CHAPTER xxviii.

An Act for incorporating and conferring powers on the Market Drayton Gas Company. [30th June 1903.] A.D. 1903.

WHEREAS in the year one thousand eight hundred and sixty-one certain persons formed themselves into a gas company under the name of "the Market Drayton Gas Light and Coke Company Limited" (hereinafter referred to as "the Limited Company") for the purpose of supplying with gas the town of Market Drayton and its vicinity and generally for carrying on the business usually carried on by gas companies and such company was duly registered pursuant to the Joint Stock Companies Acts:

And whereas the present share capital of the Limited Company consists of four thousand eight hundred pounds divided into four hundred and eighty shares of ten pounds each all of which have been created and issued and are fully paid up and the Limited Company have borrowed on mortgage five hundred pounds:

And whereas the Limited Company purchased the piece of land described in Part I. of the Schedule to this Act and erected gasworks thereon and have from time to time improved and enlarged the same with the capital raised by them and it is expedient that the Company to be incorporated under this Act be authorised to acquire the lands described in Part II. of the Schedule to this Act:

And whereas the Limited Company are now supplying gas in the district of Market Drayton and the neighbourhood:

And whereas the demand for gas in the district supplied by the Limited Company has increased and is increasing and in order the better to meet such demand it is expedient that the works of the Limited Company should be improved and their mains extended and that additional capital should be provided for such improvement and extension:

[*Price* 1*s*. 6*d*.]

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And whereas a plan of the lands which may be taken for the purposes or under the powers of this Act and a book of reference to the plan containing the names of the owners or reputed owners lessees or reputed lessees and of the occupiers of the lands were duly deposited with the clerk of the peace for the county of Salop and are hereinafter referred to as "the deposited plan and book of reference":

And whereas it is expedient that the Limited Company should be dissolved and re-incorporated with further powers:

And whereas the objects aforesaid cannot be effected without the authority of Parliament:

May it therefore please Your Majesty that it may be enacted and be it enacted by the King'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 (that is to say):—

Short title.

1. This Act may be cited as the Market Drayton Gas Act 1903.

Incorporation of Acts.

2. The following Acts and parts of Acts are hereby incorporated with this Act (namely):—

The Companies Clauses Consolidation Act 1845 (except the provisions relating to the conversion of borrowed money into capital):

Part I. (Cancellation and surrender of shares) Part II. (Additional capital) and Part III. (Debenture stock) of the Companies Clauses Act 1863 as amended by subsequent Acts:

The Lands Clauses Acts:

The Gasworks Clauses Act 1847 and the Gasworks Clauses Act 1871.

Interpretation.

3. In this Act the several words and expressions to which meanings are assigned by the Acts wholly or partially incorporated herewith shall have the same respective meanings unless there be something in the subject or context repugnant to such construction:

The expression "the Company" shall mean the Company incorporated by this Act;

The expressions "the works" "the gasworks" and "the undertaking" shall respectively mean and include the gasworks and works connected therewith by this Act vested in or authorised to be made or maintained by the Company and any improvement thereof which they may construct

under the powers of this Act and the lands buildings estate right title property privileges and effects and the undertaking of the Company and every part thereof respectively.

Limits of Act.

4. The limits of this Act (hereinafter called "the limits of supply") shall be—

Such part of the parish of Market Drayton otherwise Drayton-in-Hales as is in the county of Salop and lies to the west of the Shropshire Union Canal.

Incorporation of Company.

5. From and after the passing of this Act the Limited Company shall be dissolved and the several persons and corporations who immediately before the passing of this Act were members of that company and all other persons and corporations who have subscribed to or who shall hereafter become proprietors in the undertaking of the Company and their executors administrators successors and assigns respectively shall be and they are hereby united into a company for the purposes hereinafter mentioned and shall be incorporated by the name of "the Market Drayton Gas Company" and by that name shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal with power to purchase take hold and dispose of lands and other property for the purposes of this Act.

General purposes of Company.

6. The Company shall be established for the purpose of manufacturing storing and supplying gas for lighting heating motive power and other purposes within the limits of supply and may provide produce sell dispose of and deal in gas coke tar and all other residual products resulting from the manufacture of gas and generally may carry on the business usually carried on by a gas company.

Present property of Limited Company vested in Company incorporated by this Act.

