accounts of expenditure under this Act shall be audited and reported upon by the Comptroller and Auditor General as appropriation accounts in manner directed by the Exchequer and Audit Departments Act, 1866. 29 & 30 Vict. c. 39.

3. Until the money issued out of the Consolidated Fund for the purpose of this Act and interest thereon has been wholly repaid to the Exchequer, and thereafter until Parliament may otherwise direct, all such sums as the Treasury determine to be receipts from the territories administered by the Company at the passing of this Act, in excess of the necessary expenses of the administration of those territories, shall be paid into the Exchequer, save so far as those sums are with the approval of the Treasury applied towards the development and improvement of those territories. Repayment to Exchequer from protectorate.

4. This Act may be cited as the Royal Niger Company Act, 1899. Short title.

CHAPTER 44.

An Act to empower Local Authorities to advance Money for enabling Persons to acquire the Ownership of Small Houses in which they reside. [9th August 1899.]

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:

1.—(1.) A local authority for any area may, subject to the provisions of this Act, advance money to a resident in any house within the area for the purpose of enabling him to acquire the ownership of that house; provided that any advance shall not exceed— Power of local authority to advance money to residents in houses for the purchase of houses.

(*a*) four-fifths of that which in the opinion of the local authority is the market value of the ownership; nor

(*b*) two hundred and forty pounds; or, in the case of a fee simple or leasehold of not less than ninety-nine years unexpired at the date of the purchase, three hundred pounds;

and an advance shall not be made for the acquisition of the ownership of a house where in the opinion of the local authority the market value of the house exceeds four hundred pounds.

(2.) Every such advance shall be repaid with interest within such period not exceeding thirty years from the date of the advance as may be agreed upon.

(3.) The interest shall be at such rate as may be agreed upon, not exceeding ten shillings above the rate at which the local authority can at the time borrow from the Public Works Loan Commissioners the money for the advance.

(4.) The repayment may be made either by equal instalments of principal or by an annuity of principal and interest combined, and all payments on account of principal or interest shall be made either weekly or at any periods not exceeding a half year, according as may be agreed.

(5.) The proprietor of a house in respect of which an advance has been made may at any of the usual quarter days, after one month's written notice, and on paying all sums due on account of interest, repay to the local authority the whole of the outstanding principal of the advance, or any part thereof being ten pounds or a multiple of ten pounds, and where the repayment is made by an annuity of principal and interest combined, the amount so outstanding and the amount by which the annuity will be reduced where a part of the advance is paid off, shall be determined by a table annexed to the instrument securing the repayment of the advance.

Procedure for obtaining advance.

2. Before making an advance under this Act in respect of a house a local authority shall be satisfied—

(*a*) that the applicant for the advance is resident or intends to reside in the house, and is not already the proprietor within the meaning of this Act of a house to which the statutory conditions apply; and

(*b*) that the value of the ownership of the house is sufficient; and

(*c*) that the title to the ownership is one which an ordinary mortgagee would be willing to accept; and

(*d*) that the house is in good sanitary condition and good repair; and

(*e*) that the repayment to the local authority of the advance is secured by an instrument vesting the ownership (including any interest already held by the purchaser) in the local authority subject to the right of redemption by the applicant, but such instrument shall not contain anything inconsistent with the provisions of this Act.

Conditions affecting house purchased by means of advance.

3.—(1.) Where the ownership of a house has been acquired by means of an advance under this Act, the house shall, until such advance with interest has been fully paid, or the local authority have taken possession or ordered a sale under this Act, be held subject to the following conditions (in this Act referred to as the statutory conditions), that is to say:—

(*a.*) Every sum for the time being due in respect of principal or of interest of the advance shall be punctually paid:

(*b.*) The proprietor of the house shall reside in the house:

(*c.*) The house shall be kept insured against fire to the satisfaction of the local authority, and the receipts for the premiums produced when required by them:

(*d.*) The house shall be kept in good sanitary condition and good repair:

(*e.*) The house shall not be used for the sale of intoxicating liquors, or in such a manner as to be a nuisance to adjacent houses:

(*f.*) The local authority shall have power to enter the house by any person, authorised by them in writing for the purpose, at all reasonable times for the purpose of ascertaining whether the statutory conditions are complied with.

(2.) The proprietor of the house may with the permission of the local authority (which shall not be unreasonably withheld) at any

time transfer his interest in the house, but any such transfer shall be made subject to the statutory conditions.

(3.) Where default is made in complying with the statutory condition as to residence, the local authority may take possession of the house, and where default is made in complying with any of the other statutory conditions, whether the statutory condition as to residence has or has not been complied with, the local authority may either take possession of the house, or order the sale of the house without taking possession.

