CHAPTER 44.

An Act to raise the sum of Four million pounds by Exchequer Bills or Treasury Bills, for the service of the year ending on the thirty-first day of March one thousand eight hundred and eighty-six.

[31st July 1885.]

Most Gracious Sovereign,

WE, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled, towards raising the supply which we have cheerfully granted to Your Majesty in this session of Parliament, have resolved to grant unto Your Majesty the sum herein-after mentioned; and do therefore most humbly beseech 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:

Treasury may raise 4,000,000*l.* by Exchequer Bills, or Treasury Bills. 29 & 30 Vict. c. 25. 40 & 41 Vict. c. 2.

1. Towards raising the supply granted to Her Majesty for the service of the year ending on the thirty-first day of March one thousand eight hundred and eighty-six, it shall be lawful for the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, at any time or times not later than the said thirty-first day of March, to raise any sum or sums, not exceeding in the whole four million pounds, by the issue of Exchequer Bills, or Treasury Bills, in manner provided by the Exchequer Bills and Bonds Act, 1866, and the Treasury Bills Act, 1877.

Interest on Exchequer and Treasury Bills.

2. The interest on such Exchequer Bills or Treasury Bills shall be paid out of the permanent annual charge of the National Debt.

Money raised to be paid into Exchequer.

3. All money raised in pursuance of this Act shall be paid into the Exchequer.

Short title.

4. This Act may be cited as the Exchequer and Treasury Bills Act, 1885.

CHAPTER 45.

An Act to enable Her Majesty's Postmaster General to acquire lands in London, Birmingham, Bristol, and Newcastle-upon-Tyne for the public service.

[31st July 1885.]

WHEREAS the buildings used as post offices in London, Birmingham, Bristol, and Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and the buildings used as the Post Office Savings Bank in London, afford inadequate accommodation for the purposes of the public service, and it is expedient that Her Majesty's Postmaster General (in this Act called "the Postmaster General") should be empowered to acquire additional lands and erect additional buildings in manner in this Act provided, and to acquire the freehold and inheritance of a portion of the buildings now used by him under a lease for the purpose of the Post Office Savings Banks, but the objects aforesaid cannot be effected without the authority of Parliament:

And whereas maps or plans showing the respective lands to be acquired by the Postmaster General under the authority of this Act, with books of reference containing the names of the owners or reputed owners, lessees or reputed lessees, and occupiers of the lands which may be taken compulsorily under this Act, and describing those lands, have been deposited with the respective clerks of the peace for the counties of Middlesex, Warwick, Gloucester, and Northumberland, and the same are in this Act referred to as the deposited plans and books of reference:

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:

Short title.

1. This Act may be cited as the Post Office (Sites) Act, 1885.

Incorporation of 8 & 9 Vict. c. 18. 23 & 24 Vict. c. 106. and 32 & 33 Vict. c. 18.

2. The Lands Clauses Consolidation Acts, 1845, 1860, and 1869 (in this Act called the Lands Clauses Acts), are, with the exception of the provisions of the Lands Clauses Consolidation Act, 1845, for affording access to the special Act, incorporated with and form part of this Act, subject to the following provisions (viz.):

8 & 9 Vict. c. 18. 23 & 24 Vict. c. 106. 32 & 33 Vict. c. 18.

(1.) In the construction of this Act and the Lands Clauses Acts this Act shall be deemed to be the special Act, and the Postmaster General shall be deemed to be the promoter of the undertaking.

8 & 9 Vict. c. 18.

(2.) The bond required by section eighty-five of the Lands Clauses Consolidation Act, 1845, shall be under the corporate seal of the Postmaster General, and shall be sufficient without the addition of the sureties in the said section mentioned.

Interpretation.

3. In this Act—

"The Treasury" means the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury:

"Person" includes a body of persons, corporate or unincorporate.

Power to acquire lands.

