CHAPTER 6.

An Act for amending the Law as to Special Juries.

[23rd May 1898.]

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:

Amendment of law as to number of special jurors to be summoned.

1.—(1.) The provision in section one hundred and eight of the Common Law Procedure Act, 1852, by the words "not exceeding forty-eight in all" shall be repealed.

(2.) The power to make rules of court for the High Court shall include power to make rules with respect to special juries, and thereby to repeal or alter any rules made under any previous Act with respect to special juries.

Short title.

2. This Act may be cited as the Special Juries Act, 1898.

CHAPTER 7.

An Act to Amend the Law with respect to Bail.

[23rd May 1898.]

WHEREAS accused persons are sometimes kept in prison for a long time on account of their inability to find sureties, although there is no risk of their absconding, or other reason why they should not be bailed, and it is therefore expedient to amend section twenty-three of the Indictable Offences Act, 1848:

11 & 12 Vict. c. 42.

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:

Power to accept bail without sureties.

1. Where a justice has power, under section twenty-three of the Indictable Offences Act, 1848, to admit to bail for appearance, he may dispense with sureties, if, in his opinion, the so dispensing will not tend to defeat the ends of justice.

Short title.

2. This Act may be cited as the Bail Act, 1898.

CHAPTER 8.

An Act to amend the Law in regard to the Tenure of Office of Sheriffs in Scotland. [1st July 1898.]

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:

Removal of sheriffs by order of

1. Upon a report prepared at the instance of the Secretary for Scotland by the Lord President of the Court of Session and the

Secretary for Scotland.

Lord Justice-Clerk for the time being, declaring that a sheriff in Scotland is by reason of inability or misbehaviour unfit for his office, it shall be lawful for the Secretary for Scotland to issue an order for his removal from office, provided always that such order shall lie before both Houses of Parliament for a period of four consecutive weeks while Parliament is sitting, and if either House of Parliament within that period resolve that such order ought not to take effect, the same shall be of no effect, but otherwise shall come into operation at the expiration of the said month.

Annuities.

2. If a sheriff is removed under the preceding section before he has completed ten years' service on the ground that he is by reason of inability unfit for his office, it shall be lawful for the Treasury to grant him an annuity of such amount and for such period as they shall consider just in all the circumstances, but in no case exceeding three-tenths of the salary payable to such sheriff, and any such annuity shall be charged upon and payable out of the same fund and in the same manner as annuities to sheriffs are paid and charged under the first section of the Public Revenue and Consolidated Fund Charges Act, 1854.

17 & 18 Vict. c. 94.

Application of Act.

3. This Act shall not apply to sheriffs substitute.

Short title.

4. This Act may be cited as the Sheriffs Tenure of Office (Scotland) Act, 1898.

CHAPTER 9.

An Act to amend the Law relating to the Reserve Forces and Militia. [1st July 1898.]

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:

Liability of members of the army reserve to be called out on permanent service.

45 & 46 Vict. c. 48.

1. Any man belonging to the first class of the army reserve, whose character on transfer to the army reserve is good, shall, if he so agrees in writing, be liable during the first twelve months of his service in that reserve to be called out on permanent service without such proclamation or communication to Parliament as is mentioned in section twelve of the Reserve Forces Act, 1882, and the calling out of men under this Act shall not involve the meeting of Parliament as required by section thirteen of that Act.

Provided as follows:—

(*a.*) The number of the men so liable shall not at any one time exceed five thousand;

(*b.*) The power of calling out men under this section shall not be exercised except when they are required for service outside the United Kingdom when warlike operations are in preparation or in progress;