7. Subject to the provisions of this Act all the lands gasworks erections buildings rights and easements which immediately before the passing of this Act were vested in the Limited Company or any person in trust for them or to which the Limited Company were in anywise entitled and all mains and pipes plant plugs lamps irons retorts gauges meters lamp-posts syphons apparatus stock effects matters and things which have been by them purchased provided laid down erected or placed in any place or house within the limits of supply or which immediately before the passing of this Act were the property of the Limited Company and all moneys securities credits choses in action books papers plans effects and other property whatsoever which immediately before the passing of this Act belonged to the Limited Company or to any trustee on their

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behalf and the benefit of all contracts and engagements entered into by or on behalf of the Limited Company and immediately before the passing of this Act in force shall be and the same are hereby vested in the Company to the same extent and for the same estate and interest as the same were previously to the passing of this Act vested in the Limited Company or any trustee on their behalf and may according to the provisions of this Act be held and enjoyed sued for and recovered maintained altered discontinued removed dealt with and disposed of by the Company as they think fit.

Memorandum and articles of association of Limited Company to be void without prejudice to remedies for antecedent breaches thereof.

8. Subject to the provisions of this Act the memorandum and articles of association of the Limited Company shall as to any prospective operation thereof be wholly void and the Company and the shareholders shall be exempted from all the provisions restrictions and requirements of any Act which applied to the Limited Company and the members thereof as such but nothing in this Act contained shall release or discharge any person from any liability or obligation in respect of any breach of the provisions of the said memorandum or articles of association incurred before the passing of this Act but such liability or obligation in respect of any such breach shall continue and save as in this Act otherwise provided may be enforced by or on behalf of the Company as nearly as may be in like manner as the same might have been enforced by or on behalf of the Limited Company if this Act had not been passed.

Nothing to affect previous rights and liabilities.

9. Except as is by this Act otherwise expressly provided everything before the passing of this Act done or suffered by or with reference to the Limited Company or the members thereof as such shall be as valid as if the Company had not been incorporated and the said memorandum and articles of association had not been avoided by this Act and such incorporation and avoidance and this Act respectively shall accordingly be subject and without prejudice to everything so done or suffered and to all rights liabilities claims and demands both present and future which if the Company were not incorporated and the said memorandum and articles of association were not avoided by this Act and this Act were not passed would be incident to or consequent on any and every thing so done or suffered and with respect to all such rights liabilities claims and demands the Company and its shareholders and property shall to all intents and purposes represent the Limited Company and the members thereof as such and the property of the Limited Company as the case may be and the generality of this enactment shall not be restricted by any of the other clauses and provisions of this Act.

Contracts prior to Act to be binding.

10. Except as is by this Act otherwise specially provided all purchases sales conveyances grants assurances deeds contracts bonds and agreements entered into or made before the passing of this Act by to or with the Limited Company or any trustees or persons acting on behalf of the Limited Company or by to or with any other person to whose rights and liabilities they have succeeded and now in force shall be as binding and of as full force and effect in every respect against or in favour of the Company and may be enforced as fully and effectually as if instead of the Limited Company or the trustees or persons acting on behalf of the Limited Company the Company had been a party thereto.

Actions &c. not to abate.

11. Nothing in this Act contained shall release discharge or suspend any action suit or other proceeding which was pending by or against the Limited Company or any member thereof in relation to the affairs of the Limited Company or to which the Limited Company or any member thereof in relation to such affairs were parties immediately before the passing of this Act but such action suit or other proceeding may be maintained prosecuted or continued by or in favour of or against the Company (as the case may be) in the same manner and as effectually and advantageously as the same might have been maintained prosecuted or continued by or in favour of or against the Limited Company or any member thereof if this Act had not been passed the Company and the shareholders therein being in reference to the matters aforesaid in all respects substituted for the Limited Company and its members respectively.

Trustees of Limited Company to be indemnified.

12. Every trustee or other person in whom or in whose name any lands works buildings easements rights property or effects belonging to the Limited Company were vested immediately before the passing of this Act and who (being authorised so to do) entered into any bond covenant contract or engagement in respect of the same or otherwise on behalf of the Limited Company shall be indemnified out of the funds and property of the Company against all liability (including costs charges and expenses) which he may sustain or incur or be put unto by reason of his having entered into such bond covenant contract or engagement.

Company to satisfy liabilities of Limited Company.

13. From and after the passing of this Act and except as is by this Act otherwise expressly provided the Company shall in all respects be subject to and shall discharge all obligations and liabilities to which the Limited Company immediately before the passing of this Act were subject and shall indemnify the members directors officers and servants of the Limited Company and their

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respective representatives from all such obligations and liabilities and from all expenses and costs in that behalf.

Recovery of gas rents &c.

14. All gas rents and sums of money which immediately before the passing of this Act were due or accruing to the Limited Company shall be payable to and may be collected and recovered by the Company in like manner as if they had become payable for the like matters supplied or done under this Act.

As to payment of debts owing before passing of Act.

15. All persons who immediately before the passing of this Act owed any money to the Limited Company or to any person on their behalf shall pay the same with all interest (if any) due or accruing upon the same to the Company and all debts and moneys which immediately before the passing of this Act were due or recoverable from the Limited Company or for the payment of which the Limited Company were or but for this Act would be liable shall be paid with all interest (if any) due or accruing upon the same by or be recoverable from the Company.