4. Subject to the provisions of this Act it shall be lawful for the Postmaster General to purchase and acquire for the purposes of this Act all or any of the lands shown and described on the deposited plans and in the books of reference.

Any lands acquired by the Postmaster General under the authority of this Act shall be vested in and be held by him in his corporate capacity and his successors on behalf of Her Majesty, Her heirs and successors, for the service of the Post Office.

Correction of errors, &c.

5. If any omission, mis-statement, or erroneous description is found to have been made of any lands, or of any owners, lessees, or occupiers of any lands shown or described, or intended to be shown or described, on the deposited plans or in the books of reference, the Postmaster General may apply to two justices for the correction thereof, after giving ten days notice to the owners, lessees, or occupiers of the lands affected by the proposed correction; and if it appears to the justices that such omission, mis-statement, or erroneous description arose from mistake, they shall so certify, stating the particulars thereof, and their certificate shall be deposited as if the same had originally formed part of the deposited plans or books of reference (as the case may be), and shall be kept therewith, and shall be deemed to be part thereof, and thereupon the deposited plans or books of reference (as the case requires) shall be deemed

to be corrected according to the certificate, and that the Postmaster General may enter on, purchase, take, hold, and use the lands to which the certificate relates accordingly.

Power to Postmaster General to enter lands for the purpose of surveying.

6. It shall be lawful for the Postmaster General and for his surveyors, officers, and workmen at all reasonable times in the daytime to enter into and upon any of the lands shown and described on the deposited plans and in the books of reference for the purpose of surveying or valuing such lands on giving, for the first time, twenty-four hours, and afterwards from time to time twelve hours previous notice in writing to the owners or occupiers thereof.

Diversion, &c. of streets and extinction of rights of laying pipes and other easements.

7. From and after the time of the purchase of any lands under the authority of this Act it shall be lawful for the Postmaster General to divert, alter, and stop up any street, road, way, passage, and place situate within the limits of the property to be acquired as described in the deposited plans.

Also, on such purchase as aforesaid by the Postmaster General of any lands under the authority of this Act, all rights of laying down or continuing any pipes, sewers, or drains on, through, or under such lands, or any part thereof, and all other public or private rights or easements in or relating to such lands or any part thereof, shall be extinguished, and the property in such pipes, sewers, or drains shall be vested in the Postmaster General in such capacity and on such trusts as aforesaid: Provided that any person may recover from the Postmaster General such compensation (if any) as he may be entitled to under the provisions of the Lands Clauses Acts for any private rights or private property of which he may be deprived in pursuance of this section, the amount of such compensation to be determined in manner provided by the said Lands Clauses Acts, or the Postmaster General may at his discretion grant rights and easements in lieu of any rights or easements extinguished under this Act and in substitution for money payments or other considerations; and if any person is dissatisfied with the exercise of such power he may proceed in the manner prescribed by section sixty-eight of the Lands Clauses Consolidation Act, 1845: Provided also, that nothing in this Act contained shall authorise the Postmaster General to stop up the public passage or footway known as Bell Yard, in the parish of St. Gregory by St. Paul, in the city of London; but the Postmaster General may divert or alter such thoroughfare or passage during the progress of, and so far as may be necessary for, any works under the authority of this Act, but no longer.

8 & 9 Vict. c. 18. 23 & 24 Vict. c. 106. 32 & 33 Vict. c. 18.

For protection of Commissioners of Sewers.

8. When any of the works to be executed by virtue of this Act shall pass over, under, or pass by the side of, so as to damage or interfere with, any sewer, drain, watercourse, defence, or work under the jurisdiction of the Commissioners of Sewers of the City of London, or with any sewers or works to be made or executed by the said Commissioners, such works so to be executed by the Postmaster General in pursuance of this Act shall be so carried out under the following conditions:

(1.) Before commencing such work Her Majesty's Postmaster General shall give the engineer or surveyor of the said Commissioners twenty-eight days notice in writing of his intention to commence such works, and with such notice shall be left

a plan and section showing the course and inclination of such proposed works.

