Forgery of debentures to be punishable as forgery of East India bonds.

13. All provisions now in force in anywise relating to the offence of forging or altering, or offering, uttering, disposing of, or putting off, knowing the same to be forged or altered, any East India bond, with intent to defraud, shall extend and be applicable to and in respect of any debenture issued under the authority of this Act, as well as to and in respect of any bond issued under the same authority.

Returns to be annually prepared of moneys raised on loan, &c., and presented to Parliament.

14. Provided always, that after this Act shall have come into operation, the said Secretary of State in Council shall, on or before the first day of May in each year, prepare or cause to be prepared a return of all moneys raised on loan under the provisions of this Act and of the Acts of the twenty-first Victoria, chapter three, twenty-second Victoria, chapter eleven, twenty-second and twenty-third Victoria, chapter thirty-nine, twenty-third and twenty-fourth Victoria, chapter one hundred and thirty, twenty-fourth and twenty-fifth Victoria, chapter twenty-five, and thirty-second and thirty-third Victoria, chapter one hundred and six; also a return of all stocks, loans, debts, and liabilities then chargeable on the revenues of India, at home and abroad, up to the latest period of time to which such return can be made out, which return shall show, under the various heads of loans, debts, and liabilities, the amounts outstanding at the beginning of the last year included therein, the loans, debts, and liabilities raised or incurred within that year, the amounts paid off or discharged during that year, and the amounts under the various heads remaining at the end of that year, showing the loans, debts, and liabilities in England and India, separately and combined; and such return shall also show the purposes generally for which the moneys raised during that year have been applied or are intended to be applied; that all such returns shall be presented to both Houses of Parliament within the first fourteen days during which Parliament may be sitting next after the first day of May in each year, and the provisions of any of the said Acts by which such returns are directed to be made at certain dates therein specified are, so far as regards such dates, hereby repealed.

Saving powers of the Secretary of State in Council.

15. This Act shall not prejudice or affect any power of raising or borrowing money vested in the said Secretary of State in Council at the time of passing thereof.

Stock created hereunder to be deemed East India stock.

16. Any capital stock created under this Act shall be deemed to be East India stock, within the Act twenty-second and twenty-third Victoria, chapter thirty-five, section thirty-two, unless and until Parliament shall otherwise provide; and any capital stock created under this Act or under the Act of the thirty-second and thirty-third Victoria, chapter one hundred and six, shall be deemed to be and shall mean India stock within the Act of the twenty-sixth and twenty-seventh Victoria, chapter seventy-three, anything in the said last-mentioned Act to the contrary notwithstanding.

CHAPTER 33.

An Act to facilitate the Proof of Byelaws and Proceedings of Municipal Corporations in England and Wales. [7th July 1873.]

WHEREAS it is expedient to facilitate the proof of the byelaws and proceedings of municipal corporations in England and Wales:

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 for all purposes as the "Municipal Corporations Evidence Act, 1873."

Proof of byelaws.

2. The production of a written or printed copy of any byelaws made by the council of a borough, either under the Municipal Corporations Act of the fifth and sixth of William the Fourth, chapter seventy-three, or under any present or future general or local Act of Parliament, authenticated by the common seal of the borough, shall be evidence, until the

contrary is proved, of the due making and existence of such byelaws, and, if so stated in such copy, of the same byelaws having been approved and confirmed by the authority whose approval or confirmation is or shall be required to the making or enforcing of such byelaws in all legal proceedings, without further proof of the making of such byelaws, or of such approval or confirmation, or of the said common seal.

Proofs of proceedings of council and its committees.

3. Any minute of proceedings at meetings of the council, or of committees of the council, if signed by any person purporting to be the mayor of the borough or the chairman of a meeting of the council or committee of the council, either at the meeting of the council or committee of the council at which such proceedings took place, or at the next ensuing meeting of the council or committee of the council, shall be receivable in evidence in all legal proceedings, without further proof; and, until the contrary is proved, every meeting of the council or committee of the council in respect of the proceedings of which minutes have been so made shall be deemed to have been duly convened and held, and all the members thereof to have been duly qualified, and, when such proceedings are proceedings of committees, that such committees have been duly and regularly constituted, and had power to deal with the matters referred to in such proceedings.

Punishment for forging seal or signatures.

4. If any person shall forge the seal or signatures of any document in this Act mentioned or referred to, or shall tender in evidence any such document with a false or counterfeit seal or signature thereto, knowing the same to be false or counterfeit, he shall upon conviction be liable to imprisonment for any term not exceeding three years nor less than one year with hard labour.

Interpretation of "borough."

5. The word "borough" in the construction of this Act shall mean city, borough, or town corporate.

CHAPTER 34.

An Act to amend an Act passed in a session held in the sixth and seventh years of the reign of King William the Fourth, chapter one hundred and sixteen, intituled An Act to consolidate and amend the Laws relating to the Presentment of Public Money by Grand Juries in Ireland.

[7th July 1873.]

WHEREAS it is expedient to enable grand juries of any county in Ireland to present at any assizes such sum or sums of money as may be necessary from time to time to repair or widen, to any width not exceeding fifteen feet, any towing path and trackway on the bank of any navigable river on which boats have been accustomed to be towed by horses, to be levied off the entire county or riding of a county in which such towing path and trackway are situate:

And whereas under the Act passed in a session held in the sixth and seventh years of the reign of King William the Fourth, chapter one hundred and sixteen, section one hundred and nineteen, such money can only be levied off the barony or baronies in which such towing path and trackway are locally situate:

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:

Grand juries may present sums required to widen certain towing paths, such sums to

1. That notwithstanding anything in the said Act contained, it shall be lawful for any grand jury in Ireland to present at any assizes such sums of money as may be necessary to repair or widen, to any width not exceeding fifteen feet, any towing path and trackway on the bank of any navigable river on which boats have been accustomed to be towed by horses, such sums to be levied off all the baronies and half baronies in the county or