Certificates &c. to remain in force.

16. Notwithstanding the avoidance of the said memorandum and articles of association all certificates (until cancelled under the powers of this Act) sales transfers and dispositions heretofore made or executed under them for and with respect to any shares in the Limited Company shall remain in full force and continue and be available in all respects as if they had not been avoided.

Books &c. continued evidence.

17. All documents books and writings which if the said dissolution and avoidance had not taken place would have been receivable in evidence shall be admitted as evidence in all courts and elsewhere notwithstanding such dissolution and avoidance.

Officers to continue until removed.

18. All officers and servants of the Limited Company who were in office immediately before the passing of this Act shall hold and enjoy their respective offices and employments together with the salaries and emoluments thereunto annexed until they shall resign the same or be removed therefrom by the Company and shall be subject and liable to the like conditions obligations pains and penalties and to the like powers of removal and to the like rules restrictions and regulations in all respects whatsoever as if they had been appointed under this Act.

Present register of members to be continued.

19. The books kept by the Limited Company for entering the names and designations of the members thereof with the numbers of their shares and the proper distinguishing number of each share shall until some other register of shareholders shall be provided by the Company continue to be kept for the same purpose by the Company

and be taken and considered as the register of shareholders required to be kept by the Companies Clauses Consolidation Act 1845.

Capital.

20. The capital of the Company shall be twenty-five thousand pounds whereof four thousand eight hundred pounds is in this Act called "the original capital" and twenty thousand two hundred pounds is in this Act called "the additional capital" and shall be raised in manner hereinafter mentioned and the original capital shall be divided into four hundred and eighty shares of ten pounds each which shares are in this Act called "the old shares" and the Company may convert into stock the whole or any part of their original or additional capital when fully paid up.

Vesting of old shares in present shareholders.

21. The old shares shall be vested in the several persons who immediately before the passing of this Act were the registered members of the Limited Company share for share in substitution for the existing shares of the Limited Company and every share so vested shall be subject to the same liability for calls and subject and liable to the same trusts powers provisions declarations agreements charges liens and incumbrances as immediately before the passing of this Act affected the share for which the same is substituted and so as to give effect to and not revoke any deed or other instrument or any testamentary disposition of or affecting the same.

Company shall call in and cancel existing share certificates and issue new certificates in lieu thereof.

22. The Company shall call in and cancel the existing certificates of shares in the limited company and issue in lieu thereof certificates in the form and under the conditions prescribed by the Companies Clauses Consolidation Act 1845 but the holders of such existing certificates of shares shall not be entitled to any certificate of proprietorship under this Act until they shall have delivered up to the Company to be cancelled the certificates of proprietorship issued to them before the passing of this Act or shall have proved to the reasonable satisfaction of the Company the loss or destruction thereof.

Power to Company to raise additional capital.

23. The Company may from time to time raise additional capital not exceeding in the whole twenty thousand two hundred pounds by the creation and issue of new ordinary shares or stock or new preference shares or stock or wholly or partially by one or more of those modes respectively but the Company shall not issue any share of less nominal value than ten pounds nor shall any such share or stock vest in the person or corporation accepting the same unless and until the full price of such share or stock including any premium obtained upon the sale thereof shall have been paid in respect thereof Provided that it shall not be lawful for the Company to create and issue under the powers of this Act

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any greater nominal amount of capital than shall be sufficient to produce including any premium which may be obtained on the sale thereof the sum of twenty thousand two hundred pounds Provided also that the Company shall not create and issue within the year following the passing of this Act any greater nominal amount of capital than shall be sufficient to produce in manner aforesaid three thousand pounds or within any subsequent year three thousand pounds Provided also that the Company shall not raise by the issue of preference shares or stock a greater amount of such additional capital than ten thousand pounds.

If authorised capital for any year not raised amount may be made up.

24. If in any year or years the Company have not created and issued capital to the full amount hereinbefore prescribed in relation to such year or years they may in any subsequent year create and issue in addition to the amount prescribed for such year such a nominal amount of capital as shall be sufficient together with the amount then raised to produce in manner aforesaid three thousand pounds in respect of the year following the passing of this Act and three thousand pounds in respect of every subsequent year then expired.

Receipt in case of persons not sui juris.

25. If any money is payable to a shareholder or mortgagee or debenture stock holder being a minor idiot or lunatic the receipt of the guardian or committee of his estate shall be a sufficient discharge to the Company.

Profits of Company limited.

