CHAPTER clxxvi.

An Act to enable the mayor and commonalty and citizens of the City of London to establish a Free Steam Ferry across the River Thames east of London Bridge to apply the income and to raise moneys on the security of the rents and profits of the Bridge House Estates and for other purposes. [28th July 1884.]

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WHEREAS it is expedient that the mayor and commonalty and citizens of the City of London (in this Act called the Corporation) be empowered to acquire by purchase or lease and use maintain and work the undertaking of the Thames Steam Ferry Company Limited (in this Act called the company) as in this Act provided:

And whereas it is expedient that the Corporation be empowered to obtain all such information respecting traffic passing over any ferry acquired used maintained and worked under the powers of this Act as may assist in determining what and where further communications across the River Thames may be necessary or convenient:

And whereas the Corporation are seised of or entitled to certain messuages lands tenements and hereditaments in the City of London and in the counties of Surrey Kent and Essex (which are commonly and in this Act called the Bridge House Estates) as trustees for maintaining and supporting London Bridge and the rents and profits of the said estates are subject to certain charges thereon now existing and it is expedient that the Corporation be empowered to apply such rents and profits (subject to all charges now thereon existing) or to borrow money on the security (subject as aforesaid) of the said rents and profits and to apply the same to the purposes of this Act:

And whereas the purposes of this Act cannot be effected without the authority of Parliament:

May it therefore please Your Majesty that it may be enacted and be it enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty by and

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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 City of London Free Ferry Act 1884.

Act to be executed by Court of Common Council.

2. The powers conferred by this Act on the Corporation may be exercised by the mayor aldermen and commons of the City of London in common council assembled.

Incorporation of general Acts.

3. The Lands Clauses Consolidation Act 1845 (except the provisions thereof with respect to the purchase and taking of lands otherwise than by agreement and with respect to entry upon lands by the promoters of the undertaking and the Lands Clauses Consolidation Acts Amendment Act 1860) are (except where expressly varied by this Act) incorporated with and form part of this Act.

Interpretation of terms.

4. In this Act the several words and expressions to which meanings are assigned by the Acts wholly or partially incorporated herewith have the same respective meanings unless there be something in the subject or context repugnant to such construction the Corporation shall be deemed and taken to be the persons intended in the provisions of the Acts incorporated with this Act by the words "promoters of the undertaking" or "the undertakers" the word "traffic" means persons and their luggage goods animals carriages waggons trucks and vehicles of every description and their contents the word "person" includes corporation and for the purpose of this Act the expression "superior courts" or "court of competent jurisdiction" or any other like expression in this Act or any Act wholly or partially incorporated herewith shall be read and have effect as if the debt or demand with respect to which the expression is used were a simple contract debt and not a debt or demand created by statute.

Lands for extraordinary purposes.

5. The Corporation may purchase and hold by agreement any land they may require for the purposes of this Act not exceeding two acres.

Power to take easements &c. by agreement.

6. Persons empowered by the Lands Clauses Consolidation Act 1845 to sell and convey or release lands may if they think fit subject to the provisions of that Act and of the Lands Clauses Consolidation Acts Amendment Act 1860 and of this Act grant to the Corporation any easement right or privilege not being an easement of water required for the purposes of the ferry and works herein-before by this Act authorised to be made and maintained in over or affecting any such lands and the provisions of the said Acts with respect to

lands and rentcharges so far as the same are applicable in this behalf shall extend and apply to such grants and to such easements rights and privileges as aforesaid respectively.

Power to acquire undertaking of the company.

7. The Corporation may at any time after the passing of this Act purchase and the company or their successors or assigns may sell to the Corporation so much of their undertaking as consists of the ferry and landing-stages and such works and appliances connected therewith as are necessary for working the ferry and the ferry steam vessels together with all rights powers and privileges as the same exist at the time of the passing of this Act (in this Act called "the company's undertaking") and for the purpose of exercising the powers of this section the company's undertaking shall be deemed to be lands within the meaning assigned to the word lands by the Lands Clauses Consolidation Act 1845.

Transfer of undertaking by deed.

8. The sale of the company's undertaking shall be carried into effect by a deed duly stamped and truly stating the consideration and on the execution of that deed by the company the company's undertaking shall by virtue of that deed and of this Act become and shall thenceforth be transferred to and vested in the Corporation subject and according to the provisions of this Act and thenceforth the Corporation shall have and hold the company's undertaking and exercise and enjoy with respect to the premises sold all the rights powers and privileges of the company which at the time of the completion of such sale might lawfully be exercised and enjoyed by them (which transfer and vesting is in this Act referred to as "the transfer").

