CHAPTER 27.

An Act to grant Money for the purposes of Loans by the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland, and to remit certain Loans, and to amend the Law relating to Loans for public purposes by the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland. [23d July 1877.]

WHEREAS under divers Acts, and particularly those mentioned in the first schedule to this Act, advances out of the Consolidated Fund are made, without interest, for divers purposes in Ireland, and are repayable by counties, counties of cities, and counties of towns in Ireland upon presentments made by the grand jury, and such advances are made in different methods and by different authorities:

And whereas it is expedient to authorise interest to be charged on such of those advances as are mentioned in the first part of the said schedule, and to provide that they should be made in one method and by one authority:

And whereas it is expedient that the advances under the Acts mentioned in the second part of the first schedule to this Act should, after a limited period, be made by treasurers of counties, and not out of the Consolidated Fund:

And whereas certain advances out of the Consolidated Fund have been made in Ireland for the objects mentioned in the second schedule to this Act, and upon each of these advances the amount mentioned in that schedule, together with interest, is unpaid, and due to the Consolidated Fund:

And whereas no sums have been recovered, either by way of principal or interest, upon the said advances during a long period of years, and it is inexpedient to keep open for any further period the account of such advances:

And whereas it is expedient to make better provision with respect to the provision of funds for the purpose of loans by the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland, and to grant money for those loans:

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:

Preliminary.

Short title.

1. This Act may be cited as the Public Works Loans (Ireland) Act, 1877.

Definition of "county."

2. In this Act the term "county" means a county at large, also a county of a city, a county of a town and city, and a city or town and county.

PART I.

Amendment as to Loans to Local Authorities and Remission of sundry Loans.

Charge of interest on local loans in Ireland, and provisions as to their issue and remission.

3. All advances out of the Consolidated Fund made by way of loan after the passing of this Act, in pursuance of the Acts mentioned in the first part of the first schedule to this Act, or of any other Act authorising loans to local authorities in Ireland without interest (other than for the purposes mentioned in the second part of the said schedule), shall bear interest at the rate of three and a half per cent. per annum, or at such other rate as the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury (in this Act referred to as the Treasury) from time to time fix, in order to enable the advance to be made without loss to the Exchequer.

All such advances shall be made through the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland, acting under the direction of the Treasury, in such manner as the Treasury shall by order from time to time direct; and the power vested by the said Acts in the Lord Lieutenant, or the Lord Lieutenant in Council, to direct any sum to be issued out of the Consolidated Fund, shall be transferred to and vested in the Treasury.

Every such advance and the interest thereon shall be repaid within such period from the date of the advance as the Treasury shall by order from time to time fix, so that it do not in any case exceed twenty years or any less period fixed by the said Acts; all orders made by the Treasury in pursuance of this section shall be laid before each House of Parliament within forty days next after the same are made, if Parliament is then sitting, or, if not, within forty days after the then next meeting of Parliament.

Nothing in the foregoing provisions of this section shall apply to loans which at the passing of this Act have been authorised by an Order of the Lord Lieutenant in Council.

All advances made (whether before or after the passing of this Act) in pursuance of the said Acts shall be remitted or compounded only under the authority of Parliament in each case.

Recovery from grand jury of advances made.

4. Where any advance made in pursuance of the Acts mentioned in the first schedule to this Act, whether made before or after the passing of this Act, has been made on the faith of the presentment of a grand jury, or a grand jury are authorised or required to present the amount required for the repayment of any such advance as above mentioned, the grand jury shall be authorised and required, without any previous proceeding at any presentment sessions, to present the amount required for the repayment of the whole of such advance, and of the interest thereon; and upon the certificate of the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland that any sum in respect of an advance, or interest on an advance, is due to the Consolidated Fund from any county, or any part thereof, being sent to the secretary of the grand jury of such county, the grand jury shall at the next assizes or presenting term, without any previous proceeding at any presentment sessions, present such sum, or in default thereof the judge of assize or the court shall order such sum to be raised, which order shall have the force of a presentment, and such sum shall be applotted and raised and levied accordingly as if the same had been inserted on a presentment duly made at such assizes or presenting term; and every sum raised in pursuance of this section shall be paid into the Bank of Ireland to the account of Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland, or in such other manner as the Treasury from time to time direct.