26. Except as by this Act provided the profits of the Company to be divided among the shareholders in any year shall not exceed the following rates (which are in this Act referred to as "the standard rates of dividend") that is to say On the original capital the rate of ten pounds in respect of every one hundred pounds of such capital and on the additional capital to be raised under the powers of this Act the rate of seven pounds in respect of every one hundred pounds actually paid up of such capital as shall be issued as ordinary capital and the rate of six pounds in respect of every one hundred pounds actually paid up of such capital as shall be issued as preference capital.

Dividends on different classes of stock or shares to be paid proportionately.

27. In case in any year the funds of the Company applicable to dividend shall be insufficient to pay the full amount of dividend at the prescribed maximum rate on each class of ordinary stock or shares in the capital of the Company a proportionate reduction shall be made in the dividend of each class.

New shares or stock to be offered by

28. Notwithstanding anything in this Act contained the Company shall when any shares or stock created under the powers

of this Act are to be issued and before offering the same to the holder of any other shares or stock in the Company and whether the ordinary shares or ordinary stock of the Company are or is at a premium or not offer the same for sale by public auction or by tender in such manner at such times and subject to such conditions of sale as the Company shall from time to time determine Provided that at any such sale no single lot shall comprise more than one hundred pounds nominal value of shares or stock and that the reserved price put upon such shares or stock shall not be less than the nominal amount thereof and notice of the amount of such reserved price shall be sent by the Company in a sealed letter to the Board of Trade not less than twenty-four hours before the day of auction or the last day for the reception of tenders as the case may be and such letter may be opened after such day of auction or last day for the reception of tenders and not sooner and provided that no priority of tender shall be allowed to any holder of shares or stock in the Company except that if any bidding or offer by tender of any holder or holders of shares or stock be the same in amount as any bid or offer made by any other person the bidding or offer of such holder or holders of shares or stock shall be accepted in preference.

auction or tender.

Purchase money of capital sold to be paid within three months.

29. It shall be one of the conditions of any sale of shares or stock under this Act that the full price thereof including any premium given by any purchaser at such sale shall be paid to the Company within three months after such sale.

Notice to be given as to sale of shares or stock.

30. The intention to sell any such shares or stock by auction or by tender shall be communicated in writing to the clerk of the Drayton Rural District Council and to the secretary of the committee of the London Stock Exchange at least twenty-eight days before the day of auction or the last day for the reception of tenders as the case may be and notice of such intention shall be duly advertised once in each of two consecutive weeks in one or more local newspapers circulating within the said district.

Shares or stock not sold by auction or by tender to be offered to holders of ordinary shares or stock.

31. When any shares or stock created under the powers of this Act have been offered for sale by auction or tender and not sold the same shall be offered at the reserved price put upon the same respectively for the purpose of sale by auction or tender to the holders of ordinary shares or ordinary stock of the Company in manner provided by the Companies Clauses Act 1863 Provided always that any shares or stock so offered and not accepted within the time prescribed by the said Act shall again be offered for sale by public auction or by tender in the manner and subject to the

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provisions of this Act with respect to the sale of shares and stock created under the powers of this Act and the reserve put upon such stock may upon such second auction or tender if the directors of the Company think fit be less than the nominal amount thereof and any stock or shares not then sold shall be again offered to the holders of ordinary shares or ordinary stock at the last-mentioned reserved price and so from time to time until the whole of such shares or stock is sold.

Application of premium arising on issue of shares or stock.

32. Any sum of money which shall arise from the issue of any such shares or stock by way of premium after deducting therefrom the expenses of and incident to such issue shall not be considered as profits of the Company but shall be expended in extending or improving the works of the Company or in paying off money borrowed or owing on mortgage by the Company and shall not be considered as part of the capital of the Company entitled to dividend Provided that in any case where a power to raise money by borrowing or to create an insurance fund is made proportionate to the paid-up capital the premium received from the sale of shares or stock by auction or tender as hereinbefore provided shall for such purpose be reckoned as part of the paid-up capital.

If profits exceed amount limited excess may be invested and form an insurance fund.

33. If the clear profits of the undertaking of the Company in any year amount to a larger sum than is sufficient to pay the dividend on the preference capital (if any) and dividend on the ordinary capital at the standard rate the excess beyond the sum necessary for that purpose may from time to time to the extent of one per centum per annum upon the paid-up capital of the Company be invested in Government or other securities and the dividends and interest arising from such securities shall also be invested in the same or the like securities in order that the same may accumulate at compound interest until the fund so formed amounts to a sum equal to one-twentieth of the paid-up capital of the Company which sum shall form an insurance fund to meet any extraordinary claim demand or charge which may at any time arise against or fall upon the Company from accident strikes or other circumstances which in the opinion of a court of summary jurisdiction due care and management could not have prevented and if such fund be at any time reduced it may thereafter be again made up to the said sum and so from time to time as often as such reduction shall happen Provided that when and so often as the said fund shall reach one-twentieth part of the paid-up capital the interest thereon shall be carried to the credit of the fund available for dividend Provided

also that resort may from time to time be had to the insurance fund to meet any extraordinary claim or demand as aforesaid although such fund may not at the time have reached or may have been reduced below the full amount of one-twentieth as aforesaid.

