debenture holders of any property comprised in or subject to such charge, then and in either of such cases, if the company is not at the time in course of being wound up, the debts mentioned in section one of the said Preferential Payments Act shall be paid forthwith out of any assets coming to the hands of the receiver, or other person taking possession as aforesaid, in priority to any claim for principal or interest in respect of such debentures or debenture stock. And the periods of time mentioned in the said Act shall be reckoned from the date of the appointment of the receiver or possession being taken as aforesaid, as the case may be. But any payments made under this section shall be recouped as far as may be out of the assets of the company available for payment of general creditors.

Application to Ireland. 52 & 53 Vict. c. 60. 51 & 52 Vict. c. 62.

4. In the application to Ireland of this Act the Preferential Payments in Bankruptcy (Ireland) Act, 1889, shall be substituted for the Preferential Payments in Bankruptcy Act, 1888, and in particular section four of the said Act of 1889 shall be substituted for section one of the said Act of 1888.

Extent of Act.

5. This Act shall not extend to Scotland.

CHAPTER 20.

An Act to provide for the relief of Jurors from unnecessary attendance at Courts of Quarter Sessions in Ireland. [15th July 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:

Specification of divisions for purposes of Act.

1.—(1.) The Lord Lieutenant may, when it appears to him desirable for the relief of jurors from unnecessary attendance at quarter sessions, by Order in Council, declare the provisions of this Act to be in force in any specified quarter sessions division as from the date of the order, and the provisions of this Act shall, after the said date, be in force in such division, and that division shall be a specified division within the meaning of this Act.

(2.) Any order made under this section may be revoked by a subsequent order made in the same manner.

Provision for lodging notice of bills of indictment and criminal trials.

2. Where it is intended to present a bill of indictment at a court of quarter sessions in a specified division, or to proceed at such court with the trial of any person on a bill of indictment previously found, the prescribed notice of such intention shall be lodged by or on behalf of the person having the conduct of the prosecution in the office of the clerk of the peace not later than three clear days (exclusive of a Sunday) previous to the day appointed for the trial of criminal causes before that court.

Jurors relieved from attendance in certain cases.

3.—(1.) Where in a specified division no such notice has been so lodged as aforesaid, the clerk of the peace shall forthwith report to the sheriff to that effect, and the sheriff shall thereupon notify in the prescribed manner all jurors summoned to attend the court for the purpose of criminal business that their attendance will not be required.

(2.) Every person so summoned and subsequently notified under this section shall be given credit for an attendance as if he had attended in pursuance of the summons.

(3.) Where it is the duty of the clerk of the peace to summon jurors to attend at a court of quarter sessions, the duties imposed by this section upon the sheriff shall be discharged by the clerk of the peace, and it shall not be necessary to make a report to the sheriff.

(4.) The clerk of every poor law union shall, in compiling the list of jurors each year for revision, set forth as far as practicable in a separate column on the said list after the name of each juror the name of the post office nearest to his residence.

Expenses of sheriffs and clerks of the peace.

4. The expenses of this Act incurred in connection with the duties hereby imposed on sheriffs and clerks of the peace shall be defrayed out of the county cess, and it shall be lawful for the grand jury of every county, and for every town council empowered to make presentment, as the case may be, from time to time at the next ensuing assizes or presenting term, and they are hereby required, without previous application at presentment sessions, or otherwise, to present all such sums of money as they may deem reasonable and necessary for defraying such expenses.

Power to adjourn trials.

5.—(1.) In the case of any person returned for trial, or whose trial has been adjourned to a court of quarter sessions in a specified division where the jurors have been notified under this Act that their attendance will not be required, the chairman or recorder presiding over the court may adjourn the trial of such person to the next ensuing court of quarter sessions for any division of the county in which the specified division is included or to the next ensuing court of assize for such county, and any recognizance entered into in respect of such trial shall without renewal be valid and binding in respect of the adjourned trial.

(2.) Such chairman or recorder shall have, in addition to all powers already vested in him, power to admit such person to bail until the sitting of the court to which his trial is adjourned.

Rules. 40 & 41 Vict. c. 56.

6. The power of making rules and orders conferred by section seventy-nine of the County Officers and Courts (Ireland) Act, 1877, shall be exercised for the purpose of carrying this Act into effect.

Definitions.

7. In this Act—

The expression "clerk of the peace" includes clerk of the Crown and peace where the offices have been united;

The expression "sheriff" includes under sheriff; and

The expression "prescribed" means prescribed by rules and orders in pursuance of this Act.

Short title and extent.

8. This Act may be cited as the Quarter Sessions Jurors (Ireland) Act, 1897, and shall extend to Ireland only.

CHAPTER 21.

An Act to make Rules for preventing Collisions in the Sea Channels leading to the River Mersey.

[15th July 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:

Short title.

1. This Act may be cited as the Mersey Channels Act, 1897.

Power to make rules for Mersey Channels. 57 & 58 Vict. c. 60.

2. The powers conferred upon Her Majesty in Council by section four hundred and twenty-one, sub-section (2), of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, shall extend to and include the power to make rules concerning lights and signals to be carried or the steps for avoiding collision to be taken by vessels navigating the sea channels or approaches to the River Mersey between the Rock Lighthouse and the furthest point seawards to which such sea channels or approaches respectively are for the time being buoyed on both sides.

Commencement of Act. Repeal of 37 & 38 Vict. c. 52.

3. This Act shall come into operation on the first day of August one thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven, from which date the Mersey Collisions Act, 1874, shall be repealed.

CHAPTER 22.

An Act to amend the Provisions of the Agricultural Holdings (Scotland) Act, 1883, so far as they relate to Market Gardens.

[15th July 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:

Short title and construction.

1. This Act may be cited as the Market Gardeners Compensation (Scotland) Act, 1897, and shall be read and construed as part of the Agricultural Holdings (Scotland) Act, 1883, herein-after called the principal Act.

Extent and commencement of Act.

2. This Act shall extend to Scotland only, and shall come into operation on the first day of January one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight, which date is herein-after referred to as the commencement of this Act.