CHAPTER 71.

An Act to amend the Labourers, Ireland, Acts.

[5th August 1891.]

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 Labourers (Ireland) Act, 1891.

Construction of Act.

2. This Act shall be construed as one with the Labourers (Ireland) Acts, 1883 to 1886 (herein-after referred to as "the said Acts"), except in so far as the said Acts are expressly altered or varied by this Act or are inconsistent therewith, and, together with the said Acts, may be cited as the Labourers (Ireland) Acts, 1883 to 1891.

Meaning of a representation. 46 & 47 Vict. c. 60.

3. Notwithstanding anything contained in the fifth section of the Labourers (Ireland) Act, 1883, a representation in pursuance of the said Acts shall mean a representation signed by not less than twelve persons, whether rated for the relief of the poor within the sanitary district or not, provided that the said persons, if not so rated, come within the definition of an agricultural labourer contained in the fourth section of the Labourers (Ireland) Act, 1886, and are at the date of the application employed within the said district.

49 & 50 Vict. c. 59.

Local inquiry to be held.

4. Where a sanitary authority has failed to pass any resolution in relation to a representation under the Labourers (Ireland) Acts, 1883 to 1886, as amended by this Act, or has passed a resolution to the effect that they will not proceed with an improvement scheme, the Local Government Board may, if they think fit, if required by the persons who have signed the said representation, direct a local inquiry to be held and a report to be made to them with respect to the correctness of the representation made to the sanitary authority, and any matters connected therewith on which the Local Government Board may desire to be informed.

Provision in case of non-compliance of order for accommodation of labourers. 45 & 46 Vict. c. 60. 44 & 45 Vict. c. 49.

5. In any case in which an order has been or shall be made under section three of the Labourers Cottages and Allotments (Ireland) Act, 1882, or under section nineteen of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1881, for providing accommodation for the labourers employed on any holding, and such order has not been complied with within six months after the date of such order, it shall be the duty of the Local Government Board, upon the complaint of any six householders resident in the sanitary district within which the holding in respect of which the said order was made is, to make such complaint as mentioned in, and to put in force the provisions of, section four of the Labourers Cottages and Allotments (Ireland) Act, 1882.

Amendment of errors in improvement scheme.

6.—(1.) When, at any local inquiry held pursuant to the directions of the Local Government Board with reference to an improve-

ment scheme made by a sanitary authority under the provisions of the said Acts, it shall appear that in such improvement scheme, or any plan or book of reference annexed thereto, any omission, mistake, mis-statement, or erroneous description shall have been made of any lands, or of the owner, lessee, or occupier of any land referred to therein, the Local Government Board may, on such terms as they may think fit, amend such improvement scheme, or any plan or book of reference annexed thereto, and supply any such omission or correct any such mistake, mis-statement, or erroneous description, and shall direct any such additional notices to be served or advertisements to be published as they may think fit, and direct any such adjourned inquiry to be held as they may think necessary in consequence of such alterations and amendments.

(2.) Where at any such local inquiry as aforesaid it shall appear that any notice necessary to be served or advertisement required to be published owing to inadvertence has not been or has been imperfectly or irregularly served or published, such inquiry may be adjourned to enable such notice or advertisement to be properly served or published.

Requisites of improvement scheme of sanitary authority.

7. So much of the sixth section of the Labourers (Ireland) Act, 1883, as enacts that an improvement scheme shall provide for a plot or garden not exceeding half a statute acre being allotted to each dwelling, shall not apply to an improvement scheme made under this Act for the purpose of providing suitable dwellings for agricultural labourers in villages or towns.

Power to inspector to perform duties of sanitary authority.

8. When an inspector to the Local Government Board has held a local inquiry in any sanitary district, whether rural or urban, under section four of this Act, and it appears upon the report of the inspector that the representation is correct, the sanitary authority shall within three months take steps for carrying an improvement scheme into execution, and if in any case the sanitary authority shall not take such steps as the inspector may deem sufficient, he shall be and is hereby required to make complaint to the Local Government Board that the sanitary authority has made default in carrying out an improvement scheme. And the Local Government Board, if satisfied that the sanitary authority has been guilty of the alleged default, may if they think fit, make an order giving the inspector authority to exercise all the powers and to perform all the duties of the sanitary authority as provided for in the Labourers (Ireland) Acts, 1883 to 1891.