existing interests, and for the transfer to the Secretary of State for India in Council of the ultimate surplus, if any, of the invested capital of that fund, after answering all the liabilities thereof:

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:

Trustees of the fund to transfer to Provident Fund 3,317*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.*, with interest.

1. The trustees of the Elders Widows' Fund shall, upon the passing of this Act, transfer to the account of the India Office Provident Fund so much of the said sum of twenty-two thousand eight hundred and sixty-three pounds nine shillings and fourpence New Three per Cent. Annuities, now standing in their names, as shall be equivalent, at the medium price of the day of the passing of this Act, to the said sum of three thousand three hundred and seventeen pounds eight shillings and sixpence, with interest thereon at the rate aforesaid from the twenty-sixth of March one thousand eight hundred and seventy-seven to the date of the passing of this Act.

Upon such transfer Provident Fund to be alone liable.

2. Upon such transfer being made, the India Office Provident Fund shall alone be liable to the claims of those subscribers to the Elders Widows' Fund who have elected to subscribe to the India Office Provident Fund.

Annual contribution of Secretary of State in Council to be reduced to 500*l.*

3. The annual contribution in aid of the Elders Widows' Fund payable by the Secretary of State for India in Council shall be reduced to five hundred pounds a year as from the thirty-first of March one thousand eight hundred and seventy-eight.

Trustees empowered to raise, by sale of invested capital, sufficient to meet liabilities.

4. The trustees of the Elders Widows' Fund shall from time to time, until the liabilities of the said fund are satisfied or the invested capital thereof is exhausted, raise, by sale of sufficient portions of such invested capital, such an amount as may be from time to time required, in addition to the income of the fund, to meet the current liabilities thereof.

Ultimate surplus to be transferred to the Secretary of State in Council.

5. Any ultimate surplus which may remain in the hands of the trustees of the Elders Widows' Fund, after satisfying all the liabilities thereof, shall be transferred and paid to the Secretary of State for India in Council as part of the revenues of India.

In case capital should be exhausted, Secretary of State in Council to meet liabilities.

6. In case the invested capital of the Elders Widows' Fund shall be exhausted before all the liabilities thereof are satisfied, the Secretary of State for India in Council shall from time to time, out of the revenues of India, pay to the trustees of the said fund such sums or sum as may be required to make good the deficiency in accordance with the said resolution of one thousand eight hundred and thirty-four, and to enable the said trustees from time to time to meet the current liabilities of the said fund.

CHAPTER 48.

An Act to amend the Law relating to Endowed Schools and Hospitals and other Endowed Institutions in Scotland; and for other purposes.

[8th August 1878.]

WHEREAS there are numerous endowed schools and hospitals and other endowed institutions in Scotland, and it is expedient that provision should be made to enable the governors, managers, trustees, or other governing body thereof to apply for and obtain from Parliament power and authority whereby changes may be made in the government and management of the said schools, hospitals, and institutions, or in the application of their endowments, and at the same time provision may be made for upholding the standard of education which has hitherto been maintained in Scotland:

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:

Short title.

1. This Act may be cited as the Endowed Institutions (Scotland) Act, 1878.

Application of Act.

2. This Act shall apply to Scotland only.

Interpretation of terms.

3. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires, the following words and expressions have the meanings hereby assigned to them; viz.,

"Secretary of State" means any one of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State:

"Governing body" includes governors, managers, trustees, school boards, or other person or persons, corporate or unincorporate, having, otherwise than as teacher or master, the right of holding any endowment, or any power of government of or management over any endowed institution:

"Endowed institution" means a school, hospital, or other institution wholly or partly maintained by means of any endowment, and includes a mortification or bequest for educational or charitable uses, or for uses partly educational and partly charitable, or for the establishment or maintenance of a public library:

"Endowment" means any description of property, heritable or moveable, which is dedicated to educational, literary, or charitable uses, or to uses partly educational and partly charitable, or for the establishment, management, and maintenance of a public library, in whomsoever such property may be vested, in whosesoever name it may be standing, or by whatsoever tenure or title it may be held:

"Scotch Education Department" means the Lords of the Committee of the Privy Council on Education in Scotland:

"The Commissioners" means the Commissioners herein-after appointed, and "Commissioner" means one of such Commissioners.

