PART II.

LOANS BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC WORKS, IRELAND—*continued.*

Name of Borrower.	Act authorising Advance.	Amount advanced.	Amount realised by Sale of Undertaking.	Amount to be written off the Assets of the Local Loans Fund and to be extinguished.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
The Draperstown Railway Company.	1 & 2 Will. 4. c. 33. -	15,000 0 0	2,000 0 0	13,000 0 0

PART III.

LOANS BY THE FISHERY BOARD FOR SCOTLAND.

Loans to Fishermen under the Crofters' Holdings (Scotland) Act, 1886 (49 & 50 Vict. c. 29.).

District.	Amount advanced.	Amount repaid and realised by sale of Boats.	Amount to be written off the Assets of the Local Loans Fund.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Wick - -	75 0 0	61 16 3	13 3 9
Stornoway - -	135 0 0	82 8 10	52 11 2
		Total -	65 14 11

CHAPTER 43.

An Act to amend the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1887.

[14th August 1896.]

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:

Special rules. 50 & 51 Vict. c. 58.

1.—(1.) The power to propose, amend, and modify special rules for a mine under the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1887 (in this Act referred to as the principal Act), shall include powers with respect to any of the following matters:—

(*a*) the nature and description of the lights or lamps to be used in the mine, and their custody and the mode of using and trimming them; and

(*b*) the description of explosives to be used in the mine, the mode of using and of storing such explosives, and of making and stemming holes, and the times at which and the manner in which shots are to be fired in the mine; and

(*c*) the number or class of persons, if any, to be permitted to remain in the mine or any part thereof whilst shots are being fired; and

(*d*) the watering or efficient damping of the mine or any ways or places therein; and

(*e*) generally the precautions to be adopted for the prevention of accidents from inflammable gas and coal dust.

(2.) While any special rules made under this section are in force in any mine, any general rule contained in section forty-nine of the principal Act, and any special rule established under the principal Act, shall, if and so far as it is inconsistent with any special rules made under this section, be suspended in relation to that mine.

Representation of workmen on arbitration.

2. Where any matter in difference is referred to arbitration under the principal Act, a majority of the workmen employed in the mine to which the arbitration relates may, on giving such security, if any, as may appear to the arbitrators or umpire sufficient to provide for the costs occasioned by such representation, appoint any person to represent the workmen, or any class of them, on the arbitration, and any person so appointed shall be entitled to attend and take part in the proceedings of the arbitration to such extent and in such manner as the arbitrators or umpire may direct, and be subject to the same liability with respect to costs so occasioned as if he were a party to the arbitration.

Plan of mine in working.

3. The plan required to be kept in pursuance of section thirty-four of the principal Act shall show the position of the workings therein mentioned with regard to the surface, and the position, extension, and direction of every known fault or dislocation of the seam with its vertical throw.

Plan of abandoned mine.

4.—(1.) For sub-sections (1) and (2) of section thirty-eight of the principal Act shall be substituted the following sub-sections:—

"(1.) Where any mine or seam is abandoned, the person who is owner of the mine or seam at the time of its abandonment shall, within three months after the abandonment, send to a Secretary of State:

(i.) An accurate plan of the mine or seam, being either the original working plan or an accurate copy thereof made by a competent draughtsman, and showing—

(*a*) the boundaries of the workings of the mine or seam, including not only the working faces but also all headings in advance thereof, up to the time of the abandonment;

(*b*) the pillars of coal or other mineral remaining unworked;

(*c*) the position, direction, and extent of every known fault or dislocation of the seam with its vertical throw;

(*d*) the position of the workings with regard to the surface boundary;

(*e*) the general direction and rate of dip of the strata; and

(*f*) a statement of the depth of the shaft from the surface to the seam abandoned; and

(ii.) A section of the strata sunk through, or, if that is not reasonably practicable, a statement of the depth of the shaft with a section of the seam.

"Every such plan must be on a scale of not less than that of the Ordnance survey of twenty-five inches to the mile, or on the same scale as the plan used at the mine at the time of its abandonment, and its accuracy must be certified, so far as is reasonably practicable, by a surveyor or other person approved in that behalf by an inspector of mines.

"(2.) The plan and section shall be preserved under the care of the Secretary of State; but no person, except an inspector under this Act, shall be entitled without the consent of the owner of the mine or seam, or the licence of a Secretary of State, to see the plan when so sent until after the expiration of ten years from the time of the abandonment. Provided that such licence shall not be granted unless the Secretary of State is satisfied that the inspection of such plan is necessary in the interests of safety."

(2.) The High Court, or, in Scotland, the Court of Session, may, on application by or behalf of the Secretary of State, make an order requiring any person who has, for the time being, the custody or possession of any plan or section of an abandoned mine or seam to produce it to the Secretary of State for the purpose of inspection or copying.

Amendment of general rules as to lamps, inspection, and tamping.

5.—(1.) The inspection before the commencement of work required by Rule 4 (i) contained in section forty-nine of the principal Act, shall extend to all working places in which work is temporarily stopped within any ventilating district in which the men have to work.

(2.) A safety lamp shall not be used in any mine or part of a mine by any person employed therein unless it is provided by the owner of the mine, and no portion of any safety lamp shall be removed by any person from the mine while the lamp is in ordinary use.

(3.) In Rule 12 of the general rules contained in section forty-nine of the principal Act, for the words "nor shall coal or coal "dust be used for tamping" shall be substituted the words "and "only clay or other non-inflammable substances shall be used "for stemming, and shall be provided by the owner of the mine."

Provision as to explosives.

6. A Secretary of State on being satisfied that any explosive is or is likely to become dangerous, may, by order, of which notice shall be given in such manner as he may direct, prohibit the use

thereof in any mine, or in any class of mines, either absolutely or subject to conditions, and the provisions of the principal Act as to contraventions of general rules shall apply to contraventions of any such prohibitions.

Short title.

7. This Act may be cited as the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1896, and the principal Act and the Coal Mines (Check Weighers) Act, 1894, and this Act may be cited collectively as the Coal Mines Regulation Acts, 1887 to 1896.

57 & 58 Vict. c. 52.

CHAPTER 44.

An Act to amend the Truck Acts. [14th August 1896.]

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:

Deductions or payments in respect of fines.

1.—(1.) An employer shall not make any contract with any workman for any deduction from the sum contracted to be paid by the employer to the workman, or for any payment to the employer by the workman, for or in respect of any fine, unless—

(*a*) the terms of the contract are contained in a notice kept constantly affixed at such place or places open to the workmen and in such a position that it may be easily seen, read, and copied by any person whom it affects; or the contract is in writing, signed by the workman; and

(*b*) the contract specifies the acts or omissions in respect of which the fine may be imposed, and the amount of the fine or the particulars from which that amount may be ascertained; and

(*c*) the fine imposed under the contract is in respect of some act or omission which causes or is likely to cause damage or loss to the employer, or interruption or hindrance to his business; and

(*d*) the amount of the fine is fair and reasonable having regard to all the circumstances of the case.

(2.) An employer shall not make any such deduction or receive any such payment, unless—

(*a*) the deduction or payment is made in pursuance of, or in accordance with, such a contract as aforesaid; and

(*b*) particulars in writing showing the acts or omissions in respect of which the fine is imposed and the amount thereof are supplied to the workman on each occasion when a deduction or payment is made.

(3.) This section shall apply to the case of a shop assistant in like manner as it applies to the case of a workman.

Deductions or payments in respect of damaged goods.

2.—(1.) An employer shall not make any contract with any workman for any deduction from the sum contracted to be paid by the employer to the workman, or for any payment to the employer by the workman for or in respect of bad or negligent