secured on any property, fund, or rate, and that the statutory charge is referred to in the bills, be treated for the purpose of the Stamp Act, 1891, and the Acts amending that Act, as promissory notes and not as marketable securities.

GENERAL.

Short title.

9. This Act may be cited as the Finance Act, 1897.

CHAPTER 25.

An Act for the acquisition of Land for the Extension of the Patent Office, and for purposes connected therewith. [6th August 1897.]

WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for the extension of the Patent Office and to empower the Commissioners of Works (in this Act called the Commissioners) for that purpose to acquire certain lands and buildings situated in the united parishes of Saint Andrew Holborn-above-the-Bars and Saint George the Martyr, in the county of London:

And whereas those lands and buildings cannot be acquired without the authority of Parliament:

And whereas plans of the lands by this Act authorised to be acquired, and also books of reference containing the names of the owners and lessees, or reputed owners and lessees, and of the occupiers of these lands, have been deposited with the clerk of the peace for the county of London (which plans and books of reference are in this Act respectively referred to as the deposited plans and books of reference):

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:

Power to purchase land.

1. The Commissioners may purchase and acquire for the purposes of this Act all or any of the lands delineated on the deposited plans and described in the deposited books of reference.

Incorporation of Lands Clauses Acts.

2.—(1.) For the purpose of the purchase and acquisition of land under this Act the Lands Clauses Acts shall, subject to the provisions of this Act, be incorporated with this Act, with the following exceptions and modifications:—

(*a.*) The provisions relating to the sale of superfluous land and access to the special Act and section one hundred and thirty-three of the Lands Clauses Consolidation Act, 1845 (relating to land tax and poor rate), shall not be incorporated with this Act:

(*b.*) In the construction of this Act, and of the incorporated Acts, this Act shall be deemed to be the "special Act," and the Commissioners shall be deemed to be the "promoters of the undertaking":

(c.) The bond required by section eighty-five of the Lands Clauses Consolidation Act, 1845, shall be under the common seal of the Commissioners, and shall be sufficient without the addition of the sureties mentioned in that section: 8 & 9 Vict. c. 18.

(d.) All claims for compensation made upon the Commissioners under this Act, or any Act incorporated herewith, shall, if the person claiming has no greater interest in the land in respect of which compensation is claimed than as tenant from year to year, or as a leaseholder for any term of which not more than eighteen months remain unexpired at the time at which the claim is made, be determined in manner provided by section one hundred and twenty-one of the Lands Clauses Consolidation Act, 1845. 8 & 9 Vict. c. 18.

(2.) The powers of the Commissioners for the compulsory purchase of land under this Act shall cease after the expiration of three years from the passing of this Act.

Land tax.

3.—(1.) Any land tax assessed on the first day of January one thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven on any part of the land acquired by the Commissioners under this Act shall, as from the date of acquisition, be deemed to have been redeemed at the price and in accordance with the conditions provided by the Finance Act, 1896, and the Land Tax Acts therein defined, and after the date of acquisition no sum shall be assessed or charged in respect of land tax on any part of the land so acquired. 59 & 60 Vict. c. 28.

(2.) The Commissioners of Inland Revenue shall grant a certificate of exoneration from assessment to land tax of the lands so acquired, and that certificate shall be registered by the officer appointed for the registry of contracts for the redemption of land tax.

Extinction of rights of way and other easements.

4.—(1.) All rights of way, rights of laying down or of continuing any pipes, sewers, or drains, on, through, or under, any of the land acquired by the Commissioners under this Act, and all other rights and easements in or relating to that land, shall be extinguished, and all the soil of those ways, and the property in the pipes, sewers, and drains, shall vest in the Commissioners.

(2.) Provided that any persons may recover from the Commissioners such compensation (if any) as they may be entitled to under any of the provisions of the Lands Clauses Acts for any rights or property of which they may be deprived in pursuance of this section, and the amount of that compensation shall be determined in manner provided by the Lands Clauses Acts as modified for the purpose of their incorporation with this Act.

Saving for County Council.

5. Nothing in this Act shall affect any rights or jurisdiction of the London County Council in relation to any sewers, drains, or watercourses.

Power to enter on lands.

6. The Commissioners and their surveyors, officers, and workmen may at all reasonable time in the daytime, on giving twenty-four hours' notice in writing, enter on any of the land which the Commissioners are authorised to acquire under this Act for the purpose of surveying or valuing the land

Power of Commissioners to build.

7. The Commissioners may erect all such buildings, execute all such works, and do all such other things, as may in their opinion be necessary or proper for the purpose of providing for the extension of the Patent Office on the land acquired by them under this Act, and appropriating any such land for any of those purposes.

Protection of works of gas, water, and electricity companies.

8.—(1.) Where, in the removal or pulling down of any buildings or in raising or lowering the ground of any street or way for the purpose of this Act, it is necessary to raise, sink, or otherwise alter the position relatively to the surface of the ground of any pipe, wire, or other apparatus, laid down or used by any gas, water, or electricity company, or connected with any house or building for the supply of gas, water, or electricity—

(*a*) one month's notice shall be given to the company previously to the commencement of any such work; and

(*b*) the work shall be executed to the reasonable satisfaction of the engineer of the company, or in case of difference of an engineer to be selected by the Board of Trade; and

(*c*) every such work shall be so executed as to cause as little inconvenience as circumstances will admit to the company; and

(*d*) the Commissioners shall make compensation to the company for all loss or damage, if any, which may be occasioned by the execution of any of the works authorised by this Act.

(2.) For the purposes of this section the expression "gas, water, or electricity company" includes any person or body of persons supplying gas, water, or electricity.

Provisions as to expenses, &c. of Commissioners. 15 & 16 Vict. c. 28.

9.—(1.) All expenses incurred by the Commissioners under this Act shall be defrayed out of money provided by Parliament.

(2.) The provisions of the Commissioners of Works Act, 1852, and any Act amending that Act, shall apply in the case of the acquisition of land by the Commissioners under this Act in like manner as in the case of a purchase under that Act, and any notice, summons, writ, or other document required to be given, issued, or signed, by or on behalf of the Commissioners, may be given, issued, or signed by the secretary or assistant secretary of the Commissioners, and need not be under their common seal.

Penalty for obstructing Commissioners.

10. If any person wilfully obstructs any person acting under the authority of the Commissioners in the lawful exercise of the powers vested in them under this Act, he shall for each offence be liable, on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding five pounds.

Short title.

11. This Act may be cited as the Patent Office (Extension) Act, 1897.