Governing body may resolve to apply for a provisional order.

4. It shall be lawful for the governing body of any endowed institution in Scotland, at a meeting specially called for the purpose at a month's notice, to resolve, by a majority of those present at the meeting, that it is expedient that provision should be made for the better government and administration of such institution, or for the better application of the endowments thereof, or for the transference of such institution and the endowments thereof, and that an application should be made to the Secretary of State for a provisional order.

Governing body may present petition to Secretary of State.

5. On the foresaid resolution being carried, it shall be lawful for the said governing body to present a petition to the Secretary of State, setting out such resolution, and stating the provisions for the better government and administration of such institution, or the better application of the endowments thereof, which they desire to have sanctioned. Upon receipt of any such petition as aforesaid the Secretary of State may, if he shall think fit, direct such petition to be published in the Edinburgh Gazette in two consecutive numbers thereof, and in one or more newspapers circulating in the county or counties where such institution is situated, with a view to further inquiry.

Commissioners may inquire and report to Secretary of State.

6. The Secretary of State may, if he shall think fit, by writing under his hand, remit to the Commissioners herein-after mentioned to inquire into the said petition and report thereon to the said Secretary of State; and for the purposes of such inquiry, which shall be held in public, the said Commissioners shall have power, after such public notice as they may think sufficient, to examine witnesses on oath, and to call for such information from, and to require the production of such documents by, the governing body, or any other persons, as they may consider necessary, and to do all such matters and things as may seem to them expedient for the purposes of the inquiry. After the holding of such inquiry the Commissioners shall report to the Secretary of State as to whether, in their opinion, the provisional order prayed for should be made, and if so, with what, if any, alterations or modifications therein.

Power to Secretary of State to issue provisional order.

7. It shall be lawful for the Secretary of State to issue a provisional order in relation to the several things mentioned in the foresaid petition, either in accordance therewith, or with such alterations or modifications, not being inconsistent with the general principles thereof, as may appear to him to be requisite, or otherwise to refuse to issue such provisional order.

Provided always, that in every such provisional order provision shall be made for saving or making due compensation for the vested interests to which any teacher, master, officer, scholar, bursar, exhibitioner, pensioner, or other shall be entitled at the date of such order.

Provided also, that if the provisional order shall contain any alterations or modifications as aforesaid, the Secretary of State shall before signing the order cause a copy of it to be sent to the governing body, who may, if they think fit, state in writing to the Secretary of State any objections or suggestions respecting such order within one month after the copy thereof was sent to the governing body; and the Secretary of State shall, if he think fit, remit to the Commissioners to report on such objections and suggestions, and shall consider the same together with the report of the Commissioners.

Provisional order to be laid before Parliament.

8. The provisional order aforesaid shall not have any effect or operation unless and until the same has been laid before both Houses of Parliament; and it shall be lawful for the Secretary of State, and he is hereby required, as soon as conveniently may be, to cause such provisional order to be laid before both Houses of Parliament; and after such provisional order has lain forty days before Parliament, then, unless within such forty days a resolution has been adopted by one or other of the said Houses disapproving of the said order, such provisional order shall come into operation.

Several governing bodies may concur in applying for provisional order.

9. It shall be lawful for the governing bodies of two or more endowed institutions to concur in applying for a provisional order under this Act, and such order may provide for the union of such institutions or for the application of their endowments or part thereof under a governing body to be constituted by such order.

Governing body may apply for transference of endowments.

10. It shall be lawful for the governing body of an endowed institution to apply for a provisional order, and such order may provide for the transference of the institution and the endowments of such institution or part thereof to the governing body of one or more other endowed institutions, or to one or more school boards, subject to the provisions contained in such order.

Commissioners to submit conditions of distribution of parliamentary grant with view to promotion of higher education.

