(*c*) with respect to Scotland, has the meaning assigned to it by the Police (Scotland) Act, 1890; 53 & 54 Vict. c. 67.

(*d*) with respect to Ireland, means in the police district of Dublin metropolis either of the Commissioners of Police for that district, and elsewhere the district inspector of the Royal Irish Constabulary.

Short title.

3. This Act may be cited as the Dangerous Performances Act, 1897, and the Children's Dangerous Performances Act, 1879, and this Act may be cited together as the Dangerous Performances Acts, 1879 and 1897.

CHAPTER 53.

An Act to provide for the administration of Sums available for the Improvement of Congested Districts in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland.

[6th August 1897.]

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:

Appointment of Congested Districts (Scotland) Commissioners.

1. For the purpose of administering the sums available for the improvement of congested districts in the highlands and islands of Scotland, the following persons shall be Commissioners (called the Congested Districts (Scotland) Commissioners), that is to say:—The Secretary for Scotland, the Under Secretary for Scotland, the Chairman of the Local Government Board for Scotland, the Chairman of the Fishery Board for Scotland, the Chairman of the Crofters' Commission, and such other persons, not exceeding three, as the Secretary for Scotland may from time to time nominate.

The Secretary for Scotland may from time to time make, alter, and vary such rules as he shall deem necessary for regulating the proceedings of the Commissioners, and the times and places of their meetings.

Secretary and officers to be appointed from existing officers of Government departments.

2.—(1.) The Secretary for Scotland may appoint as Secretary to the Commissioners one of the officers in the department of the Secretary for Scotland, or in any Government department in Scotland, and, with the consent of the Treasury, may assign to him an additional salary. The Secretary for Scotland may also, with the consent of the Treasury, direct any of the officers in any Government department in Scotland to discharge in relation to the Commissioners such duties, not inconsistent with those of their permanent offices, as he may think proper.

(2.) The salaries or remuneration of the officers (if any) employed by the Commissioners, and the administrative expenses of the Commissioners, shall be fixed by the Treasury and paid out of the sums by this Act to be annually voted by Parliament.

Constitution of Congested Districts (Scotland) Fund; sums to be carried thereto.

3. For the purposes of this Act a fund (to be called the Congested Districts (Scotland) Fund) shall be constituted, to which shall, from time to time, be carried:—

(1) the sum of fifteen thousand pounds annually available for the improvement of congested districts in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland under and during the continuance of the Agricultural Rates, Congested Districts, and Burgh Land Tax Relief (Scotland) Act, 1896; and 59 & 60 Vict. c. 37.

(2) any sums not exceeding twenty thousand pounds annually voted by Parliament for the said purpose and during the said continuance; and

(3) any moneys received for payment of interest or repayment of principal of any loan made by the Commissioners under the provisions of this Act; and

(4) any other sums applicable to the purposes of this Act.

Application of moneys at disposal of Commissioners.

4.—(1.) In applying the Congested Districts (Scotland) Fund the Commissioners may take such steps as they think proper for—

(*a*) aiding and developing agriculture, dairy farming, and the breeding of live stock and poultry in congested districts; and

(*b*) providing suitable seed potatoes and seed oats and implements and dairy utensils and machinery or appliances for the making of butter or cheese for crofters and cottars in congested districts; and

(*c*) providing, subject to the provisions herein-after contained, land for sub-division among or for enlargement of the holdings of crofters and cottars in congested districts for the purposes of cultivation or grazing, in such manner and upon such conditions and after such adaptations as shall be determined by the Commissioners; and

(*d*) aiding migration of crofters and cottars from congested districts to other districts in Scotland, and settling any migrants under favourable circumstances in the places to which they first migrate; and

(*e*) aiding and developing fishing (including industries connected with and subservient to fishing) and the erection and formation of fishermen's dwellings and holdings in congested districts; and

(*f*) aiding the providing or improving of light-houses, piers or boat-slips, public roads and bridges, and footpaths and foot bridges, and meal-mills, in congested districts; and providing guarantees for telegraph extensions, or such other postal facilities (including money order and savings bank business) as may be within the power of the Postmaster General to grant under guarantee; and

(*g*) aiding and developing spinning, weaving, and other home industries in congested districts; and

(*h*) subject to the consent of the Treasury,—
aiding the providing or improving of harbours.

(2.) The Commissioners may give their assistance either by way of gift or loan, or by way of sale at cost price, and subject to such

conditions as they think fit, which conditions and the provisions for their enforcement or for the case of their violation shall be as effectual as if they were contained in this Act, and the consent of the Secretary for Scotland shall be necessary before any grant of money is given by way of gift under the provisions of this Act.

(3.) Any person nominated by the Commissioners may, at all reasonable times, and after due notice to the occupier, enter any land occupied by an occupier to whom seed or implements, utensils, machinery, or appliances have been sold or gifted, in order to ascertain whether such seed has been properly sown, or that a proper use is being made of such implements, utensils, machinery, or appliances.

Acquisition, adaptation, and disposal of land.

5.—(1.) For the purpose of the purchase of land by the Commissioners (who are hereby authorised to purchase and hold land and dispose thereof as in this Act provided) the Lands Clauses Acts shall be incorporated with this Act, except the provisions of those Acts with respect to the purchase and taking of land otherwise than by agreement; and the provisions of sub-section four of section three of the Allotments (Scotland) Act, 1892, with respect to the settlement of disputed compensation for land, shall apply, with the necessary modifications, as if the Commissioners were therein referred to.

55 & 56 Vict. c. 54.

