Power to borrow money for issues, or for replacing issues out of the Consolidated Fund.

4. In order to meet any sum to be issued out of the Consolidated Fund in pursuance of this Act or any other Act authorising the issue of money to the Public Works Loan Commissioners, or to replace any sum which has been so issued, or any portion thereof, the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury may from time to time, as they think fit, raise any sum or sums, by the issue of Exchequer bonds or Exchequer bills, or by otherwise borrowing the same on the credit of the charge created by this Act on the Consolidated Fund, or by all of such means, and the sums so raised shall be placed to the credit of the account of Her Majesty's Exchequer, and form part of the Consolidated Fund:

Provided that the amount raised in pursuance of this section in any one financial year ending on the thirty-first day of March shall not exceed the excess of the issues out of the Consolidated Fund to the Public Works Loan Commissioners during that year over the repayments to the Consolidated Fund during that year in respect of the principal of loans granted by those Commissioners either before or after the passing of this Act.

The principal moneys borrowed in pursuance of this section (otherwise than by the issue of Exchequer bonds), and all interest from time to time due thereon, or on Exchequer bonds issued under this section (not exceeding the rate of four per cent. per annum), shall be charged upon and be payable out of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom or out of the growing produce thereof.

The principal moneys of any Exchequer bonds issued under this section shall be paid out of such moneys as may be provided by Parliament for that purpose.

CHAPTER 59.

An Act to amend the Public Records (Ireland) Act, 1867, and to make provision for keeping safely Parochial Records in Ireland.

[11th August 1875.]

WHEREAS the parish records and registries of baptisms, marriages, and burials, and other parochial records, books, and documents in the several parishes in Ireland are under the care of several persons, and many of them are kept in unfit and unsafe buildings:

And whereas doubts have arisen as to whether the said several records, registries, and parochial documents are public records within the meaning and for the purposes of the "Public Records (Ireland) Act, 1867:"

And whereas it is expedient to provide for the safe custody of the said records, registries, and parochial documents by the transfer thereof to the Public Record Office of Ireland, and to make such other provisions in relation thereto as are in this Act contained:

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:

Short title.

1. This Act may be cited for all purposes as The Public Records (Ireland) Act, 1867, Amendment Act, 1875.

Extent of Act.

2. This Act shall extend to Ireland only.

Construction of Act.

3. The Public Records (Ireland) Act, 1867, and this Act shall be read and construed together as one Act.

Interpretation.

4. In this Act—

The expression "parochial officer" shall be taken to mean any rector, vicar, curate, parish clerk, or other parish officer of the Church of Ireland, holding such office on the thirty-first day of December one thousand eight hundred and seventy, and any

person who after the said date discharged, or at the present time discharges, or who may hereafter discharge duties similar or analogous to the duties which such parochial officer then discharged:

The term "record" shall mean any diocesan or parochial record, minute of proceedings, paper, book, document, or registry, of or relating to any baptism, marriage, burial, or ordination, or other diocesan or parochial matter of a public nature, which, on the thirty-first day of December one thousand eight hundred and seventy, was in the possession or custody of any parochial officer:

The expression "Master of the Rolls" shall mean the Master of the Rolls for the time being in Ireland:

The expression "Record Office" shall mean the Public Record Office of Ireland.

Records to be in custody of the Master of the Rolls.

5. Every record shall, from and after the passing of this Act, be under the charge and control of the Master of the Rolls, in the name and on behalf of Her Majesty, her heirs and successors, subject to the provisions relating to their care and custody herein-after contained.

Custody and removal of records.

6. Any record which on the thirty-first day of December one thousand eight hundred and seventy was in the custody and care of a parochial officer shall continue in the custody and care of such person, provided that he now continues, and so long as he shall hereafter continue, to discharge the same or similar duties in the church or chapel or parish with which such record was connected. As to all other records, and also as to the said records, when such parochial officer shall cease in such church or chapel or parish to discharge the said duties, the Master of the Rolls shall, as soon as conveniently may be, issue warrants directed to the several persons having the care of any record or records, ordering such persons to allow the same to be removed from its or their present place of custody, and deposited in the Record Office; and every such warrant shall be kept among the public records in the custody of the Master of the Rolls, and shall be a sufficient warrant for the removal of such record or records as shall be specified therein.

