CHAPTER 33.

An Act relating to Post Office Money Orders. [7th September 1880.]

WHEREAS by the Post Office Duties Act, 1840, and the Post Office Money Order Act, 1848, provision is made for the transmission of small sums of money through the Post Office by means of money orders under regulations made by Her Majesty's Postmaster General for the time being (in this Act referred to as the Postmaster General) with the concurrence of the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury (in this Act referred to as the Treasury), and it is expedient to make further provision with respect to such transmission: 3 & 4 Vict. c. 96. 11 & 12 Vict. c. 88.

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:

1. Subject to the Post Office regulations as defined by this Act, the Postmaster General, with the consent of the Treasury, may, for the purpose of the transmission of small sums through the Post Office, authorise his officers or any of them to issue, in addition to the money orders already authorised by law, orders in the form set forth in the schedule to this Act, and such orders shall be paid in the manner and subject to the conditions prescribed by the said regulations, and shall be deemed to be money orders within the meaning of the said regulations, and shall, like other money orders, be exempt from stamp duty. Power to the Postmaster General to issue money orders in form in schedule for the purpose of the transmission of small sums.

Provided that—

(1.) Any such order shall be for one of the amounts following; and in respect thereof the following poundage shall be taken for the use of Her Majesty; that is to say,

Amount.	Poundage.
One shilling	One halfpenny.
One shilling and sixpence	One halfpenny.
Half-a-crown	One penny.
Five shillings	One penny.
Seven shillings and sixpence	One penny.
Ten shillings	Twopence.
Twelve shillings and sixpence	Twopence.
Fifteen shillings	Twopence.
Seventeen shillings and sixpence	Twopence.
Twenty shillings	Twopence.

(2.) Any such order shall not be issued until the amount of the order and the poundage have been paid to the officer issuing the same:

(3.) After the expiration of three months from the last day of the month in which any such order is issued by the Post Office, the order shall be payable only on payment in the prescribed manner of a commission equal to the amount of the original poundage, with the addition (if more than three months have elapsed since the said expiration) of the amount of the original poundage for every further period of three months which has so elapsed, and for every portion of any such period of three months over and above every complete period:

(4.) No interest shall be payable in respect of an order issued under this Act.

2. Subject to any Post Office regulations, the Post Office Money Order Act, 1848, shall apply as well to orders issued under this Act as to all other money orders issued in pursuance of the said Act of 1848, with this addition, that all Post Office regulations in Application of 11 & 12 Vict. c. 88., and laying of

regulations before Parliament.

relation to orders issued under this Act shall be published in the London Gazette, and shall be laid before both Houses of Parliament within fourteen days after they are made if Parliament be then in session, and if not, within fourteen days after the commencement of the then next session of Parliament.

Forgery of crossing of order.

3. Any person who, with intent to defraud, obliterates, adds to or alters any such lines or words on an order issued under this Act as would, in the case of a cheque, be a crossing of that cheque, or knowingly offers, utters, or disposes of any order, with such fraudulent obliteration, addition, or alteration, shall be guilty of felony, and be liable to the like punishment as if such order were a cheque: Provided always, that any banker or corporation or company acting as bankers in the United Kingdom who, in collecting in such capacity for any principal, shall have received payment or been allowed by the Postmaster General in account in respect of any money order issued under this Act, or of any document purporting to be such a money order, shall not incur liability to anyone except such principal by reason of having received such payment or allowance, or having held or presented such order or document for payment; but this section shall not relieve any principal for whom such order or document shall have been so held or presented of any liability in respect of his possession of the same or of the proceeds thereof.

Fraud and forgery.

4. (1.) The enactments providing for the punishment of offences relating to stamp duties shall apply in like manner as if the poundage under this Act were a stamp duty.

3 & 4 Vict. c. 96.

(2.) Sections nineteen, twenty-two, twenty-three, twenty-six, twenty-nine, and thirty of the Post Office Duties Act, 1840, (which relate to dies and paper, and to plates and instruments, and to moulds, frames, instruments, and machinery for the making of paper, and to the punishing of fraud,) shall apply as if herein re-enacted, with the substitution of poundage under this Act for the duties therein mentioned, and of orders under this Act for the envelopes therein mentioned.

11 & 12 Vict. c. 88.

(3.) An officer of the Post Office who re-issues an order previously paid shall be deemed to have issued the order with a fraudulent intent within the meaning of section four of the Post Office (Money Orders) Act, 1848, and shall be punished accordingly, and that section as amended by this Act shall extend to an offence when committed in the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man in like manner as if they were mentioned in that section after Ireland, and penal servitude were substituted for transportation.

3 & 4 Vict. c. 96., &c. 24 & 25 Vict. c. 98. 24 & 25 Vict. c. 96.

(4.) An order under this Act shall be deemed to be an order for the payment of money and a valuable security within the meaning of the Post Office Acts and of the Forgery Act, 1861, (that is to say, the Act of the twenty-fourth and twenty-fifth years of the reign of Her present Majesty, chapter ninety-eight,) and of section one of the Larceny Act, 1861, and of any other law relating to forgery or stealing, which is for the time being in force in any part of the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands, or Isle of Man.

Definitions.

5. For the purposes of this Act, unless the context otherwise requires—

11 & 12 Vict. c. 88.

The expression "Post Office regulations" means regulations or restrictions from time to time made in pursuance of the Post Office (Money Orders) Act, 1848, as amended by this Act:

The expression "prescribed" means prescribed by the Post Office regulations for the time being in force.

Extension of Acts to Channel Islands and Isle of Man. 11 & 12 Vict. c. 88.

6. The Post Office (Money Orders) Acts, 1848 and 1880, shall extend to the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, and the Royal Courts of the Channel Islands shall register the same accordingly.

43 & 44 Vict. c. 33.

7. This Act may be cited as the Post Office (Money Orders) Act, 1880.

Short title and construction. 11 & 12 Vict. c. 88. 11 & 12 Vict. c. 88.

The Act of the session of the eleventh and twelfth years of the reign of Her present Majesty, chapter eighty-eight, intituled "An Act for further regulating the Money Order "Department of the Post Office," is in this Act referred to and may be cited as the Post Office (Money Orders) Act, 1848.

This Act shall be construed as one with the Post Office (Money Orders) Act, 1848, and the two Acts may be cited together as the Post Office (Money Orders) Act, 1848 and 1880. 11 & 12 Vict. c. 88.

SCHEDULE.

FORM OF ORDER.

Postal Order for *[Five Shillings].

[Name of Issuing Office.]
[Number of Order.]

* Alter according to amount.

Inland Revenue Stamp. Postal Order *[One Penny.]

To the Postmaster in charge of the Money Order Office at† Pay to† at any time within three calendar months from the last day of the month of issue the sum of *[five shillings] on account of Her Majesty's Postmaster General.

Issuing Office Stamp, with date.

Postmaster.

† The person to whom this Order is issued must, before parting with it, fill in the name of the person to whom the amount is to be paid, and may fill in the name of the Money Order Office at which the amount is to be paid.
The person so named must sign the receipt at the foot thereof, and must also fill in the name of the Money Order Office, if that has not been already done.

1. If this order be crossed "_____ & Co." payment will only be made through a banker, and if the name of a banker is added payment will only be made through that banker.
2. After this order has once been paid, to whomsoever it is paid, the Postmaster General will not be liable for any further claim.
3. If any erasure or alteration be made, or if this order is cut, defaced, or mutilated, payment may be refused.
4. The regulations under which this order is issued allow the postmaster to refuse or delay the payment of this order, but he must at once report his reasons for so doing to the Postmaster General.
5. After the expiration of three months from the last day of the month of issue this Order will be payable only on payment of a commission equal to the amount of the original poundage, with the addition (if more than three months have elapsed since the said expiration) of the amount of the original poundage for every further period of three months which has so elapsed, and for every portion of any such period of three months over and above every complete period.

Paying Office Stamp, with date.

Cancelling this Order.

Received the above-named sum.

_____ Signature.