In this section, the expression "grand jury" shall include the town council of any borough to whom the powers of a grand jury with respect to the presentment of public money have been transferred.

Advances for support of lunatic asylums by county treasurer instead of out of Consolidated Fund.

5. Whereas by the Act of the session of the first and second years of the reign of Her present Majesty, chapter one hundred and sixteen, intituled "An Act to facilitate advances "out of County Monies for the support of County Gaols and Institutions in Ireland," provision is made for the treasurer of a county or county of a city or town in Ireland advancing sums required for the support of any gaol or other public institution for which a presentment has been made at the preceding assizes, and it is expedient that advances for the opening and maintenance of a lunatic asylum should be made in pursuance of that Act, and not out of the Consolidated Fund; be it therefore enacted that—

A lunatic asylum shall be deemed to be a public institution within the meaning of the Act above in this section recited, and advances for the support thereof may be made accordingly.

After the thirty-first day of March one thousand eight hundred and seventy-eight, advances shall not be made out of the Consolidated Fund in pursuance of the Acts mentioned in the second part of the first schedule to this Act.

Any advance made in pursuance of those Acts before the said day shall be repaid by such instalments as the Treasury may fix.

Power to lend for purchase of tolls of bridge on security of county cess.

6. Where any Commissioners, acting under any Act of Parliament passed either before or after the passing of this Act in relation to any bridge or the tolls thereof, are authorised to borrow any sum or sums of money for the purpose of the purchase of the tolls payable on such bridge, or of paying off any lien or incumbrance on such tolls, or otherwise of freeing such bridge from toll, and the principal and interest of the sum or sums so borrowed are charged by such Act on the county cess or grand jury rate of any county, or of any part or parts thereof, and are required by the said Act to be presented by the

grand juries of such county, the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland may, if it seems fit, lend, in accordance with the Acts relating to loans by those Commissioners, any sum or sums of money for the purposes aforesaid; and if an arrangement for any such loan has been made by the Commissioners of Public Works, and approved by the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury before the passing of this Act, the sum or sums may be lent on the terms of such arrangement.

For the purpose of any loan under this section, the grand jury or grand juries shall present the amount required for the repayment of such loan and the interest thereon, and direct the same to be raised by the instalments and at the times required for such repayment, and the same shall be raised accordingly, and the provisions of this Act with respect to the recovery of an amount required for the repayment of an advance to a grand jury shall, without prejudice to any other remedy, apply in like manner as if a loan under this section, and the interest thereon, were an advance made to a grand jury in pursuance of the Acts mentioned in the first schedule to this Act: Provided, that where the said loan is charged on the county cess or grand jury rate of a part only of a county, the same shall be applotted, raised, and levied in that part only.

Advance for improvement of landed property to carry interest from date of advance.

7. Whereas by section thirty-seven of the Act of the session of the tenth year of the reign of Her present Majesty, chapter thirty-two, intituled "An Act to facilitate the "Improvement of Landed Property in Ireland," the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland are authorised, with the sanction of the Treasury, to make loans for the purposes of that Act, repayable by means of a rentcharge at six pounds ten shillings, payable for a term of twenty-two years, by half-yearly payments on every fifth day of April and tenth day of October in every year during the said term, to be computed from the second of those dates which shall happen next after the advance:

And whereas by section three of the Act of the session of the twenty-ninth and thirtieth years of Her Majesty, chapter forty, intituled "An Act to authorise a further "advance of money for the same and additional purposes," the Commissioners are authorised to make loans for the purposes of that Act and the Acts therein recited, repayable by means of a rentcharge at five pounds per centum per annum, payable for a term of thirty-five years, by half-yearly payments on every fifth day of April and tenth day of October in every year during the said term, to be computed from the second of those dates which shall happen next after the advance: And whereas it is expedient to amend the same by authorising interest to be charged on such loans from the day of each advance to the first gale day that shall next follow in manner following:

Be it therefore enacted that in case any loan is made after the passing of this Act in pursuance of the said recited Acts of tenth Victoria, chapter thirty-two, and twenty-ninth and thirtieth Victoria, chapter forty, or either of them, or any other Acts continuing and extending the provisions of either of them, it shall be lawful to further charge the lands included in any order of the said Commissioners of Public Works with interest on such loan at the rate of three and a half per centum per annum from the date of each advance to the first gale day which shall next happen; videlicet, the fifth day of April or the tenth day of October.

