public Health Act, 1875, and by this Act, shall be construed and carried into execution as one Act; and the words "the council and the commissioners" when used in this Act shall include the urban authority mentioned in the tenth section of the Public Health Act, 1875. Construction of Act. 38 & 39 Vict. c. 66. 38 & 39 Vict. c. 55.

3. All the provisions of the recited Acts respectively shall be construed to extend and to have extended from the passing of such Acts respectively to covered swimming baths as well as to baths, washhouses, and open bathing places. Covered swimming baths authorised.

4. The council and the commissioners respectively may from time to time provide covered swimming baths, and make such reasonable charges for the use thereof as they shall think fit, not exceeding the charges mentioned in the schedule annexed to this Act. As to charges for swimming baths.

5. The council and the commissioners respectively may during such period, not exceeding five months in any one year, as they shall think fit, from the beginning of the month of November to the end of the month of March, close any covered swimming bath or open swimming bath, and may either keep the same closed or may establish therein a gymnasium or such other means of healthful recreation as they shall think fit, or may during such period allow any covered or open swimming bath to be used as an empty building for such purposes of healthful recreation or exercise as they shall think fit during such period as aforesaid, and may at any time allow any portion of the public baths not required by the commissioners to be used for holding vestry meetings or other parochial purposes: Provided always, that no covered or open swimming bath when closed may be used for music or dancing. Power to close swimming baths for a limited period.