Receipt of directors of company for purchase money.

9. If the consideration money to be paid to the company be a sum in gross then the receipt in writing of three of the directors of the company or of their successors or assigns for the purchase money to be paid to them by the Corporation shall effectually discharge the Corporation from the sum which in such receipt shall be acknowledged to have been received and from being concerned to see to the application thereof and from being answerable or accountable for the loss misapplication or non-application thereof.

Power to company to lease undertaking to Corporation.

10. The company or their successors or assigns may upon such terms (pecuniary or other) and conditions whatsoever as may be agreed between them and the Corporation enter into any agreement for the working of the ferry by the company or their successors or assigns or may demise and lease the company's undertaking to the Corporation and the Corporation may enter into such agreement and accept such lease and the agreement or lease may be for such period or periods and may take effect at such times as the company and the Corporation think fit.

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Powers &c. of Company to be exercised by Corporation.

11. All the rights powers and privileges of the company which at the time of the lease might lawfully be exercised and enjoyed by them with respect to the premises leased and which in accordance with the terms and conditions of the agreement are to be exercised and enjoyed by the Corporation with respect to the premises agreed to be leased shall be exercised and enjoyed by the Corporation accordingly under and with the same regulations restrictions obligations penalties and immunities as by the company.

Lease to be by deed duly stamped.

12. The lease shall be sufficiently and conclusively evidenced by a deed duly stamped and wherein the full consideration shall be fully and truly set forth And in the event of any such lease being granted or transfer made as aforesaid the Corporation shall within three months from the date of any such transfer or lease produce to the Commissioners of Inland Revenue such conveyance or lease duly stamped as aforesaid and in default of such production the ad valorem stamp duty with interest thereon at the rate of five pounds per centum per annum from the date of vesting to the date of payment shall be recoverable from the Corporation with full costs of suit and all costs and charges attending the same.

Power to Corporation to maintain undertaking of company after transfer &c.

13. After the transfer or lease thereof and in the case of a lease subject to the terms of such lease the Corporation may maintain use and work the company's undertaking.

Power to build hire &c. vessels.

14. The Corporation may from time to time build or buy or hire and may use maintain and work or enter into arrangements for using maintaining or working vessels for the purposes of any ferry established acquired leased used maintained or worked under the powers of this Act.

Ferries to be free of tolls.

15. No toll or other charge shall be demanded or received for the use of any ferry established acquired leased used maintained or worked under the powers of this Act.

Power to obtain information respecting traffic.

16. The Corporation may require such true and full information to be given to them by every person making use of a ferry established acquired leased used maintained or worked under the powers of this Act and whether accompanying animals vehicles luggage or goods or otherwise as the Corporation think proper for the purpose of ascertaining the nature character and quantity of all traffic passing over such ferry and whence such traffic has come and to what destination the same is proceeding.

Corporation empowered to make byelaws &c.

17. The Corporation may from time to time make such byelaws rules and regulations as they think proper for the government regulation police and management of the ferry piers lifts jetties landing-

places approaches and other works acquired leased used maintained or worked under the powers of this Act and of the traffic thereon and for the government and regulation of officers and servants and workmen in their employ and of porters whether in their employ or not on or at such ferry piers lifts jetties landing-places approaches and other works and for giving effect to the power of obtaining information respecting traffic conferred on the Corporation by this Act and generally for carrying into effect the purposes of this Act and the several powers and authorities hereby vested in the Corporation and from time to time to alter vary or repeal such byelaws rules and regulations or any of them as they shall think fit so that no such byelaws rules or regulations be inconsistent with any of the laws of this kingdom or with this Act and so as the same be reduced into writing and shall be under the common seal of the Corporation and be allowed by the Board of Trade.

Penalties not exceeding five pounds may be imposed by byelaws.

18. The Corporation may by any such byelaws rules and regulations impose and inflict such reasonable penalties for the breach or non-performance of such byelaws rules and regulations or any of them as they shall think fit so that no one penalty shall exceed the sum of five pounds for any one offence Provided always that such byelaws rules and regulations shall be so framed as to allow the justices before whom any penalty imposed thereby may be sought to be recovered to order the whole or a part only of such penalty to be paid and the word "justices" shall include any magistrate empowered by law to do alone any act authorised to be done by more than one justice of the peace.

Byelaws &c. to be printed and published.