Advances for teachers dwellings to carry interest from the date of advance.

8. Whereas by section three of the Act of the session of the thirty-eighth and thirty-ninth years of Her Majesty, chapter eighty-two, intituled "An Act to afford facilities for "the erection, enlargement, improvement, and purchase of dwelling-houses for residences "for teachers of certain national schools in Ireland," it is provided that every loan shall be repayable by an annual sum of five pounds for every one hundred pounds of such sum from time to time advanced, and to be payable for the term of thirty-five years, to be computed from the date of the advance in respect of which the said annual sum shall be charged, such annual sum to be paid by equal half-yearly payments on the fifth day of April and tenth day of October in every year during the said term of thirty-five years, with such apportionment, if any, as may be necessary in respect of the first and last of such payments:

And whereas it is desirable that the repayment of all loans made under the provisions of the said recited Acts of the tenth, the twenty-ninth and thirtieth, and the thirty-eighth

and thirty-ninth years of Her present Majesty shall be uniform in respect of date of repayment and interest:

Be it therefore enacted that in all advances made in pursuance of the thirty-eighth and thirty-ninth Victoria, chapter eighty-two, notwithstanding the provisions of the said recited third section as to the mode of computing the rentcharges payable thereunder, such rentcharges shall be computed and paid in accordance with the provisions of the third section of the twenty-ninth and thirtieth Victoria, chapter forty, as amended by the seventh section of this Act in respect of interest which shall accrue from the date of the advance to the first gale day which shall next happen.

Extinguishment of debts in second schedule.

9. The debts due to the Consolidated Fund mentioned in the second schedule to this Act, and all arrears of interest thereon, shall, after the passing of this Act, be extinguished:

Provided that any debt which in the schedule is expressed to be remitted only upon performance of any condition shall not be remitted until that condition is performed.

Repeal of Acts.

10. So much of the Acts mentioned in the first schedule to this Act as is inconsistent with this part of this Act is hereby repealed:

Provided that such repeal shall be without prejudice to any right acquired or liability accrued under any enactment hereby repealed, and any sum advanced in pursuance of such enactment may be recovered as if that enactment had not been repealed, and proceedings for the enforcement thereof taken accordingly.

PART II.

Permanent provision as to Funds for Loans for Commissioners of Public Works.

Annual estimate of amounts required.

11. For the purpose of passing an annual Act of Parliament granting money for the purpose of loans by the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland, every intending borrower shall send to the Commissioners, on or before the thirty-first day of December in every year, a statement of the new loan or instalments of a loan already granted which the sender will probably apply to borrow during the ensuing financial year; and the Commissioners of Public Works shall as soon as practicable submit all such statements to the Treasury, with such observations thereon and information respecting the same as they may think expedient, and as may be necessary for enabling the Treasury to lay before the House of Commons an estimate of the amount required to be granted for the purpose of loans by the Commissioners of Public Works.

The Commissioners of Public Works shall not, except with the special permission of the Treasury, decide upon complying with an application for a loan, or advance any instalment of a loan, which has not been included in such a statement as above mentioned.

The Treasury, if they think that after providing for the loans and instalments included in the said statements, or such of them as will actually be advanced, there will be a balance out of the sum granted by Parliament sufficient to meet any loan or instalment not included in the statements, may, if they think fit, grant such special permission, and may grant it conditionally upon the said balance being in their opinion sufficient when the time for the actual payment arrives.

The Commissioners of Public Works, with the consent of the Treasury, may, if they think fit, from time to time make and when made rescind and vary regulations requiring quarterly statements to be sent by the borrowers of the amounts which will be required by such borrowers; and while such regulations, if any, are in force, the Treasury may, if they think fit, refuse to issue in any quarter of a financial year any larger sum than the total of the amounts named in the statements referring to such quarter.

Issue of money for purpose of loans.

12. When any money has been granted by Parliament for the purpose of loans by the Commissioners of Public Works, the Treasury may from time to time, as they think fit, issue out of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom, or the growing produce thereof, the required sums, not exceeding in the whole the amount so granted.

The said sums shall be issued in such manner as the Treasury may from time to time direct during the period authorised by the Act granting the same, or, if no period is authorised, during the financial year for which such Act was passed, and not subsequently.

Money so issued to be applied to loans.

13. All money so issued shall be placed to the general cash account at the Bank of Ireland of the Commissioners of Public Works for the purpose of loans by them; and all enactments for the time being in force for the regulation of the Commissioners of Public Works, and the money at their disposal, and their securities, and the proceedings thereon, shall, so far as such enactments are consistent with this Act, apply in the case of the money issued in pursuance of this Act.

Borrowing for the purpose of raising money.

14. If the Act granting money for the purpose of loans by the Commissioners of Public Works authorises the Treasury to borrow such money, or any part thereof, the Treasury may raise any sums (not exceeding the amount authorised by the said Act to be borrowed, and not exceeding in any one financial year the excess of the issues out of the Consolidated Fund under this Act during that year over the repayments to the Consolidated Fund during that year in respect of the principal of loans granted by the Commissioners of Public Works either before or after the passing of this Act,) in such one or more of the following methods as may be directed by the Act authorising the money to be borrowed, and subject to any such direction as may be deemed most convenient for the public service, namely, by the creation of three pounds per centum per annum permanent annuities, or of annuities for any term not exceeding thirty years, or by the issue of Exchequer bonds or Exchequer bills, or Treasury bills, or by otherwise borrowing the same (for a period not exceeding six months) 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.

The annuities created in pursuance of this section, and 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 five per cent. per annum), shall be charged upon and be payable out of the Consolidated Fund, or out of the growing produce thereof, at such times in each year as may be fixed by the Treasury.

The principal of any Exchequer bonds issued under this section shall be paid out of moneys provided by Parliament.

The annuities, whether terminable or perpetual, shall be created by warrant of the Treasury to the Bank of England, directing them to inscribe in their books the amount of such annuities in the names directed by the warrant.

The said annuities shall, in manner directed by the warrant, be consolidated in the said books, if terminable, with annuities payable at the same date, and if permanent, with annuities at the same rate of interest, and payable at the same date, and shall be transferable in the said books in like manner as the annuities with which they are consolidated, and shall be subject to the enactments relating to those annuities so far as is consistent with the tenor of those enactments.

Accounts and audit.

15. Such accounts as the Treasury may from time to time direct of all moneys issued from or payable to the Consolidated Fund in pursuance of this Act during every financial year, and of all transactions during that year, relating to loans by the Commissioners of Public Works, including all sums due for the time being from any person in respect of any loan granted either before or after the passing of this Act, by the Commissioners of Public Works or any authority whatever out of money issued in Ireland out of the Consolidated Fund, shall be kept by the Commissioners of Public Works, and such other persons (if any), and be audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General in such manner as the Treasury may from time to time direct.

Repeal of enactments authorising issues for loans.

16. After the passing of this Act, so much of any Act as authorises the issue of any money for the purpose of loans which under this or any other Act are authorised to be made by or through the Commissioners of Public Works is hereby repealed; provided that,

(1.) This repeal shall be without prejudice to anything previously done under any enactments hereby repealed; and

(2.) Nothing in this section shall apply to sums issued in pursuance of the Landlord and Tenant (Ireland) Act, 1870, or be deemed to repeal any portion of that Act.

33 & 34 Vict. c. 46.

PART III.

Annual issue of Money for Loans by Commissioners of Public Works.

17. For the purpose of loans by the Commissioners of Public Works any sum or sums not exceeding in the whole seven hundred thousand pounds may be issued out of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom or the growing produce thereof in manner provided by Part II. of this Act during the period ending on the thirtieth day of June one thousand eight hundred and seventy-eight, or on any earlier day on which a further Act authorising the issue of money for those loans comes into operation.

Grant of 700,000*l.* for loan during the period ending the 30th of June 1878.

The Treasury may, in the manner and subject to the limitations provided by Part II. of this Act, borrow the said sum or any part thereof.

FIRST SCHEDULE.

Part One.

