intituled "An Act for the Regulation of Municipal "Corporations in Ireland," and the Acts amending the same, and includes a place subject to the Act of the ninth year of the reign of King George the Fourth, chapter eighty-two, or to the Towns Improvement (Ireland) Act, 1854, or to any local Act providing for the election of commissioners in any town or place for purposes similar to the purposes of the above-mentioned Acts.

17 & 18 Vict. c. 103.

Repeal of 41 & 42 Vict. c. 4. and 47 & 48 Vict. c. 34.

3. Upon this Act coming into operation the Parliamentary Elections (Metropolis) Act, 1878, and the Elections (Hours of Poll) Act, 1884, shall be repealed, without prejudice to anything previously done in pursuance thereof.

Short title.

4. This Act may be cited as the Elections (Hours of Poll) Act, 1885.

Commencement of Act.

5. This Act shall come into operation at the end of this present Parliament.

CHAPTER 11.

An Act to enable Her Majesty to give a Guarantee for the purpose of facilitating the raising of a Loan by the Government of Egypt. [21st May 1885.]

WHEREAS Her Majesty's Government has entered into a Convention with the Governments of Austria-Hungary, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, and Turkey, containing articles to the effect set forth in the schedule to this Act, for the purpose of facilitating the raising of a loan by the Government of Egypt, and in pursuance of Her Majesty's gracious recommendation in that behalf it is expedient to enable Her Majesty to carry into effect the said Convention:

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:

Short title.

1. This Act may be cited as the Egyptian Loan Act, 1885.

Power to Her Majesty to guarantee annuity of 315,000*l.* for loan to be raised by the Egyptian Government.

2. It shall be lawful for Her Majesty to guarantee jointly with the foreign Governments named in Article Seven set forth in the schedule to this Act, and severally, upon the terms and conditions set forth in the Articles in the said schedule, the regular payment of the annuity of three hundred and fifteen thousand pounds sterling, mentioned in the said Article Seven, for the purpose of a loan to be raised by the Government of Egypt.

Issue of money for guarantee and repayment of sums to Exchequer.

3. (1.) The Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury shall charge on and issue out of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom or the growing produce thereof such sums as may from time to time be required for fulfilling the guarantee of Her Majesty in pursuance of this Act.

(2.) All sums paid from time to time in or towards the repayment of any sum issued out of the Consolidated Fund in pursuance of this Act shall be paid into the Exchequer.

4. The Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury shall, during the continuance of the said annuity, lay before both Houses of Parliament in every year within one month after the thirty-first day of March an account up to that day of the total sums, if any, which have been either issued from the Consolidated Fund in pursuance of this Act, or paid in or towards repayment of any money so issued. Accounts.

SCHEDULE.

ARTICLES contained in a CONVENTION made the eighteenth day of March one thousand eight hundred and eighty-five, between the GOVERNMENTS of GREAT BRITAIN, AUSTRIA-HUNGARY, FRANCE, GERMANY, ITALY, RUSSIA, and TURKEY, the ENGLISH TRANSLATION of which is as follows:—

ARTICLE I.

The Egyptian Government, with the consent of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, and under the guarantee resulting from the present Convention, shall issue, at a rate not to exceed 3½ per cent., the securities required to produce a sum not exceeding 9,000,000*l.*

A Decree of His Highness the Khedive shall fix the rate, the conditions, and the dates of issue.

ARTICLE II.

The coupons shall be paid in gold in Egypt, in London, and in Paris on the 1st March and the 1st September of each year.

In Paris the payments shall be made at the fixed rate of 25 fr. to the pound sterling.

ARTICLE III.

The bonds of this loan shall not be subject to any tax for the benefit of the Egyptian Government.

ARTICLE IV.

A fixed annuity of 315,000*l.*, to be applied to the service of the loan, shall be levied as a first charge upon the revenues assigned to the service of the Preference and Unified Debts.

ARTICLE V.

Such portion of this annuity as shall not be absorbed by the payment of interest shall be applied to the redemption of the loan. The redemption shall be effected by purchase at the market price. If the price is above par it shall be effected by drawings at par, the Egyptian Government, however, reserving to itself the right to pay off the loan at par.

ARTICLE VI.

The service of the new loan shall be conducted by the Egyptian Treasury of the Public Debt under the same conditions as the service of the Preference and Unified Debts.

ARTICLE VII.

The Governments of Great Britain, Austria-Hungary, France, Germany, Italy, and Russia, undertake either to guarantee jointly and severally, or to ask authority from their Parliaments to guarantee jointly and severally, the regular payment of the above stipulated annuity of 315,000*l.*

ARTICLE VIII.

The Commissioners of the Treasury of the Debt shall, fifteen days before each payment is due, render an account to the Egyptian Government in a special report to be published in the "Journal Officiel" of the state of the funds assigned to the service of the loan.

ARTICLE IX.

All instalments of the loan shall be carried to the account of the Treasury of the Debt.

ARTICLE X.

The expenses of remittance and other expenses of the operation shall be levied on the amount of the loan.

The Commissioners of the Treasury of the Debt shall charge on the produce of the loan the sum necessary to complete the payment of the Alexandria indemnities, and shall pay those indemnities to the claimants on behalf of the Egyptian Government, according to the awards made by the International Indemnity Commission.

The indemnities shall be paid in full, and without arrears of interest.

ARTICLE XI.

The surplus of the loan shall be paid over to the Egyptian Government as that Government may require it.

ARTICLE XII.

Any unemployed balance remaining over from the loan shall be applied to the purchase of securities, which shall be cancelled under the conditions stated in Article V.

ARTICLE XIII.

The Treasury of the Public Debt shall, at the end of every half year, address a Report to the Egyptian Government, showing the manner in which the proceeds of the loan have been employed, according to vouchers produced by the Egyptian Government. This Report shall be published in the "Journal Officiel."

ARTICLE XIV.

The present Convention shall be ratified, and the ratifications shall be exchanged in London as soon as possible.

DECLARATION BY THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT.

The Russian Plenipotentiary makes the following Declaration in the name of his Government:—

If, in course of time, the guarantee stipulated in Article VII. of the present Convention should come into force, it is understood that, in the accounts between the Guaranteeing Governments, the share falling to Russia shall in no case exceed the sixth part of the interest guaranteed.

CHAPTER 12.

An Act to amend the Law relating to the Distribution of the Royal Irish Constabulary Force. [21st May 1885.]

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:

Redistribution of the constabulary force.

1. The Lord Lieutenant may, by and with the advice of the Privy Council in Ireland, within three months after the passing of this Act, and thereafter at the end of each succeeding term of three years from the passing of this Act, alter or vary the number of sergeants and constables for each county, city, or town specified in the schedule to the Constabulary (Ireland) Amendment Act, 1865, and for the city of Londonderry, to such number as the Lord Lieutenant may consider to be required, but so that the total number to be distributed as free quota, including such number as may be assigned to the city of Londonderry, shall not exceed the total number specified in the schedule to that Act.

28 & 29 Vict. c. 70.