19. All byelaws rules and regulations made under the powers of this Act shall be printed and copies thereof exhibited in a conspicuous place at each and every of the landing-stages used under the powers of this Act.

Proof of byelaws &c.

20. A copy of any byelaw rule or regulation made under the powers of this Act authenticated by the signature of the town clerk of the City of London shall for all purposes and to all intents be conclusive evidence of such byelaw rule or regulation and of the due making and allowance thereof.

Corporation authorised to make agreements for watching &c. with Commissioners of Metropolitan Police.

21. The Commissioners of Metropolitan Police may from time to time at the request of the Corporation and upon such terms as to payment by the Corporation or otherwise as may be agreed upon between the Corporation and the said Commissioners provide constables to preserve order at or on all or any ferries piers lifts jetties landing-places and approaches thereto established acquired leased used maintained or worked under the powers of this Act and situate

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within the metropolitan police district and to prevent the intrusion thereon of improper persons or persons who have no intention of passing over any such ferry or of embarking on board any vessel from any of such piers jetties or landing-places and to remove any persons who may unnecessarily linger or loiter at or on or about any of such ferry piers jetties landing-places or approaches and also to assist in the enforcement of this Act and the byelaws rules and regulations made under the powers in that behalf in this Act contained for the time being in force and any expenses incurred by the Corporation in pursuance of this section shall be deemed to have been incurred in respect of and shall be defrayed out of moneys applicable for the purposes of this Act.

Power to apply the rents and profits of the Bridge House Estates.

22. The Corporation may from time to time apply the rents and profits of the Bridge House Estates for the purposes of this Act but subject and without prejudice to the charges thereon now existing.

Power to raise money on the credit of the Bridge House Estates.

23. The Corporation may from time to time raise on the credit of the rents and profits of the Bridge House Estates any sum or sums of money required for the purposes of this Act but subject and without prejudice to the charges thereon now existing.

Form of bonds.

24. All money borrowed under this Act may be secured by bonds or other instruments under the common seal of the Corporation which bonds shall be in such form and shall contain such stipulations and conditions if any respecting the payment of the money thereby secured at a fixed time or otherwise or respecting any other matter relative to the security as the Corporation may from time to time deem expedient and such bonds or instruments shall be assignable by indorsement.

Protection of lenders.

25. Any person paying to the Corporation or to any person appointed by them to receive the same any money borrowed under this Act shall not be answerable for the non-application or misapplication thereof.

Application of money.

26. All money applied or raised under the authority of this Act shall be applicable for any of the purposes authorised by this Act but so that borrowed moneys shall be applied only to purposes to which capital is properly applicable and in case the Corporation at any time advance or pay any sums of money for the purposes of this Act out of any fund other than money borrowed under the authority of this Act they may from time to time retain or repay to themselves out of moneys borrowed under the authority of this Act the amount so advanced or paid by them with interest thereon at a rate not exceeding four pounds per centum per annum.

Register of bonds and assignments.

27. The chamberlain for the time being for the City of London shall enter in a book to be kept for that purpose a list of all bonds or other instruments issued under this Act and of assignments thereof expressing the names surnames descriptions and places of business or residence of the persons from time to time entitled to the several bonds or instruments which book all persons entitled to or interested in any such bond or instrument may without any payment inspect at all reasonable times.

Power to appoint a committee to carry the Act into execution.

28. The Corporation may from time to time appoint a committee to manage and transact all or any of the matters or purposes which the Corporation are by this Act empowered to do execute or perform and such committee shall have such or so many of the powers and authorities and discretion by this Act given to and reposed in the Corporation as the Corporation shall think fit or proper to delegate to such committee.

Saving rights of Conservators.

29. Except as by this Act is expressly enacted nothing in this Act contained shall extend to or be construed to extend to prejudice or derogate from the estates rights interests liberties privileges or franchises of the Conservators of the River Thames or to prohibit defeat alter or diminish any power authority or jurisdiction which at the time of passing this Act the Conservators did or might lawfully claim use or exercise.

Saving rights of the Crown.

30. Nothing contained in this Act shall extend to take away prejudice diminish or alter any of the estates rights privileges powers or authorities vested in or enjoyed or exerciseable by the Queen's Majesty Her heirs or successors.

Expenses of Act.

31. All the costs charges and expenses of and incidental to the applying for obtaining and passing of this Act and of carrying the same into execution shall be paid out of the rents and profits or the moneys raised on the credit of the rents and profits of the Bridge House Estates.

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