11. The Commissioners shall submit for the consideration of the Scotch Education Department the conditions according to which, in their opinion, the parliamentary grant for public education in Scotland may be most advantageously distributed for the purpose of promoting education in the higher branches of knowledge in public and State-aided schools, especially in those districts in which there are no higher class public schools: Provided always, that the duty of determining from time to time the rates and conditions according to which the said grants may be given, and of framing, and from time to time revising the minutes containing the same, shall be upon the Scotch Education Department.

Commissioners to be appointed.

12. For the purposes of this Act it shall be lawful for Her Majesty from time to time, on the recommendation of the Secretary of State, to appoint Commissioners to hold office during Her Majesty's pleasure, but the number of such Commissioners shall not at any one time exceed seven.

The office and general place of business of the Commissioners shall be in Edinburgh; but the Commissioners may from time to time appoint any one or more of their number to hold an inquiry in terms of this Act, and to visit such places as may be necessary for that purpose. Any Commissioner or Commissioners so appointed shall have and may exercise all the powers of the Commissioners, except that of reporting to the Secretary of State.

Her Majesty may, on the recommendation of the Secretary of State, from time to time appoint a fit person to be Secretary to the Commissioners, to hold office at Her Majesty's pleasure; and the Commissioners may appoint such necessary clerks and officers as shall be sanctioned by the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to hold office during the pleasure of the Commissioners.

The Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury may assign to the secretary, clerks, and officers such salaries as they may think proper.

The salaries paid under this Act, together with the whole expenses of the Commissioners and of their establishment, and reasonable travelling expenses, shall be defrayed out of moneys to be voted by Parliament.

Provided that such Commissioners shall receive no remuneration except for such reasonable travelling or other expenses as may be incurred in the discharge of their duties under this Act.

Commissioners to report.

13. The Commissioners shall once in each year make a report to Her Majesty of their proceedings under this Act during the past year, and such report shall be laid before both Houses of Parliament within fourteen days after the making thereof, if Parliament is then sitting, and if not, then within fourteen days after the next meeting of Parliament.

Saving powers of governing bodies under special Acts, &c.

14. Nothing herein contained shall be held to limit any of the powers presently enjoyed by any governing body under any Act of Parliament, or provisional order, or charter, or by the foundation grant of the endowed institution under their government.

Commencement and duration of Act.

15. Save as regards the appointment of Commissioners, which may be made at any time after the passing hereof, this Act shall commence to have effect on the first day of October one thousand eight hundred and seventy-eight, and shall be in force until the thirty-first day of December one thousand eight hundred and eighty: Provided that it shall be lawful for Her Majesty in Council, if special cause be shown, to continue this Act in force with respect to any endowed institution until the thirty-first day of July one thousand eight hundred and eighty-one.

CHAPTER 49.

An Act to consolidate the Law relating to Weights and Measures.

[8th August 1878.]

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:

Preliminary.

Short title.

1. This Act may be cited as the Weights and Measures Act, 1878.

Commencement.

2. This Act shall not come into operation until the first day of January one thousand eight hundred and seventy-nine, which day is herein-after referred to as the commencement of this Act.

I.—LAW OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Uniformity of Weights and Measures.

Uniformity of weights and measures.

3. The same weights and measures shall be used throughout the United Kingdom.

Standards of Measure and Weight.

Imperial standards of measure and weight.

4. The bronze bar and the platinum weight, more particularly described in the first part of the First Schedule to this Act, and at the passing of this Act deposited in the Standards Department of the Board of Trade in the custody of the Warden of the Standards, shall continue to be the imperial standards of measure and weight, and the said bronze bar shall continue to be the imperial standard for determining the imperial standard yard for the United Kingdom, and the said platinum weight shall continue to be the imperial standard for determining the imperial standard pound for the United Kingdom.

Parliamentary copies of imperial standards.

5. The four copies of the imperial standards of measure and weight, described in the second part of the First Schedule to this Act, and deposited as therein mentioned, shall be deemed to be parliamentary copies of the said imperial standards.

The Board of Trade shall as soon as may be after the commencement of this Act cause an accurate copy of the imperial standard of measure and an accurate copy of the imperial standard of weight to be made of the same form and material as the said standards, and it