CHAPTER 5.

An Act to provide for defraying the expenses of the purchase of Land and Buildings and the construction of Buildings and Works in connexion with certain Public Departments. [1st April 1898.]

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:

Issue of money for works mentioned in schedule.

1.—(1.) The Treasury shall issue out of the Consolidated Fund or the growing produce thereof such sums, not exceeding in the whole two million five hundred and fifty thousand pounds, as may be required by the Commissioners of Works for defraying the costs of the purchases, buildings, and works specified in the schedule to this Act, whether incurred before or after the passing of this Act.

(2.) Any sum so issued may, so far as not immediately required, be invested in such manner as the Treasury direct, and any interest thereon shall be applied for the purposes of this Act.

(3.) Such sum as is shown by the accounts certified by the Comptroller and Auditor-General under section four of the Sinking Fund Act, 1875, to be the surplus of income above expenditure for the financial year ending the thirty-first day of March one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight shall, to the extent of two million five hundred and fifty thousand pounds, instead of being applied as provided by that Act, be applied by the Treasury at such times as they direct in paying any sums authorised by this Act to be issued out of the Consolidated Fund. 38 & 39 Vict. c. 45.

(4.) Any money issued under this Act, and not required for the purposes thereof, and also any money which the Treasury certify to have been received either by way of equality of exchange upon the acquisition of any land or buildings referred to in the schedule to this Act, or for the sale or other disposal of any land or buildings rendered unnecessary by reason of any of the purchases or works specified in the schedule to this Act, shall be paid to the National Debt Commissioners and applied as if such money were part of the old sinking fund.

Accounts and audit.

2.—(1.) Before any money is issued for the purpose of expenditure under any head in the schedule to this Act, the Commissioners of Works shall submit to the Treasury an estimate with such details as may be required by the Treasury of the expenditure under that head for which it is for the time being proposed to issue money, and shall therewith state the period within which it is proposed to expend the money so issued.

(2.) There shall be no excess of expenditure under any head in the schedule above the amount stated therein for that head, unless

the Treasury and Commissioners of Works are satisfied that the excess will be compensated by savings on the expenditure under another head, so that no excess will be caused over the total expenditure specified in the schedule, and in such cases the savings may be applied in payment of the excess.

(3.) The Commissioners of Works shall in every financial year cause to be made out an account, in the form required by the Treasury, of the money expended under this Act, and the account of expenditure under this Act shall be audited and reported upon by the Comptroller and Auditor-General as an appropriation account and presented to the House of Commons in manner directed by the Exchequer and Audit Departments Act, 1866.

29 & 30 Vict. c. 39.

Short title.

3. This Act may be cited as the Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1898.

SCHEDULE.

OFFICES AND BUILDINGS.

Heads.	Estimated Cost.
	£
1. Public offices (Whitehall site), completion of purchase of site, and erection of buildings and works connected therewith.	475,000
2. Public offices (Westminster site), completion of purchase of site, and erection of buildings and works connected therewith.	700,000
3. Science and Art Buildings at South Kensington - -	800,000
4. Completion of Admiralty, including extension - -	275,000
5. Post Office buildings (Queen Victoria Street and West Kensington), purchase of buildings, erection of buildings, and works connected therewith.	300,000
	£2,550,000

Note.—The sum of 700,000*l.* mentioned under Head 2 includes a sum of 100,000*l.* for the purchase of the Westminster site, which is in addition to the sum of 450,000*l.*, authorised to be borrowed for the purchase of that site by the Public Offices (Acquisition of Site) Act, 1895, Session 2 (59 Vict. c. 5.).