Application of excess of profits over standard rate of dividend.

34. If the clear profits of the undertaking of the Company in any year amount to a larger sum than is sufficient to pay the dividend on the preference capital (if any) and dividend at the standard rate on the ordinary capital of the Company the excess or such portion of it as is not carried to the insurance fund shall be carried to the credit of the divisible profits of such undertaking for the next following year.

Power to borrow in respect of additional capital.

35. The Company may subject to the provisions of this Act borrow on mortgage of the undertaking any sum or sums not exceeding in the whole one-third part of the amount of the additional capital by this Act authorised to be raised and at the time actually issued by shares or stock but no part thereof shall be borrowed until the whole of the shares or stock at the time issued together with the premium (if any) realised on the sale thereof shall have been fully paid up and the Company have proved to the justice who is to certify under the fortieth section of the Companies Clauses Consolidation Act 1845 before he so certifies that such shares and stock and premium (if any) have been issued and fully paid up and upon production to such justice of the books of the Company and of such other evidence as he shall think sufficient he shall grant a certificate that the proof aforesaid has been given which certificate shall be sufficient evidence thereof.

Priority of existing mortgages and debentures.

36. All mortgages bonds and debentures granted or issued by the Limited Company and subsisting at the passing of this Act shall during the continuance of such mortgages bonds and debentures have priority over all mortgages and debenture stock granted or created and issued by virtue of this Act.

Appointment of receiver.

37. The mortgagees of the undertaking may enforce payment of arrears of interest or principal or principal and interest due on their mortgages by the appointment of a receiver In order to authorise the appointment of a receiver in respect of arrears of principal the amount owing to the mortgagees by whom the application for a receiver is made shall not be less than two thousand pounds in the whole.

As to conversion of borrowed

38. The Company shall not have power to raise the money by this Act authorised to be borrowed on mortgage or by the issue of

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money into capital.

debenture stock or any part thereof by the creation of shares or stock instead of borrowing or to convert into share capital any money borrowed under the provisions of this Act.

Debenture stock.

39. The Company may create and issue debenture stock subject to the provisions of Part III. of the Companies Clauses Act 1863 but notwithstanding anything therein contained the interest of all debenture stock and of all mortgages at any time created and issued or granted by the Company under this or any subsequent Act shall subject to the provisions of any subsequent Act rank pari passu (without respect to the dates of the securities or of the Acts of Parliament or resolutions by which the stock and mortgages were authorised) and shall have priority over all principal moneys secured by such mortgages Notice of the effect of this enactment shall be endorsed on all mortgages and certificates of debenture stock.

Priority of mortgages and debenture stock over other debts &c.

40. All money to be raised by the Company on mortgage or debenture stock under the provisions of this Act shall have priority against the Company and the property from time to time of the Company over all other claims on account of any debts incurred or engagements entered into by them after the passing of this Act Provided always that this priority shall not affect any claim against the Company or their property in respect of any rentcharge granted or to be granted by them in pursuance of the Lands Clauses Acts or in respect of any rent or sum reserved by or payable under any lease granted or made to the Company which is entitled to rank in priority to or pari passu with the interest on their mortgages or debenture stock nor shall anything in this section contained affect any claim for land taken used or occupied by the Company for the purposes of the Company's undertaking and works or injuriously affected by the construction thereof or by the exercise of any of the powers conferred on the Company.

Application of moneys.

41. All moneys raised under this Act whether by shares stock debenture stock or borrowing shall be applied only to the purposes of this Act to which capital is properly applicable.

Place for meetings.

42. All meetings of the Company shall be held at the Company's office in Market Drayton or at such other place as the directors may from time to time appoint.

First ordinary meeting.

43. The first ordinary meeting of the Company shall be held within three months next after the passing of this Act and the future ordinary meetings of the Company shall be held in the

month of April in every year or at such other time as shall be appointed for that purpose by an order of a general meeting.

Quorum for meetings of Company.

44. The quorum of all general meetings whether ordinary or extraordinary shall be five shareholders present in person or by proxy holding not less in the aggregate than five hundred pounds in the ordinary capital of the Company.

Number of directors.

45. The number of directors shall be six but the Company may vary the number provided that the number be not at any time more than six or less than three.

Qualification of directors.

46. The qualification of a director shall be the possession in his own right of not less than ten shares.

Quorum.

47. The quorum of a meeting of directors shall be three.

First directors.

48. Bampfield Kettle Benjamin Smythe Gower Arthur Ewen Yates Alfred Morgan Thomas Hughes and John Robert Pearce shall be the first directors of the Company and shall continue in office until the first ordinary meeting held after the passing of this Act.