Custody of books of marriages, baptisms, and burials.

7. In case, since the thirty-first day of December one thousand eight hundred and seventy, entries of marriages, baptisms, burials, or other matters shall have been continued in the same book which had been in use for the purpose before the said date, it shall be lawful for the Master of the Rolls to make a special order in relation to such book, and thereby to authorise the custody and care of such book to be retained by any person whom he shall by such order authorise, and such person shall on accepting such custody and care be bound to take care thereof.

Validity of records after removal.

8. The removal of any record to the Record Office, by authority of the Master of the Rolls, shall not in any manner affect the authenticity or legal validity of such record; but any such record deposited in the Record Office, and there kept under the authority of the Master of the Rolls, shall be taken to be in its legal place of deposit, and every such record removed as aforesaid shall be of the same legal validity in all courts and proceedings in the same manner as if such record had not been removed.

Power to make authentic copies of records, which shall be sealed.

9. The Master of the Rolls or Deputy Keeper of the Records may allow copies to be made of any of the said records at the request and costs of any person desirous of procuring the same; and any copy so made shall be examined and certified as a true and authentic copy by the Deputy Keeper of the Records, or by the Assistant Deputy Keeper of the Records, and shall be sealed or stamped with the seal of the Record Office, and delivered to the party for whose use it was made.

Such copies, sealed with the seal of the Record Office, to be received in evidence.

10. Every copy of a record in the custody of the Master of the Rolls, certified as aforesaid, and purporting to be sealed or stamped with the seal of the Record Office, shall be received as evidence in any court of justice, and before any legal tribunal, and before either House of Parliament, or any committee of either House, without any further or other proof thereof, in every case in which the original record could have been received there as evidence.

Record to remain in present custody until removed.

11. Until removal to the Record Office pursuant to the provisions of this Act, every record shall remain in the custody and care of the parochial officer with whom it is at the time of the passing of this Act, and such officer shall, during such time, be bound to take care of same.

Parochial officers to make inventories.

12. Every parochial officer shall be bound to return to the Master of the Rolls a complete and true inventory of all records in his possession, custody, or care, in such form as the Master of the Rolls shall direct, within three months after he shall be directed so to do.

Notice to be given in certain cases by parochial officers, and notice of deaths of parochial officers to be given by registrars of deaths.

13. Every parochial officer having the custody and care of any record shall, if at any time during his life he ceases to discharge his duties in the church or chapel or parish with which such record was connected, give notice thereof to the Master of the Rolls; and every registrar of deaths in Ireland, on receiving notice of the death of any parochial officer, shall forthwith transmit by post to the Master of the Rolls a certificate under his own hand of such death, with the particulars of the time and place of death, and on receipt of such certificate the Master of the Rolls shall transmit to the said registrar of deaths the cost of such certificate and transmission.

Expenses of Act.

14. All expenses incurred by or by order of the Master of the Rolls in the execution of this Act shall be paid out of moneys to be provided by Parliament for such purposes.

Violation of the provisions of the Act a contempt.

15. If any parochial officer shall neglect to furnish such inventory when so required, or do any other act in violation of the provisions and directions of this Act, he shall be guilty of contempt, and shall and may be proceeded against by order of the Master of the Rolls as if he had disobeyed a judicial order made by him in a cause.

CHAPTER 60.

An Act to consolidate and amend the Law relating to Friendly and other Societies. [11th August 1875.]

WHEREAS it is expedient to consolidate and amend the law relating to friendly and certain other societies:

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 of Act.

1. This Act may be cited as The Friendly Societies Act, 1875.

Commencement of Act.

2. This Act shall come into operation as to sections ten, thirty-seven, and thirty-eight on the passing of the Act, and as to the remainder of the Act on the first day of January one thousand eight hundred and seventy-six, which day is herein-after referred to as the commencement of this Act.

Extent of Act.

3. This Act extends to Great Britain and Ireland, the Channel Islands, and the Isle of Man.

Definitions.

4. In this Act, if not inconsistent with the context, the following terms have the meanings herein-after respectively assigned to them:

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

"England" includes the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man (except as herein-after provided):

"The Registrar" means for England the central office, and for Scotland or Ireland the assistant registrar for either country respectively:

"Country" means England, Scotland, or Ireland, as the case may be: