

ANNO VICESIMO QUARTO

VICTORIÆ REGINÆ.

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CAP. XVIII.

An Act to make Provision for the Dissolution of Combinations of Parishes in *Scotland* as to the Management of the Poor. [7th *June* 1861.]

WHEREAS by an Act passed in the Eighth and Ninth Years of the Reign of Her Majesty Queen *Victoria*, intituled *An Act for the Amendment and Administration of the Laws relating to the Relief of the Poor in* Scotland, it was provided, in the Sixteenth Section thereof, that the Board of Supervision thereby established, if satisfied that the Administration of the Affairs of the Poor in any Two or more Parishes, "might "be carried on with greater Advantage to the said Parishes and "to the Poor therein, by the said Parishes being combined for "the Purposes" of the said Act, to resolve and declare that such Parishes should thenceforward be combined for the Purposes of the said Act: And whereas no Power is by the said Act conferred on the Board of Supervision, or on any other Tribunal, to dissolve, under any Circumstances, a Combination of Parishes once effected under Authority of the said Act: And whereas it is expedient that Power should be conferred on the said Board, in the Cases and subject to the Provisions after mentioned, to dissolve such Combinations

8 & 9 Vict. c. 83.

binations of Parishes: 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:

Parochial Board of Combination may appoint Special Meeting for Application for Dissolution.

1. It shall be lawful for the Parochial Board of any Combination of Parishes which may have been combined under the Provisions of the said recited Act, at One of its fixed General Meetings, to resolve that it is expedient that the Combination should, as to all or as to certain of the Parishes thereof, be dissolved, and thereupon to appoint a Special Meeting of the Board for the Purpose of considering whether an Application should be made to the Board of Supervision, craving the said Board of Supervision so to dissolve such Combination; provided always, that Notice shall have been given by the Member or Members of the Parochial Board intending, at such Meeting, to propose such Resolution, of his or their Intention then to propose the same, to every other Member thereof, by Letter addressed to each such Member at his ordinary Place of Residence, and put into the Post Office at least One Month prior to such General Meeting; and the Special Meeting, if resolved to be appointed, shall be appointed to be held on a Day not sooner than Three Weeks nor later than Six Weeks after the Date of such Resolution.

Intimation of Special Meeting.

2. Intimation shall be given of the Special Meeting appointed as aforesaid by Letters addressed by the Inspector of the Poor to every Member of the Parochial Board at his usual Place of Residence, and put into the Post Office at least One Fortnight before the Day of Meeting, and specifying the Time and Place of Meeting, and the Purpose for which such Meeting has been appointed to be held.

Special Meeting may authorize Application to Board of Supervision.

3. At such Special Meeting, if the Parochial Board shall unanimously, or by a Majority of at least Two Thirds, agree to the proposed Application being made, but not otherwise, it shall be lawful for the Parochial Board to authorize an Application, in their Name, to be transmitted to the Board of Supervision, praying such Board of Supervision to dissolve the Combination as to all or any of the Parishes thereof, and the Chairman of the Parochial Board shall thereupon sign and forthwith transmit to the Board of Supervision such Application accordingly; and the said Parochial Board may also transmit to the Board of Supervision a Statement of their Reasons in support of such Application; and any Members of the Parochial Board who may dissent from the Resolution to make such Application may, within Ten Days after the Date of such Resolution, give in to the Chairman a Statement of their Reasons of Dissent,

Dissent, which Statement the Chairman shall forthwith transmit to the Board of Supervision.

Board of Supervision may thereupon dissolve Combination;

4. The Board of Supervision, on receiving any such Application shall make such Inquiry as to them shall seem necessary and proper; and the said Board of Supervision after such Inquiry shall have Power, if satisfied, from any Change in the Condition and State of the Parishes, or on consideration of the Results of the Experience already had of the Administration of the Poor since the Parishes were combined, that it is not for the Advantage of the Parishes, or of the Poor thereof, that the Administration of the Affairs of the Poor should be continued in these Parishes in a State of Combination, to dissolve the Combination as to all or any of the Parishes thereof in Terms of the Prayer of the Application, or they may, if they see Cause, refuse such Application.

and decide all Questions between the Parishes.

5. If the Board of Supervision shall dissolve any such Combination as aforesaid, they shall further, after such Inquiry as they shall deem necessary and proper, determine all Questions as to the Liability of the several Parishes which had constituted the Combination to support particular Paupers in Time to come, and as to the Obligations incumbent on the Combination, and the Shares thenceforward to be borne by the several Parishes thereof, and as to any Property belonging to the Combination, and the Division or Destination to be thereafter made of it, and any Claims of Compensation thence arising; and generally they shall have Power to dispose of all Questions and Claims between the several Parishes in reference to the Affairs of the Poor in so far as affected by the Dissolution as aforesaid, and all Decisions and Determinations by the Board of Supervision shall be final and conclusive, and shall not be subject to Review by any Court, whether by Appeal, Advocation, Suspension, Reduction, or otherwise.

After Dissolution, Management of Poor to proceed as if Parishes never combined.

6. On any such Dissolution taking place as aforesaid, the Management of the Poor in every Parish which shall, in consequence, have ceased to form Part of a Combination of Parishes, and the Administration of the Laws relating to the Relief of the Poor in such Parish and to the raising the necessary Funds for their Relief, shall, from and after a Day to be named by the Board of Supervision as the Date at which the Dissolution shall take effect, and subject to the Decisions and Determinations of the said Board herein-before mentioned, be carried on in every such Parish as if no such Combination had ever been formed.

7. If

If Application refused not to be renewed till after Lapse of Five Years.

7. If the Board of Supervision shall refuse any such Application for Dissolution as aforesaid, it shall not be lawful for the Parochial Board whose Application has been refused to renew such Application till after the Lapse of Five Years from the Date at which it was so refused,

LONDON:
Printed by GEORGE EDWARD EYRE and WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
Printers to the Queen's most Excellent Majesty. 1861.