Election of directors.

49. At that meeting the shareholders present in person or by proxy may either continue in office the directors appointed by this Act or any of them or may elect a new body of directors or directors to supply the place of those not continued in office the directors appointed by this Act being (if they continue qualified) eligible for re-election and at the first ordinary meeting to be held in every year after the first ordinary meeting the shareholders present in person or by proxy shall (subject to the power hereinbefore contained for varying the number of directors) elect persons to supply the places of the directors then retiring from office agreeably to the provisions of the Companies Clauses Consolidation Act 1845 and the several persons elected at any such meeting being neither removed nor disqualified nor having died or resigned shall continue to be directors until others are elected in their stead in manner provided by the same Act.

Directors not to be disqualified &c.

50. No person shall be disqualified from becoming or continuing a director of the Company by reason of his or any partner of his being or becoming interested in any contract with the Company either in his own behalf or as a member of any other company corporation local authority or partnership but no such person shall as a director vote in respect of any question as to any such contract or the remuneration attached to any such office or place of trust or profit.

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Power to take lands.

51. Subject to the provisions of this Act the Company may for the purpose of the undertaking enter upon take and use such of the lands delineated on the deposited plan and described in the deposited book of reference and in Part II. of the Schedule to this Act as they may require for the purposes of their undertaking.

Limit of time for compulsory purchase.

52. The powers of the Company for the compulsory purchase of the lands so delineated and described as aforesaid shall cease after the expiration of three years from the passing of this Act.

Company may sell or lease lands not required.

53. Subject to the provisions of the Lands Clauses Consolidation Act 1845 with respect to the sale of superfluous lands so far as such provisions in each case apply the Company may from time to time sell for all their estate and interest therein or lease for any term or terms not exceeding seven years any lands now vested in them or acquired by them under the powers of this Act and which may not be required for the purposes of the Company Provided that the Company shall not erect or permit the erection on such lands as may be let or retained of any building other than buildings to be used in connection with their undertaking.

Powers as to construction and maintenance of gasworks &c.

54. Subject to the provisions of this Act the Company may upon the lands described in Part I. of the Schedule to this Act maintain alter improve enlarge extend and renew or discontinue their existing gasworks and may upon such lands and on the lands described in Part II. of the said Schedule if and when they have acquired such last-mentioned lands and whilst they are in possession thereof erect lay down provide and from time to time maintain alter improve enlarge extend and renew or discontinue additional and other gasworks retorts gasometers receivers drains sewers mains pipes meters lamps lamp-posts burners stop-cocks machinery and other works and apparatus and conveniences and may do all such acts as they may think proper for making and storing gas and for supplying gas within the limits of supply and may make store and supply gas accordingly and may manufacture sell provide supply and deal in coke tar and all other products or residuum of any materials employed in or resulting from the manufacture of gas or the materials used therein.

Power to purchase lands by agreement. Gas not to be manufactured except on

55. The Company may for the purposes of their undertaking purchase take and hold (by agreement but not otherwise) in addition to the lands described in the Schedule to this Act any lands and hereditaments not exceeding in the whole three acres which the Company may require for the purposes of their works and undertaking but the Company shall not create or permit a nuisance

on any such lands and no lands shall be used by the Company for the purpose of manufacturing gas or residual products except the lands described in the Schedule to this Act.

lands scheduled.

56. The Company shall not under the powers of this Act purchase or acquire ten or more houses which on the fifteenth day of December last were occupied either wholly or partially by persons belonging to the labouring class as tenants or lodgers or except with the consent of the Local Government Board ten or more houses which were not so occupied on the said fifteenth day of December but have been or shall be subsequently so occupied If the Company acquire or appropriate any house or houses for the purposes of this Act in contravention of the foregoing provisions they shall be liable to a penalty of five hundred pounds in respect of every such house which penalty shall be recoverable by the Local Government Board by action in the High Court and shall be carried to and form part of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom Provided that the court may if it think fit reduce such penalty.

Restriction on taking houses of labouring class.

For the purposes of this section the expression "house" means any house or part of a house occupied as a separate dwelling and the expression "labouring class" means mechanics artisans labourers and others working for wages hawkers costermongers persons not working for wages but working at some trade or handicraft without employing others except members of their own family and persons other than domestic servants whose income does not exceed an average of thirty shillings a week and the families of any of such persons who may be residing with them.

57. If any person is required by the Company to give to them security for the payment of the price or rent of a meter the Company shall pay interest after the rate of four pounds per centum per annum on every sum of ten shillings deposited by way of such security for every six months during which the same remains in their hands.

Company to pay interest on money deposited as security.