(2.) In case the Commissioners of Sewers shall require any alteration to be made therein they shall give, before the expiration of the said twenty-eight days, written notice of such requirement to Her Majesty's Postmaster General, and the Postmaster General shall, subject to the provisions herein-after stated with respect to arbitration, comply therewith.

(3.) The alterations so required by the said Commissioners shall be executed by or under the superintendence and control of the engineer or surveyor or other officer of the said Commissioners.

(4.) All reasonable costs, charges, and expenses which the said Commissioners may be put to or incur in the execution of such alterations shall be paid to the said Commissioners by Her Majesty's Postmaster General for the time being.

(5.) In case of disputes between Her Majesty's Postmaster General and the said Commissioners of Sewers either as to the alterations required by such Commissioners or as to the costs, charges, and expenses of such alterations, or any other matter or thing relating thereto, the same shall be settled by an arbitrator to be agreed upon by Her Majesty's Postmaster General and the said Commissioners of Sewers, or, failing such agreement, by an arbitrator to be appointed by the Board of Trade.

(6.) Any works, whether altered or substituted, or any defence connected with such works, whether altered or substituted, shall be as fully and completely under the jurisdiction and control of the said Commissioners as any sewers or works now are.

For the protection of the streets of the City of London.

9. Her Majesty's Postmaster General shall not break up or disturb any street or place other than a street or place which he is authorised by this Act to stop up, or the pavement thereof, under the control or direction of the Commissioners of Sewers of the City of London, unless at least twenty-eight days previous notice in writing of his intention so to do, specifying the street, place, or pavement intended to be broken up or disturbed, be given to the engineer or surveyor of such Commissioners, or left for him at his office or at the office of such Commissioners, and Her Majesty's Postmaster General shall attend to the directions of such engineer or surveyor with a view to secure a free passage of traffic in such streets and places and to prevent needless injury to the street, and shall not open more of such streets or places at one time than such engineer or surveyor shall in writing authorise; and when Her Majesty's Postmaster General shall break up or disturb any such street, place, or pavement he shall, so soon as the works affecting it are completed, and at the furthest within three months, or such extended period as may be agreed upon between Her Majesty's Postmaster General and such Commissioners, from the day on which those works were begun, restore the street, place, or pavement to as good a condition as it was in when it was broken up or disturbed, under the superintendence and to the reasonable satisfaction of the engineer or surveyor of the Commissioners; and Her Majesty's Postmaster General shall save harmless and keep indemnified the said

Commissioners and their successors against any expenses consequent on any such works: Provided always, that in the event of difference arising between Her Majesty's Postmaster General and the Commissioners as to any matter or thing in this clause contained, the same shall be determined by an arbitrator to be mutually agreed upon, or, failing such agreement, by an arbitrator to be named by the Board of Trade.

Saving rights of Commissioners of Sewers.

10. Nothing in this Act contained shall prejudice, diminish, alter, or take away any of the rights, powers, or authorities vested in the Commissioners of Sewers for the City of London; and all lands within the City of London purchased by the Postmaster General in pursuance of this Act, which were at the time of such purchase subject to land tax or poor or other rates, shall continue liable thereto, but they shall not be assessed to any tax or rate at higher rateable value than that at which they were assessed at the time of the passing of this Act.

Certain lands not to be built on.

11. Any land which Her Majesty's Postmaster General may acquire under this Act, and which may abut upon King Edward Street, Angel Street, St. Martin's-le-Grand, and Aldersgate Street, in the City of London, shall not be built on beyond the line shown on the plan signed in duplicate by the Right Honourable George John Shaw Lefevre, chairman of the Select Committee of the House of Commons to which the Bill for this Act was referred, one copy of such plan to be deposited and preserved at the office of Her Majesty's Commissioners of Works and Public Buildings, and the other copy to be deposited and preserved at the office of the Commissioners of Sewers in the City of London.

For the protection of the New River Company.

12. The Postmaster General, before stopping up and appropriating the sites of any streets, roads, ways, passages, or other places in the City of London, wherein there are mains, pipes, or other property relating to the supply of water of, or belonging to, the New River Company, shall give to the New River Company one month's notice of his intention so to do; and the New River Company shall at any time during one month from such stopping up and appropriation be entitled to enter upon all or any of the sites so appropriated, and to take up and remove their mains, pipes, and other property therefrom, and the Postmaster General shall pay to the New River Company on demand all the costs and expenses of and incident to such removal.

If after the appropriation of any such sites the Postmaster General should cause any buildings or other works to be erected thereon before the New River Company have removed their mains, pipes, and other works, or do any other act whereby the New River Company would be prevented from taking up and removing their mains, pipes, or other property therefrom, he shall pay to the New River Company the full value of all the said mains, pipes, and other property, and make full compensation for any other loss or injury caused thereby.

For the protection of the Gaslight and Coke Company.

13. If in the removal and pulling down of any buildings, or in raising or lowering the ground of any street or way, it shall be necessary to raise, sink, or otherwise alter the position relatively to the surface of the ground of any main or service pipe or other apparatus laid down or used by the Gaslight and Coke Company, or connected with any house or building for the supply of gas, one month's notice shall be given to the said company previously to

the commencement of any such work, which shall be executed to the reasonable satisfaction of the engineer of the said company, or, in case of difference, of an engineer to be selected by the Board of Trade, and every such work shall be so executed as to cause as little inconvenience as circumstances will admit to the said company; and Her Majesty's Postmaster General shall make compensation to the said company for all loss or damage, if any, which may be occasioned by the execution of the works by this Act authorised, or any or either of them.

Power to pull down buildings on land purchased and build others.

14. It shall be lawful for the Postmaster General to pull down and remove all or any buildings erected on any lands purchased by him under the authority of this Act, and on the land so purchased to construct buildings and works for the service of the Post Office, and to make such approaches, and widening and alteration of thoroughfares, and do all such other things as in his opinion are necessary or expedient for the execution of any of the purposes of this Act.

As to claims for compensation by tenants from year to year. 8 & 9 Vict. c. 18.

15. Claims for compensation made on the Postmaster General under the provisions of this Act, or any Act incorporated therewith, shall, if the person claiming compensation has no greater interest than as tenant for a year, or from year to year, in the lands in respect of which compensation is claimed, be determined in manner provided by section one hundred and twenty-one of the Lands Clauses Consolidation Act, 1845.

Power to enter into agreements.

16. The Postmaster General (with the consent of the Treasury) and any person may enter into contracts and agreements with reference to the formation, diversion, or alteration of streets and highways within the towns and places to which this Act refers, and with reference to a sale, lease, or exchange of land therein, and may make money payments in respect thereof.

Time for compulsory purchase.

17. The limit of time for the compulsory purchase of lands under this Act shall be three years.

Sanction of Treasury required to purchase under this Act.

18. No purchase shall be made by the Postmaster General under the authority of this Act without the sanction of the Treasury, but such sanction may be given either generally or in respect of any particular purchase or purchases, and a vendor to or purchaser from the Postmaster General shall not be bound or entitled to inquire whether such sanction has been given.

Exemption from Buildings Act.

19. All buildings to be erected in pursuance of this Act shall be exempt from the operation of the Metropolitan Buildings Act, 1855, and any Act amending the same.

Act to be carried out by means of moneys provided by Parliament.

20. All moneys payable by the Postmaster General with respect to the purchase and acquisition of lands under this Act, and all costs, charges, and expenses incurred by the Postmaster General in or connected with the carrying into effect of the provisions of this Act, shall be paid out of moneys provided by Parliament.