Object of Loan.	Acts.
Prisons (erection, &c.)	7 Geo. 4. c. 74. s. 17. 6 & 7 Will. 4. c. 116. s. 124.
Lunatic Asylums (erection of buildings)	1 & 2 Geo. 4. c. 33. s. 4. 6 & 7 Will. 4. c. 116. s. 93. 8 & 9 Vict. c. 107. 18 & 19 Vict. c. 109. ss. 1–6.
Post Roads (repairs)	6 & 7 Will. 4. c. 116. ss. 61, 62.
Harbours and Piers (repairs)	16 & 17 Vict. c. 136. ss. 11, 12.
Navigations (repairs)	19 & 20 Vict. c. 62. ss. 29, 30.

Part Two.

Object of Loan.	Acts.
Lunatic Asylums (opening and maintenance)	6 Geo. 4. c. 54. 6 & 7 Will. 4. c. 116. s. 93.

SECOND SCHEDULE.

Objects of Advance.	Acts under which Advance was made.	Amount advanced.	Amount repaid.	Principal outstanding.	Account of Advance, and Reason for Remission.
		£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	
Dundalk Endowed School.	53 Geo. 3. c. 107.	276 18 5	27 13 10	249 4 7	The advance to this school was made in 1815 on the faith of two private individuals standing surety for its repayment. In 1846, however, no trace could be found of the records of the recognizance which was supposed to have been entered.
New Ross Endowed School.	53 Geo. 3. c. 107.	253 16 11	152 6 2	101 10 9	The endowments of this school are small, and the condition of the school is low.
Dublin.—Commissioners of Wide Streets.	40 Geo. 3. c. 60. 6 Geo. 4. c. 128.	226,728 17 6	Nil.	226,728 17 6	At the end of last century certain Commissioners were appointed to make the streets of Dublin wider and more convenient; and to assist these Commissioners in their work, a sum of 35,987*l.* 1*s.* 2*d.* was advanced to them in 1800, on the condition that the money should be repaid with interest at 5 per cent. out of the coal duty

Objects of Advance.	Acts under which Advance was made.	Amount advanced.	Amount repaid.	Principal outstanding.	Account of Advance, and Reason for Remission.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	vested in them. In 1825 a further advance was made to the Commissioners of 190,741*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.*, which was likewise secured on the coal duty, but a rate of 3 per cent. only was charged as interest on both these advances. Though no principal was repaid, yet interest continued to be paid till the year 1832, when the duty on coal imported into Dublin was permitted to expire. No further payments have since been received in respect of this loan. The consequence is that the whole of the principal is outstanding, with arrears of interest since 1832. Thus, the assistance which was given ostensibly in the shape of a loan to the city of Dublin towards the improvement of its streets, assumed in reality the form of a subsidy.
Dunleary Harbour -	56 Geo. 3. c. 62. 1 Geo. 4. c. 69.	218,769 4 7	73,514 10 9	145,254 13 10	This loan was made on the security of the tolls and dues leviable under Acts of Parliament, and was to be repaid with interest at the rate of 5 per cent. The Act 1 Geo. 4. c. 26., however, diminished the security by putting an end to some of the coasting dues. This was followed by the trade between England and Ireland being declared a coasting trade, and later on by Act 24 & 25 Vict. c. 47.; the combined effect of which was that the dues imposed under the original Act of 1816 were entirely abolished, together with the passing tolls received by the Light Commissioners, which had been by 1 Geo. 4. c. 69. made applicable towards the repayment of the harbour advances. In this case, again, Parliament in getting rid of the tolls omitted to take into account the effect that their abolition would have upon the public money lent for the purposes of the harbour, and to make some other provision for the repayment of the debt.
Cork.—For improvement of streets in.	57 Geo. 3. c. 34.	18,076 18 6	4,376 18 6	13,700 0 0	This money was advanced in 1818 and 1827 on the security of the butter dues and certain premises. The butter dues, however, were abolished in 1829 by 10 Geo. 4. c. 100.; and the only remaining portion of the premises was sold under Treasury authority in 1851.
Plassey.—To R. H. Maunsell for canal or mill-race at.	57 Geo. 3. c. 34.	1,504 12 4	591 12 6	912 19 10	A heavily encumbered estate appears to have formed the security of this loan, which was made in 1824. The consequence was that, when the estate was sold ten years later, it did not realise sufficient to repay the debt.
Co. Mayo.—For improving the courthouses of Castlebar and Ballinasloe.	57 Geo. 3. c. 34.	2,699 0 0	2,581 17 4	117 2 8	This loan was made in 1822–3 on the faith of grand jury presentments. It would, doubtless, have been all recovered, had it not been that the balance which had been outstanding some years was, together with arrears of interest, omitted to be included in the Schedule of the Act of 17 & 18 Vict. c. 110. which recited the debts of the county.

