ANNO DECIMO NONO & VICESIMO

VICTORIÆ REGINÆ.

Cap. cxxxvii.

An Act to extend the Time limited for completing the *Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton* Railway, and for adapting the same to the Broad Gauge, and for other Purposes.

[29th *July* 1856.]

WHEREAS the *Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton* Railway Company, in this Act called the Company, were by their Act of Incorporation required to construct their Main Line of Railway with Rails adapted for the Broad Gauge, and a Portion of it also with Rails adapted for the Narrow Gauge: And whereas the Company did construct One Line of Railway with Rails adapted both for the Broad and Narrow Gauge, and opened the same for Traffic on the Narrow Gauge: And whereas by "The *Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton Railway* (*Stratford and Stourbridge* Branches) Act, 1854," in this Act called the Act of 1854, the Company are required, within certain Periods now expired, and under certain Penalties, to complete the said Railway throughout with a Double Line of Rails upon the Broad Gauge, and in other respects in accordance with the Acts relating thereto, and with proper Sidings and Conveniences connected therewith, to the Satisfaction of the Board of Trade: And whereas since the passing of that Act the Company have had no Funds, nor such Powers as would enable them to raise

17 & 18 Vict. c. ccvii.

Funds for the Completion of such Second Line of Broad Gauge Rails: And whereas the Company have introduced a Bill in the present Session for special Parliamentary Powers to enable them to raise the requisite Capital for the Completion of the said Railway in manner aforesaid: And whereas it is expedient that the Time limited by the Act of 1854 for the Completion of the Broad Gauge Works and for the Completion of the Railway and Works should be extended: And whereas the Company are authorized to construct a Branch Railway called the *Kingswinford* Branch, diverging out of the Main Line at *Brettel Lane* in the Parish of *Kingswinford* in the County of *Stafford*, and terminating near the Turnpike Road from *Dudley* to *Himley* in the Parishes of *Himley* and *Sedgley*, or one of them, one Portion of which Branch is by "The *Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton* Railway (Branches and Extension) Act, 1853," (in this Act called the Act of 1853,) required to be completed by the Twentieth Day of *August* in the present Year, and the remaining Portion whereof was authorized to be made by "The *Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton* Railway (Improvements and Branches) Act, 1855," (in this Act called the Act of 1855,) and is required to be completed by the Thirtieth Day of *July* One thousand eight hundred and sixty: And whereas the Company have purchased or contracted to purchase the Lands necessary for the Construction of so much of such Branch Railway as is required to be completed by the Act of 1853, but it is expedient that the Time for completing the Works upon such Portion should be extended: And whereas it is expedient that the Acts relating to the *Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton* Railway be amended for the Purposes aforesaid; but such Purposes 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 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:

16 & 17 Vict. c. ccxii.

18 & 19 Vict. c. clxxxi.

Interpretation of Terms.

I. In this Act the following Words and Expressions shall have the Meaning hereby assigned to them, unless there be something in the Subject or Context repugnant to or inconsistent with such Construction; (that is to say,)

The Word "Railway" shall be held to mean the Main Line of the *Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton* Railway:

The Words "the Company" shall be held to mean the *Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton* Railway Company.

Short Title.

II. In citing this Act for any Purpose it shall be sufficient to use the Expression "The *Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton* Railway (Extension of Time) Act, 1856."

III. The

Extension of Time for completing Works.

III. The Time limited by the Acts relating to the Company, or by any of them, for the Completion of the Railway and the Works connected therewith, and which was extended by the Eighteenth Section of the Act of 1854, shall be further extended for the Space of Four Years from the passing of this Act; and on the Expiration of such extended Period the Powers by any such Acts granted to the Company for making the Railway shall cease to be exercised, except as to so much of such Railway as shall then be completed.

Penalties for Non-completion of Broad Gauge deferred.

IV. The Company shall not be required to proceed with the Completion of their Railway with a Double Line of Rails on the Broad Gauge, as required by the Nineteenth Section of the Act of 1854, until the Expiration of Four Years from the passing of this Act, nor shall the Company be subject or liable to any Penalty imposed by such Section of the said Act unless and until Default be made in the Completion of the Railway as required by the said Act within such reasonable Period as, after the Expiration of the said Four Years, the Board of Trade may in that Behalf direct; and the Nineteenth Section of the said Act shall be cosntrued as if the Time or respective Times so directed by the Board of Trade for the Completion of the Double Line of Rails on the Broad Gauge had been the Time or respective Times originally prescribed in such Section.

Extending Time for completing Part of the Kingswinford Branch.

V. The Time limited by the Act of 1853 for the Completion of the Portion of the *Kingswinford* Branch between the Main Line of Railway and the Junction with the Portion of the same Branch authorized to be made by the Act of 1855 shall be extended for the Space of Three Years from the passing of this Act, and on the Expiration of such extended Period the Powers by the Act of 1853 or any other Act granted to the Company for making such Portion of the said Branch shall cease to be exercised, except as to so much of such Branch as shall then be completed, and the Act of 1853 shall be construed as if such extended Period had been originally granted by such Act: Provided always, that in case the Part of the *Kingswinford* Branch in respect of which an Extension of Time is hereby granted shall not be completed and opened for public Traffic within the Period of Three Years from the passing of this Act, then and from thenceforth it shall not be lawful for the Company or the Directors thereof to pay any Dividend to the Shareholders on the ordinary or unguaranteed Capital of the Company until such Portion of the said Branch Railway shall have been completed and opened for public Traffic.

Deposits for future Bills not to be paid out of

VI. It shall not be lawful for the Company, out of any Money by this Act or any other Act relating to the Company authorized to be raised for the Purposes of such Act or Acts, to pay or deposit any Sum

The Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton Railway (Extension of Time) Act, 1856.

Company's Capital.

Sum of Money which, by any Standing Order of either House of Parliament now in force or hereafter to be in force, may be required to be deposited in respect of any Application to Parliament for the Purpose of obtaining an Act authorizing the Company to construct any other Railway or to execute any other Work or Undertaking.

Company not to take up Rails on the Main Line, except temporarily, &c.

VII. Nothing in this Act contained shall authorize the Company to take up any Part of the Rails laid down on the Main Line of Railway for adapting the same to the Broad Gauge, except temporarily for needful Repairs and Alterations in the Rails which may from Time to Time become necessary, and in such Case they shall forthwith replace the same out of the ordinary Revenues of the Company to the same Extent to which they were laid at the Time they were so taken up.

Railway, &c. not exempt from Provisions of present and future General Acts.

VIII. Nothing herein contained shall be deemed or construed to exempt the Railway or Branch Railway or the Company from the Provisions of any General Act relating to Railways, or to the better and more impartial Audit of the Accounts of Railway Companies, now in force or which may hereafter pass during this or any future Session of Parliament, or from any future Revision and Alteration under the Authority of Parliament of the maximum Rates of Fares and Charges authorized by this Act or by the said recited Acts, or of Rates for small Parcels.

Expenses of Act.

IX. All Costs, Charges, and Expenses of applying for, obtaining, and passing this Act, or incident thereto, shall be paid by the Company.

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