CHAPTER ccxvii.

An Act to extend the Powers of the Royal Bank of Scotland, and to alter and enlarge the provisions of the Charters relating thereto. [5th August 1873.]

A.D. 1873.

WHEREAS by a royal charter granted by His Majesty King George the First, dated the thirty-first day of May one thousand seven hundred and twenty-seven, the Royal Bank of Scotland (herein-after called the Royal Bank) was incorporated, with full power and liberty to exercise the rights and powers of banking in that part of the United Kingdom called Scotland only, and with other powers, rights, and privileges of a corporate body:

And whereas further powers for raising additional capital and for the better management of its business were conferred on the Royal Bank by a second charter, dated the first day of November one thousand seven hundred and thirty-eight; by a third charter, dated the sixteenth day of May one thousand seven hundred and seventy; by a fourth charter, dated the tenth day of June one thousand seven hundred and eighty-three; by a fifth charter, dated the fifth day of June one thousand seven hundred and eighty-eight; by a sixth charter, dated the seventh day of August one thousand seven hundred and ninety-three; by a seventh charter, dated the thirty-first day of January one thousand eight hundred and four; and by an eighth charter, dated the thirtieth day of December one thousand eight hundred and twenty-nine:

And whereas the capital of the Royal Bank authorised to be raised by the said charters and now fully paid up amounts to two millions of pounds sterling, and the business of the bank and the amount of its deposits at the head office in Edinburgh and in the branches or agencies throughout Scotland have greatly increased since the last-recited charter was granted:

And whereas from the extension of the trade and commerce of Scotland the transactions of the Royal Bank and of persons doing

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business with it which require to be conducted in other parts of the United Kingdom and settled in London have very greatly increased, and it is expedient and would be for the public advantage that the Royal Bank should be authorised to establish a branch for the purpose of carrying on the business of banking in London, and that some of the provisions of the said charters should be repealed, altered, or enlarged, and further provision made for facilitating the management and administration of the affairs of the Royal Bank:

And whereas these objects cannot be effected without the authority of Parliament:

May it therefore please Your Majesty that it may be enacted; and 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 Royal Bank of Scotland Act, 1873."

Royal Bank may establish a branch in London.

2. It shall be lawful for the Royal Bank to establish a branch for the purpose of carrying on the business of banking in London, and to take, hold, and dispose of lands and houses and other real property and estate for the purpose of such branch: Provided that nothing in this Act contained shall authorise the Royal Bank to issue its own bank notes elsewhere than in Scotland.

Investment of funds.

3. The Royal Bank may, in addition to and with reservation of any existing powers of investment or employment of its funds under the charters herein-before recited, purchase, take, hold, and dispose of the debentures or mortgages of any company incorporated by or under Act of Parliament or royal charter and regularly paying dividends on its ordinary capital, and the public stocks or funds of the Government of India or of any British colony, and any stocks, shares, debentures, or mortgages, with a fixed dividend or interest guaranteed by any such Government, and may lend its funds on mortgage of real estate in any parts of the United Kingdom.

Certain provisions of first-recited charter repealed.

4. The several provisions of the first-recited charter requiring the oaths therein prescribed to be taken by the governor, deputy governor and directors, and by the cashier and other officers of the Royal Bank, and requiring notice in writing of general courts of proprietors to be affixed on the Market Cross of Edinburgh, and directing that general courts of proprietors shall be held on the last Tuesday of the month of November, on the first Tuesday in the month of March, on the first Tuesday in the month of June, and the first Tuesday in the month of September every year, and

that the governor, deputy governor, and directors shall be chosen at the general court of proprietors on the first Tuesday of March every year are hereby repealed.

Election of governor, deputy governor, and directors.

5. Two general courts of proprietors of the Royal Bank shall be held in every year, on the first Tuesday of June and on the last Tuesday of November, for the purposes mentioned in the first-recited charter; and the governor, deputy governor, and directors of the Royal Bank shall be chosen annually at the general court of proprietors to be held on the first Tuesday of June, in the manner prescribed by the first-recited charter; and the directors who may be in office on the first Tuesday of March one thousand eight hundred and seventy-four shall continue in office till the first Tuesday of June thereafter; and notice of all general courts of proprietors shall be given by advertisement inserted once at least in any two newspapers published in Edinburgh.

Providing for the supply of vacancies in offices.

6. The provision of the first-recited charter with respect to the election of governor, deputy governor, or directors in case of death, avoidance, or removal is hereby repealed; and in the event of the governor, deputy governor, or any of the directors of the Royal Bank dying, resigning, being removed from office, or becoming unable to act, the surviving or acting ordinary directors shall, at a meeting of such ordinary directors specially called for the purpose, elect a proprietor or shareholder of the Royal Bank, duly qualified under the provisions of the said charters, to be governor, deputy governor, or a director, as the case may be, and the person so elected shall hold office only until the general court of proprietors of the Royal Bank to be held on the first Tuesday of June next ensuing his election, but shall be eligible for re-election at the said court, or at any subsequent general court of proprietors.

Transfer of stock.

7. The stock of the Royal Bank (subject to its right of lien or retention for any debt due to it by the transferror) may be assigned or transferred either in the form and manner prescribed by the first-recited charter or by a separate transfer, duly stamped, in the form as near as may be of the schedule to this Act annexed; and every such transfer shall be prepared by the Royal Bank, at their head office in Edinburgh, and shall be signed by the transferror and transferee before being presented to the bank for registration.

Saving charters of the Royal Bank.

8. Nothing in this Act contained shall take away, diminish, or prejudice any rights, powers, or privileges conferred on or enjoyed by the Royal Bank by or under the said several charters or any Act relating to banks and banking companies in Scotland; and the

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said charters, except in so far as altered by or inconsistent with this Act, shall be and remain in full force and effect.

Expenses of Act.

9. All costs, charges, and expenses of and incident to the preparing for, obtaining, and passing of this Act, or otherwise in relation thereto, shall be paid by the Royal Bank.

SCHEDULE referred to in this Act.

Form of Transfer of Stock.

I, *A.B.*, in consideration of the sum of pounds paid to me by *C.D.* (*or otherwise, as the case may be*), do hereby assign and transfer pounds, being all (*or, as the case may be*, part of) my interest or share in the capital stock of the Royal Bank of Scotland, and all benefit arising thereby, to the said *C.D.*, his executors, administrators, and assigns; and I, the said *C.D.*, accept of the stock hereby transferred. In witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands and seals this day of One thousand eight hundred and

Signed, sealed, and delivered by the said *A.B.* in the presence of }

Signed, sealed, and delivered by the said *C.D.* in the presence of }

LONDON: Printed by George Edward Eyre and William Spottiswoode, Printers to the Queen's most Excellent Majesty. 1873.