58.—(1) The Company may sell let for hire or otherwise deal in fix repair and remove but shall not manufacture engines stoves ranges pipes and other fittings for lighting for motive power for the warming and ventilating of houses and buildings for the cooking of food and for all other purposes for which gas can or may be used and may provide all materials and do all work necessary or proper in that behalf and with respect thereto may demand and take such remuneration or rents and charges and make such terms and conditions as may be agreed upon between

Power to supply gas fittings &c. for heating and other purposes.

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the Company and the persons to or for whom the fittings are sold let fixed up repaired or removed.

(2) Any fittings let for hire under the provisions of this section shall not be subject to distress or to the landlord's remedy for rent or be liable to be taken in execution under any process of any court or any proceedings in bankruptcy against the persons in whose possession the same may be Provided that such fittings have upon them respectively a distinguishing metal plate affixed to a conspicuous part thereof or a distinguishing brand or other mark conspicuously impressed or made thereon sufficiently indicating the Company as the actual owners thereof.

Anti-fluctuators for gas engines.

59. Every consumer of gas supplied by the Company who uses a gas engine shall if required to do so by the Company use an effective anti-fluctuator and shall at all times at his own expense keep such anti-fluctuator in proper order and in default of his so using or keeping such anti-fluctuator in proper repair the Company may cease to supply gas to such consumer The Company shall have access to and be at liberty to take off remove test inspect and replace any such anti-fluctuator at all reasonable times such taking off removal testing inspecting and replacing to be done at the expense of the Company if the anti-fluctuator be found in proper order but otherwise at the expense of such consumer.

Power to take licences for use of patents.

60. The Company may take hold and use within the limits of supply patent rights or licences or authorities (not being exclusive) under any letters patent for the use of any invention relative to the manufacture conversion utilisation or distribution of gas and of such materials and residual products as aforesaid.

Notice of discontinuance.

61. A notice to the Company from a consumer for the discontinuance of a supply of gas shall not be of any effect unless it be in writing signed by or on behalf of the consumer and be left at or sent by post to the office for the time being of the Company.

Limit of price.

62. The price to be charged by the Company for gas supplied by them to persons who shall burn the same by meter shall not at any time exceed five shillings per one thousand cubic feet.

Discounts.

63. The Company may if they think fit allow discounts or rebates on the amounts due in respect of gas rents in consideration of prompt payment of such charges or of large consumption upon such scale and subject to such conditions and regulations as the Company may prescribe Provided that notice of the effect of this enactment be endorsed on every demand note in respect of such

charges and that such discounts or rebates shall be of equal amount under the circumstances to all consumers of gas and shall not exceed in the case of discounts for prompt payment ten per centum and in the case of discounts for large consumption twenty per centum.

Pressure of gas.

64. All gas supplied by the Company to any consumer of gas shall be supplied at such pressure as to balance a column of water from midnight to sunset not less than six-tenths of an inch and from sunset to midnight not less than eight-tenths of an inch in height at the main as near as may be to the junction therewith of the service pipe supplying such consumer and any gas examiner appointed under the Gasworks Clauses Act 1871 may subject to the terms of his appointment test the pressure at which the gas is supplied and may for that purpose open any street road passage or place vested in or under the control of any local or road authority and the provisions of the Gasworks Clauses Act 1871 with reference to testing of gas and to penalties shall mutatis mutandis apply to such testing of pressure and two hours' previous notice shall be given to the Company of the time and place at which such testing shall be conducted.

Quality of gas.

65. The prescribed number of candles shall be fourteen.

Testing place.

66. Within twelve months from the passing of this Act a testing place shall be provided at the works of the Company.

Burner.

67. The prescribed burner shall be Sugg's London Argand burner number one with a six-inch by one-and-three-quarter-inch glass chimney but if at any time the gas flame tails over the top of that glass a six-inch by two-inch chimney shall be used or such other burner as shall for the time being be approved by the Board of Trade.

Power to refuse to supply persons in debt for other property.

68. If a person requiring a supply of gas from the Company has previously quitted premises at which gas was supplied to him by the Company without paying to them all gas or meter rent due from him to the Company they may refuse to furnish to him a supply of gas until he pay the same.

Period of error in defective meters.

69. In the event of any meter used by a consumer of gas being tested in manner provided by the Sale of Gas Act 1859 and being proved to register erroneously within the meaning of the said Act such erroneous registration shall be deemed to have first arisen during the then last preceding quarter of the year unless it be proved to have first arisen during the then current quarter The amount of the allowance to be made to or of the surcharge to be made upon the consumer by the Company shall be paid by or to

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the Company to or by the consumer as the case may be and shall be recoverable in the like manner as gas rents are recoverable by the Company.

Dwelling-houses for workmen.

70. The Company may maintain and erect upon the lands for the time being belonging to them cottages or dwelling-houses suitable for their workmen.

Contracts for supplying gas for public purposes.

