Condition precedent to payment of compensation.

3. Compensation shall not be granted in pursuance of this Act to any officer of any of the said corps until arrangements have been made to the satisfaction of the Commissioners, and in such manner as they may direct, for payment or securing payment into the receipt of the Exchequer, for the use of the public, by or on account of the corps to which such officer belongs, of any available sums, securities, or obligations constituting or standing to the account of any sinking fund or other fund, by whatever name known, formed after the amalgamation of the Indian with the British army, for the purpose of securing to every existing officer of such corps a bonus on retirement.

Any trustees or other persons having in their possession or under their control any such sinking or other fund as is in this section mentioned, or any sums, securities, or obligations constituting the same, are hereby empowered (but are not required unless they think it expedient so to do) to pay the same into the Exchequer for the use of the public; and they shall not be restrained from so doing by any court of law or equity whatsoever.

Adjustment of accounts.

4. Any such trustees or other persons as aforesaid, before paying into the Exchequer such fund as aforesaid belonging to any corps, may, with the assent of the Commissioners, repay to officers in such corps any sums paid by them to retiring officers for the purpose of making good to such last-mentioned officers any deficiencies in the customary amounts receivable by them in respect of bonus on retirement; and the Commissioners, in estimating the amount of compensation payable to any officer of any corps under this Act may take into account, as against such officer, the amount of any bonus which such officer may have failed to pay to any retiring officer of his corps in respect of the customary amount receivable by such last-mentioned officer in respect of bonus on retirement.

Certificate of Commissioners to be indemnity to trustees and others.

5. The Commissioners shall grant a certificate to any trustees or other persons dealing in manner authorised by this Act with any fund belonging to any of the said corps, and such certificate shall indemnify any person dealing with such fund against all actions and legal proceedings whatsoever which might have been brought against him in respect of such dealings and against all claims whatsoever of persons interested in the fund so dealt with; and such fund shall be discharged from all claims of the persons so interested therein.

Powers of Commissioners applicable for purposes of this Act.

6. All powers vested in the Commissioners by the said Regulation of the Forces Act, 1871, for or in relation to their proceedings under that Act, shall apply to their proceedings under this Act, and may be exercised by them for ascertaining any matter or fact, or doing any Act required to be ascertained or done by them for the purposes of this Act, in the same manner in all respects as if their proceedings under this Act were proceedings under the said Regulation of the Forces Act, 1871.

Provision for expenses of compensating officers.

7. All expenses incurred by the Commissioners in carrying into effect this Act shall be defrayed out of moneys provided by Parliament.

CHAPTER 62.

An Act to amend the Law as to the Contracts of Infants.

[7th August 1874.]

WHEREAS it is expedient to amend the law as to the contracts of infants, and as to the ratification made by persons of full age of contracts made by them during infancy, and as to necessaries:

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:

Contracts by infants, except

1. All contracts, whether by specialty or by simple contract, henceforth entered into by infants for the repayment of money lent or to be lent, or for goods supplied or to be

for necessaries, to be void.

supplied (other than contracts for necessaries), and all accounts stated with infants, shall be absolutely void: Provided always, that this enactment shall not invalidate any contract into which an infant may, by any existing or future statute, or by the rules of common law or equity, enter, except such as now by law are voidable.

No action to be brought on ratification of infant's contract.

2. No action shall be brought whereby to charge any person upon any promise made after full age to pay any debt contracted during infancy, or upon any ratification made after full age of any promise or contract made during infancy, whether there shall or shall not be any new consideration for such promise or ratification after full age.

Short title.

3. This Act may be cited as The Infants Relief Act, 1874.

CHAPTER 63.

An Act to facilitate the re-arrangement of the Boundaries of Archdeaconries and Rural Deaneries. [7th August 1874.]

WHEREAS by an Act passed in the session of Parliament holden in the sixth and seventh years of the reign of His late Majesty King William the Fourth, chapter seventy-seven, it was enacted that the limits of archdeaconries and rural deaneries might, by the authority thereby provided, be newly arranged, so that every parish and extra-parochial place be within a rural deanery, and every deanery within an archdeaconry, and that no archdeaconry extend beyond the limits of one diocese:

And whereas by an Act passed in the session of Parliament holden in the third and fourth years of Her present Majesty, chapter one hundred and thirteen, section thirty-two, it was enacted that any archdeaconry or rural deanery might, by the authority thereby provided, be divided into two or more portions, and each of such portions might be constituted a separate archdeaconry or rural deanery, as the case might be:

And whereas it is expedient to explain the said power of newly arranging the limits of archdeaconries and rural deaneries:

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:

Extension of powers of re-arranging archdeaconries, &c. under 6 & 7 Will. 4. c. 77. and 3 & 4 Vict. c. 113.

1. The provisions contained in the first section of the Act of the sixth and seventh years of His late Majesty King William the Fourth, chapter seventy-seven, and in the thirty-second section of the Act of the third and fourth years of Her present Majesty, chapter one hundred and thirteen, shall be construed and extended so as to authorise and always to have authorised the Ecclesiastical Commissioners by any scheme or schemes made and approved in manner provided by any Act for the time being in force relating to such schemes, to do, from time to time and as often as may be deemed expedient, all or any of the following things in any diocese; that is to say,

(1.) To alter the area or areas of any archdeaconry or archdeaconries for the time being, or of any rural deanery or rural deaneries for the time being; and

(2.) To diminish the number of archdeaconries and of rural deaneries for the time being; and

(3.) To constitute any new area or new areas a rural deanery or rural deaneries; and

(4.) To alter the name or names of any archdeaconry or archdeaconries, or of any rural deanery or rural deaneries, for the time being; and to give a name or names to any newly constituted archdeaconry or archdeaconries, or any newly constituted rural deanery or rural deaneries.

Provided,

(*a.*) That in the case of any such scheme as aforesaid made since the date of the passing of the last-mentioned Act, the consent of the bishop of the diocese affected by such scheme must have been given under his hand and seal; and