Objects of Advance.	Acts under which Advance was made.	Amount advanced.	Amount repaid.	Principal outstanding.	Account of Advance, and Reason for Remission.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Co. Kilkenny. — For road from Castlecomer to Ballinakillard Causeway at Thomastown.	57 Geo. 3. c. 34.	2,115 9 9	1,950 0 5	165 9 4	The balance of this advance has not been paid, in consequence of a dispute with respect to certain arrears of interest which the grand jury declined to pay.
Ardglass. — For improvement of harbour at.	1 & 2 Will. 4. c. 33.	6,650 0 0	Nil.	6,650 0 0	This amount was advanced on the security of the tolls. In 1838 the harbour was totally destroyed, and consequently the tolls ceased to be levied.
Totals -	- - -	477,074 18 0	83,194 19 6	393,879 18 6	
Relief of Trade. — Payment to Bank of Ireland of advances to various traders for, as follows:—	1 Geo. 4. c. 39. 3 Geo. 4. c. 118.				A sum of 286,000*l.* was advanced by the Bank of Ireland for the relief of trade to different traders in the year 1821, with the guarantee of the Treasury for so much as was not repaid to the Bank by the borrowers. The Treasury thus became liable for a sum of 178,076*l.* 7*s.* 7*d.* In the case of the loans to Sheahy, Moylan, Renayne, Delany, and Sausse, efforts have been made to recover the outstanding balances without success. In the case of Nowlan and Shaw proceedings have long been pending against Mr. Timothy Nowlan, in New South Wales, and a compromise has been effected by which the principal and interest due to the Government have been remitted in consideration of the payment of a sum of 5,000*l.*
(1.) Various traders	- - -	101,541 0 3	101,541 0 3	—	
(2.) Sheahy - -	- - -	500 0 0	479 19 7	20 0 5	
Moylan - -	- - -	3,500 0 0	2,415 19 8	1,084 0 4	
Renayne -	- - -	4,000 0 0	3,074 8 7	925 11 5	
Delany - -	- - -	500 0 0	403 17 2	96 2 10	
Sausse - -	- - -	20,000 0 0	18,631 2 4	1,368 17 8	
Nowlan and Shaw.	- - -	30,000 0 0	16,229 10 2	13,770 9 10	
(3.) Interest and other expenses paid to Bank of Ireland.	- - -	18,035 7 4	—	18,035 7 4	
		178,076 7 7	142,775 17 9	35,300 9 10	
Add totals given above - -		477,074 18 0	83,194 19 6	393,879 18 6	
Grand total - - -		655,151 5 7	225,970 17 3	429,180 8 4	
Suitors' Fund, Court of Exchequer. — Compensation to officers.	6 & 7 Vict. c. 55. 13 & 14 Vict. c. 51.	126,491 10 2	559 6 3	125,932 3 11	This money was issued for the purpose of compensating officers of the Court of Exchequer whose emoluments were diminished by the first-mentioned Act, and was repayable out of the Suitors' Fund. A small sum only was repaid direct, but under 31 & 32 Vict. c. 88. the stock standing to the credit of the Fee Fund of the Courts of Chancery and Court of Exchequer was sold, and the proceeds of the sale, together with the cash standing to the account, amounting to 175,982*l.* 15*s.* 3*d.*, were paid into the Exchequer. Consequently the debt may be considered to have been virtually paid, although not actually cancelled.

CHAPTER 28.

An Act to amend the Laws relating to Game in Scotland. [2d August 1877.]

WHEREAS divers Acts of Parliament have from time to time been passed relating to the preservation of game in Scotland, and certain of these Acts are enumerated in Schedule I. to this Act annexed, and are in this Act referred to as the "Game Acts:"

And whereas it is expedient that these Acts should be amended:

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: