CHAPTER 22.

An Act to exempt certain Chairmen of District Councils who have already taken the Oath from again taking the Oath before acting as Justices of the Peace.

[7th August 1896.]

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:

Chairman on re-election need not again take oath as justice of peace.

1. A chairman of a district council who has been re-elected to that office on the expiration or other determination of a previous term of office may continue to act as a justice of the peace without again taking the oaths mentioned in section twenty-two of the Local Government Act, 1894.

Short title.

2. This Act may be cited as the Chairmen of District Councils Act, 1896.

CHAPTER 23.

An Act for the acquisition of a Site for Public Offices in Westminster, and for purposes connected therewith.

[7th August 1896.]

WHEREAS it is expedient to provide a site for new public offices in Westminster, and to improve the approaches to the Houses of Parliament:

And whereas for that purpose it is expedient that the Commissioners of Works (in this Act called the Commissioners) should be empowered to acquire certain land and buildings situated in the parish of St. Margaret, Westminster, in the county of London:

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

And whereas duplicate plans (in this Act referred to as the deposited plans) describing the situation of the land proposed to be acquired, with the houses and buildings thereon, with a book of reference thereto (in this Act referred to as the deposited book of reference), containing the names of the owners and lessees, or reputed owners and lessees, and of the occupiers thereof, have been deposited with the clerk of the London County Council:

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 book 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:"

8 & 9 Vict. c. 18.

(*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:

(*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.

Vesting of certain lands held by Commissioners for purposes of Westminster Bridge Act, 1853. 16 & 17 Vict. c. 46.

3. So much of the land delineated on the deposited plans and described in the deposited book of reference as is at the passing of this Act vested in the Commissioners for the purposes of the Westminster Bridge Act, 1853, and shall be required by the Commissioners for the purposes of this Act, shall, by virtue of this Act, vest in the Commissioners for the purposes of this Act.

Land tax.

4. Any of the land acquired by or vested in the Commissioners under this Act which is subject to land tax at the time it is acquired or vested shall continue so subject.

Provided that if the Commissioners redeem the land tax on land which is acquired or vested under this Act and is made a highway repairable by the inhabitants at large, no sum shall be assessed or charged in respect of land tax on any land which is acquired or vested under this Act, and is at the time of the acquisition or vesting a highway so repairable.

Extinction of rights of way and other easements.

5.—(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 or vested in the Commissioners under the provisions of 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.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. 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 new public offices on the land acquired or vested in them under this Act, or of improving the approaches to the Houses of Parliament, and appropriating any such land for any of those purposes.

Power for London County Council and Westminster Vestry to assist in execution of works. 51 & 52 Vict. c. 41. 18 & 19 Vict. c. 120. 53 & 54 Vict. c. 54.

9. The London County Council and the Vestry of St. Margaret and St. John Westminster may agree with the Commissioners to undertake the execution of anything authorised to be done by the Commissioners under this Act, or to contribute towards the expense thereof, and any money required for any expenses incurred in pursuance of any such agreement may be raised (if necessary by borrowing) in the case of the London County Council in manner provided by the Local Government Act, 1888, and any Act amending that Act, and in the case of the Vestry in manner provided by the Metropolis Management Acts, 1855 to 1890.

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

10.—(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.

For protection of Institution of Civil Engineers.

11. Any building erected by the Commissioners under the powers of this Act opposite the back of the building of the Institution of Civil Engineers shall be distant at least fifty feet from such building, and shall not exceed eighty feet in height from the ground level, and shall be faced with glazed bricks of a colour to be approved by the Institution of Civil Engineers. Access to Boar's Head Yard from Delahay Street for pedestrians and vehicles shall be preserved by the Commissioners.

Provisions as to expenses, &c. of Commissioners.

12.—(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.

13. 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.

14. This Act may be cited as the Public Offices (Westminster) Site Act, 1896.

CHAPTER 24.

An Act for the Acquisition of Property for the Extension of the General Register House at Edinburgh.

[7th August 1896.]

WHEREAS it is expedient to provide further accommodation for the business of the Sasine Office and other public departments carried on at the General Register House situate at Princes Street in the city of Edinburgh:

And whereas for that purpose it is expedient that the Commissioners of Works should be empowered to acquire certain land and buildings situated in the city parish of the said city of Edinburgh:

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

And whereas duplicate plans (in this Act referred to as the deposited plans) describing the situation of the land proposed to be acquired, with the houses and buildings thereon, with a book of reference thereto containing the names of the owners and lessees or reputed owners and lessees, and of the occupiers thereof, have been deposited with the principal sheriff clerk of the county of