# CHAPTER 27.

An Act for the acquisition of a Site for Public Offices in or near Whitehall, and for other purposes connected therewith. [6th August 1897.]

45 & 46 Vict. c. 32.

WHEREAS the Public Offices Site Act, 1882, authorised the acquisition of certain lands for the purposes of the Admiralty and War Office:

And whereas the proposal to erect a new War Office on the lands authorised to be acquired under that Act has been abandoned, and it is, therefore, expedient to provide a site for new buildings for the War Office and such other public offices as may be determined:

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 lands and buildings situated in the parish of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, in the county of London:

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

And whereas plans of the lands by this Act authorised to be acquired and appropriated, and also books of reference containing the names of the owners and lessees, or reputed owners and lessees, and of the occupiers of those lands, have been deposited with the clerk of the peace for the county of London (which plans and books of reference are in this Act respectively referred to as the deposited plans and books of reference):

And whereas the land proposed to be acquired under this Act is vested in Her Majesty as part of the hereditary land revenues of the Crown subject to certain outstanding leases, estates, and interests:

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:

Vesting and acquisition of land.

**1.** All the estate and interest of Her Majesty in the land delineated on the deposited plans and described in the deposited books of reference shall, on the date of the payment of the consideration payable for that estate and interest in pursuance of this Act to the Commissioners of Woods (in this Act referred to as the date of completion) vest in the Commissioners subject to any outstanding leases, estates, or interests therein, and the Commissioners may purchase and acquire, for the purposes of this Act, all or any of those outstanding leases, estates, and interests.

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":

(*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: 8 & 9 Vict. c. 18.

(*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.

Consideration to be paid for Crown Lands. 8 & 9 Vict. c. 18.

3.—(1.) The consideration payable to Her Majesty for her estate and interest in the land vested in the Commissioners under this Act shall, as soon as may be after the passing of this Act, be agreed upon by the Treasury and the Commissioners of Woods, or in default of agreement ascertained, having regard to the considerations mentioned in section sixty-three of the Lands Clauses Consolidation Act, 1845, by a surveyor appointed for the purpose by the Treasury.

(2.) The consideration so payable to Her Majesty shall be paid to the Commissioners of Woods, and shall be carried to the account of the capital of the land revenues of the Crown and applied as part thereof.

(3.) The Apportionment Act, 1870, shall apply in the case of any rents due in respect of the land vested in the Commissioners under this Act, and those rents, if accruing due before the date of completion, shall be payable to the Commissioners of Woods, and if accruing due after that date shall be payable to the Commissioners. 33 & 34 Vict. c. 35.

(4.) The Commissioners shall pay all costs and expenses incurred by Her Majesty or by the Commissioners of Woods in relation to the valuation of the land or the vesting thereof under this Act.

Issue and raising of money for purposes of Act.

4.—(1.) The Treasury may issue out of the Consolidated Fund or the growing produce thereof such sums not exceeding in the whole five hundred thousand pounds as may be required by the Commissioners for the payment of the consideration payable to Her Majesty for her estate and interest in the land vested in the Commissioners under this Act, and for the purchase and acquisition of

the leases, estates, and interests, authorised to be purchased and acquired under this Act, and for such purposes connected with the acquisition of the site of the new buildings for the War Office and other public offices as the Treasury may approve.

(2.) The Treasury may, if they think fit, at any time for the purpose of providing money for the issue of sums out of the Consolidated Fund under this Act, or the repayment to that fund of all or any part of the sums so issued, borrow money by means of terminable annuities for such period not exceeding fifty years from the passing of this Act as the Treasury may fix, and all sums so borrowed shall be paid into the Exchequer.

(3.) The said annuities shall be paid out of moneys provided by Parliament for the service of the Commissioners of Works; and, if those moneys are insufficient, shall be charged on and paid out of the Consolidated Fund or the growing produce thereof.

(4.) The Commissioners shall, within six months after the end of every financial year in which money is issued under this section, cause to be made out an account, in the form required by the Treasury, showing the money expended and borrowed, and the securities created under this Act, and the accounts of expenditure under this Act shall be audited and reported upon by the Comptroller and Auditor General as appropriation accounts in manner directed by the Exchequer and Audit Departments Act, 1866.

29 & 30 Vict. c. 39.

Land tax.

**5.**—(1.) Any land tax assessed on the first day of January one thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven on any part of the land vested in the Commissioners under this Act shall, as from the date of completion, be deemed to have been redeemed at the price and in accordance with the conditions provided by the Finance Act, 1896, and the Land Tax Acts therein defined; and after the date of completion no sum shall be assessed or charged in respect of land tax on any part of the land so vested.

59 & 60 Vict. c. 28.

(2.) The Commissioners of Inland Revenue shall grant a certificate of exoneration from assessment to land tax of the lands so vested, and that certificate shall be registered by the officer appointed for the registry of contracts for the redemption of land tax.

Extinction of rights of way and other easements.

**6.**—(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 vested in or acquired by 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.

(3.) This section shall be subject, so far as regards the sewers situated under the lands vested in the Commissioners under this Act, to the following provisions, namely:—

(*a.*) The London County Council shall, on being required to do so by the Commissioners, construct a new sewer on the lines coloured red on the plan signed by the Right Honourable Aretas Akers-Douglas, the chairman of the Committee of the House of Commons to whom the Bill for this Act was referred, and the Council shall proceed with all reasonable despatch to construct the said sewer in accordance with the plans, specifications, and particulars, agreed between the Commissioners and the Council.

(*b.*) When and so soon as the said sewer is completed, with all necessary incidental works and appliances, and connected with the existing sewer, so much of the existing sewers as are situate on the land vested in the Commissioners under this Act may be removed and dealt with by them as they think fit.

(*c.*) The proper costs and expenses of the Council in the construction of the said substituted sewer and necessary incidental works and appliances shall be repaid to the Council by the Commissioners.

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 is vested in the Commissioners, or which they 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 buildings for public offices on the land vested in or acquired by them under this Act, and appropriating any such land for the purpose.

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

**9.**—(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.

Application of Commissioners of Works Acts. 15 & 16 Vict. c. 28.

**10.** The provisions of the Commissioners of Works Act, 1852, and any Act amending that Act, shall apply in the case of land vested in or acquired by the Commissioners under this Act in like manner as in the case of land purchased under that Act: provided that the Commissioners shall not, without the consent of the Commissioners of Woods, sell or exchange any estate or interest which is vested in them by virtue of this Act and which was at the time of the passing of this Act vested in Her Majesty as part of the hereditary land revenues of the Crown.

Signature of notices, &c.

**11.** 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.

**12.** If any person wilfully obstructs any person acting under the authority of the Commissioners in the lawful exercise of their powers under this Act, he shall for each offence be liable, on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding five pounds.

Short title.

**13.** This Act may be cited as the Public Offices (Whitehall) Site Act, 1897.

## CHAPTER 28.

An Act to amend the Poor Law Officers Superannuation Act, 1896, as respects Female Nurses appointed after the commencement of the said Act. [6th August 1897.]

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:

Saving as to female nurses. 59 & 60 Vict. c. 50.

**1.** Any female nurse appointed after the passing of this Act by any authority to whom the Poor Law Officers Superannuation Act, 1896, applies, who shall within two months from the date of her appointment signify in writing to such authority her intention not to avail herself of the provisions of the said Act, shall not be required to make any contribution or to submit to any deduction from her salary or wages under the said Act, and shall not be entitled to receive any superannuation allowance, gratuity, or other benefit under the said Act.