71. The Company may from time to time enter into and fulfil any contract or arrangement with any sanitary authority having powers within any part of the limits of supply or any corporation bodies or persons for the supply of gas in bulk or otherwise by the Company for public purposes within the limits of supply for any period not exceeding under any one such contract or arrangement seven years.

Supply in bulk outside limits.

72. The Company may contract with any local authority company or person beyond the Company's limits of supply (but only with the consent in writing of the local authority of the district within which the supply is to be given and of any company or person supplying gas under Parliamentary powers in that district) for the supply to them respectively of gas in bulk upon such terms and conditions and for such periods not exceeding in any case seven years from the making of the contract as shall be agreed upon.

For protection of Great Western Railway Company.

73. For the protection of the Great Western Railway Company (hereinafter referred to as "the Great Western Company") the following provisions shall apply :—

(A) In laying down altering improving enlarging extending maintaining or renewing or in executing or effecting the repairs or renewals of any mains pipes or other works in the exercise of the powers contained in this Act upon across under or adjoining or in any way affecting the railways lands and property now or hereafter belonging to or used or occupied by the Great Western Company or the bridges approaches viaducts stations or other works or any level crossings over the railways of the Great Western Company the same shall be done under the superintendence and to the reasonable satisfaction of the principal engineer of the Great Western Company and only according to such plans and in such manner as shall be submitted to and as shall be previously reasonably approved by him in writing:

(B) All such works shall be done by and at the expense of the Company except as in this section otherwise provided who shall also restore and make good to the reasonable satisfaction of the said engineer the roads over or under any

bridge or over any level crossing of the railway of the Great Western Company or over the approaches to any such bridge or level crossing so far as the same may be disturbed or interfered with by or owing to any operations of the Company Provided always that should the Great Western Company elect so to do where any mains or pipes require to be laid under or across any level crossing of their railway they may themselves lay the same at the costs charges and expenses of the Company:

(C) All such works and operations and all matters incidental thereto shall be constructed executed and done so as to cause as little injury as may be to such railways bridges level crossings approaches viaducts stations works lands or property and so as to cause no interruption to the passage or conduct of traffic over such railways or at to or from any station thereon:

(D) If any injury or interruption as aforesaid shall arise from or in any way be owing to any of the acts works operations and matters aforesaid or the leakage or failure of any such mains pipes or works in under or near to any railway bridge level crossing embankment cutting approach viaduct station land works or property of the Great Western Company the Company shall make compensation to the Great Western Company in respect thereof the amount of such compensation unless agreed upon to be determined by arbitration in the manner hereinafter provided:

(E) The Company shall pay to the Great Western Company for any easement to be acquired by them across over or under any of the railways works or property of the Great Western Company for constructing or maintaining any of the works of the Company such sum annual or otherwise as may be agreed upon or failing agreement as shall be settled by arbitration in manner provided by the Lands Clauses Acts with respect to the acquisition of lands otherwise than by agreement and for the purposes of such arbitration the easement so to be taken shall be deemed to be lands so far as respects the proceedings for the acquisition thereof and also for the purposes of such arbitration:

(F) If the Great Western Company at any time or times hereafter require of which they shall be the sole judges to construct any additional or other works upon their lands or railways or to alter or repair their railways bridges viaducts or works upon across over or under which any of the works

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of the Company may have been constructed or laid the Great Western Company may on giving to the Company fourteen days' notice in writing under the hand of their secretary or general manager and in case of emergency of which their engineer shall be the sole judge without notice divert support or carry the said works of the Company across over or under their lands railways bridges or works at any other point or otherwise deal with the same in as convenient a manner as circumstances will admit and doing as little damage as may be without being liable to pay compensation in respect to such diversion supporting carrying or dealing with such works:

(G) Except as in this section otherwise provided any dispute or difference which may arise between the Great Western Company and the Company with reference to the provisions of this section or in any way arising thereout or as to any works to be carried out in pursuance thereof shall be settled by arbitration by an engineer or other fit person to be appointed by the Board of Trade on the application of the Great Western Company and the Company or either of them.

Copy of Act to be registered.

74. The Company shall deliver to the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies a printed copy of this Act and he shall retain and register the same and if such copy is not so delivered within three months from the passing of this Act the Company shall incur a penalty not exceeding two pounds for every day after the expiration of those three months during which the default continues and any director or manager of the Company who knowingly and wilfully authorises such default shall incur the like penalty Every penalty under this section shall be recoverable summarily.

There shall be paid to the registrar by the Company on such copy being registered the like fee as is for the time being payable under the Companies Act 1862 on registration of any document other than a memorandum of association.

Costs of Act.

75. All the costs charges and expenses of incident and preliminary to the preparing and applying for obtaining and passing of this Act or otherwise in relation thereto shall be paid by the Company.