(2.) Any limited owner may sell land to the Commissioners for the purposes of this Act at such a price or for such consideration, as, having regard to those purposes and to all the circumstances of the case, is deemed reasonable; a limited owner may also, with the sanction of the Local Government Board given under this section, convey the land for that purpose either without payment of any purchase money or compensation, or at a price less than the real value, and may so convey it free of all incumbrances. Provided that the Local Government Board shall not give their sanction under this section unless they are satisfied that the purpose for which the land is conveyed is such as is calculated to benefit the remaining land held by the same title or other land of the same landowner, and provided also that, if the land proposed to be conveyed is subject to incumbrances, the Local Government Board before giving their sanction under this section shall cause notice to be given to the incumbrancers, and shall consider the objections, if any, raised by them.

(3.) The Commissioners may, if they think fit, before disposing of land for the purposes of this Act, adapt the same by dividing and fencing it, making occupation roads, and executing any other works, such as works for the provision of drainage or water supply, which can, in the opinion of the Commissioners, be more economically and efficiently executed for the land as a whole.

(4.) The Commissioners may also, if they think fit, adapt the land for the purposes of this Act by erecting or assisting in erecting thereon such buildings, or making such adaptations of existing buildings, as, in their opinion, are required for the due occupation of the land, and cannot be made by the crofters or cottars or fishermen.

(5.) Where any right of grazing or other similar right is attached to land acquired by the Commissioners for the purposes of this Act, the Commissioners may attach any share of the right to any holding in such manner and subject to such regulations as they think proper.

(6.) The Commissioners may accept any gifts of property, heritable or moveable, for any or all of the purposes for which money is provided by this Act, and apply them according to the directions of the donor, if consistent in their opinion with the purposes on which they apply the said money, and, subject to any such directions, may apply them in like manner as that money.

Security for and repayment of loan.

6. Any loan under the provisions of this Act shall be secured by a bond which shall be a charge on the holding in favour of the Commissioners, and shall either be repaid by half-yearly instalments of principal with such interest and within such term (not exceeding a period fixed by the Treasury) from the date of the loan, or at such date thereafter not exceeding eighteen months as may be agreed on, or shall be repaid with such interest and within such term by a terminable annuity payable by half-yearly instalments. The amount for the time being unpaid may at any time be discharged, and any such terminable annuity may at any time be redeemed in accordance with tables fixed by the Commissioners. A certificate by the Secretary of the Commissioners that the whole of the loan has been repaid, or that such terminable annuity has been redeemed, shall, without any other instrument, operate as a discharge of the said loan and extinction of the said terminable annuity, as the case may be, and the registration of such certificate in the register of Sasines shall be equivalent to the registration of a discharge of the said bond.

As to preparation of titles connected with grants of or loans over land.

7.—(1.) The Commissioners shall cause to be prepared and duly registered all deeds, writs, and instruments necessary for completing the title to the land disposed of by them, and for securing the payment of any loan over land made by them, and shall include in the grant or loan the cost so incurred, or to be incurred, in accordance with scales set forth in tables fixed by the Commissioners.

(2.) The Commissioners, if they think fit, may from time to time appoint, at their pleasure, a person duly qualified to carry out the provisions of this section, and shall assign to him such salary or remuneration as they may determine.

Supplemental.

8.—(1.) The Commissioners shall submit to the Treasury annually, and at any other time, for any special purpose, in the form fixed by the Treasury, an estimate showing the amount proposed by the Commissioners to be expended, and the purposes for which the same is proposed to be expended, and shall not expend any sums except in accordance with such estimate and for such purposes when approved by the Treasury.

(2.) The Commissioners shall keep such accounts of their receipts and expenditure, and those accounts shall be audited in accordance with such regulations, as the Treasury direct, and be laid before Parliament.

Report to Parliament.

9. The Commissioners shall once in every year make a report to the Secretary for Scotland on their proceedings under this Act, and every such report shall be forthwith presented to Parliament.

Definitions.

10. In this Act unless the subject or context otherwise requires—

The expression "congested district" means any crofting parish or crofting parishes, or any area in a crofting parish or crofting parishes, defined by the Commissioners under this Act, which they shall, having regard to the population and valuation thereof, determine to be a congested district.

The expressions "crofter," "cottar," and "crofting parish" have the meanings assigned to them in the Crofters Holdings (Scotland) Act, 1886.

49 & 50 Vict. c. 29.

Short title.

11. This Act may be cited as the Congested Districts (Scotland) Act, 1897.

CHAPTER 54.

An Act to continue various Expiring Laws.

[6th August 1897.]

WHEREAS the Acts mentioned in Part I. of the Schedule to this Act are, in so far as they are in force and are temporary in their duration, limited to expire on the thirty-first day of December one thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven:

And whereas the Act mentioned in Part II. of the Schedule to this Act is, to the extent aforesaid, limited to expire on the thirty-first day of March one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight:

And whereas it is expedient to provide for the continuance as in this Act mentioned of those Acts, and of the enactments amending or affecting the same:

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:

Continuance of Acts in Schedule.

1.—(1.) The Acts mentioned in Part I. of the Schedule to this Act shall, to the extent specified in column three of that Schedule, be continued until the thirty-first day of December one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight, and shall then expire, unless further continued.

(2.) The Act mentioned in Part II. of the Schedule to this Act shall, to the extent specified in column three of that Schedule, be continued until the thirty-first day of March one thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine, and shall then expire, unless further continued.

(3.) Any unrepealed enactments amending or affecting the enactments continued by this Act shall, in so far as they are temporary in their duration, be continued in like manner, whether they are mentioned in the Schedule to this Act or not.

Short title.

2. This Act may be cited as the Expiring Laws Continuance Act, 1897.