(4.) In the case of the breach of any condition other than that of punctual payment of the principal and interest of the advance, the authority shall, previously to taking possession or ordering a sale, by notice in writing delivered at the house and addressed to the proprietor, call on the proprietor to comply with the condition, and if the proprietor—

(*a*) within fourteen days after the delivery of the notice gives an undertaking in writing to the authority to comply with the notice; and

(*b*) within two months after the delivery of the notice complies therewith,

shall not take possession or order a sale, as the case may be.

(5.) In the case of the bankruptcy of the proprietor of the house, or in the case of a deceased proprietor's estate being administered in bankruptcy under section one hundred and twenty-five of the Bankruptcy Act, 1883, the local authority may either take possession of the house or order the sale of the house without taking possession, and shall do so except in pursuance of some arrangement to the contrary with the trustee in bankruptcy. 46 & 47 Vict. c. 52.

Provision as to personal liability and powers of proprietor.

4.—(1.) Where the ownership of a house has been acquired by means of an advance under this Act, the person who is the proprietor shall be personally liable for the repayment of any sum due in respect of the advance until he ceases to be proprietor, by reason of a transfer made in accordance with this Act.

(2.) The provisions of this Act requiring the permission of the local authority to the transfer of the proprietor's interest in a house under this Act shall not apply to any charge on that interest made by the proprietor, so far as the charge does not affect any rights or powers of the local authority under this Act.

Recovery of possession and disposal of house.

5.—(1.) Where a local authority take possession of a house, all the estate, right, interest, and claim of the proprietor in or to the house shall, subject as in this section mentioned, vest in and become the property of the local authority, and that authority may either retain the house under their own management or sell or otherwise dispose of it as they think expedient.

(2.) Where a local authority take possession of a house they shall, save as herein-after mentioned, pay to the proprietor either—

(*a*) such sum as may be agreed upon; or

(*b*) a sum equal to the value of the interest in the house at the disposal of the local authority, after deducting therefrom the

amount of the advance then remaining unpaid and any sum due for interest; and the said value, in the absence of a sale and in default of agreement, shall be settled by a county court judge as arbitrator, or if the Lord Chancellor so authorises, by a single arbitrator appointed by the county court judge, and the Arbitration Act, 1889, shall apply to any such arbitration.

52 & 53 Vict. c. 49.

(3.) The sum so payable to the proprietor if not paid within three months after the date of taking possession shall carry interest at the rate of three per cent. per annum from the date of taking possession.

(4.) All costs of or incidental to the taking possession, sale, or other disposal of the house (including the costs of the arbitration, if any) incurred by the local authority, before the amount payable to the proprietor has been settled either by agreement or arbitration, shall be deducted from the amount otherwise payable to the proprietor.

(5.) Where the local authority are entitled under this Act to take possession of a house, possession may be recovered (whatever may be the value of the house) by or on behalf of the local authority either under sections one hundred and thirty-eight to one hundred and forty-five of the County Courts Act, 1888, or under the Small Tenements Recovery Act, 1838, as in the cases therein provided for, and in either case may be recovered as if the local authority were the landlord and the proprietor of the house were the tenant.

51 & 52 Vict. c. 43. 1 & 2 Vict. c. 74.

Procedure as to ordering sale.

6.—(1.) Where a local authority order the sale of a house without taking possession, they shall cause it to be put up for sale by auction, and out of the proceeds of sale retain any sum due to them on account of the interest or principal of the advance, and all costs, charges, and expenses properly incurred by them in or about the sale of the house, and pay over the balance (if any) to the proprietor.

(2.) If the local authority are unable at the auction to sell the house for such a sum as will allow of the payment out of the proceeds of sale of the interest and principal of the advance then due to the authority, and the costs, charges, and expenses aforesaid, they may take possession of the house in manner provided by this Act, but shall not be liable to pay any sum to the proprietor.

Suspension of condition as to residence.

7.—(1.) An advance may be made to an applicant who intends to reside in a house, as if he were resident, if he undertakes to begin his residence therein within such period not exceeding six months from the date of the advance, as the local authority may fix, and in that case the statutory condition requiring residence shall be suspended during that period.

(2.) The local authority may allow a proprietor to permit, by letting or otherwise, a house to be occupied as a furnished house by some other person during a period not exceeding four months in the whole in any twelve months, or during absence from the house in the performance of any duty arising from or incidental to any office, service, or employment held or undertaken by him, and the condition requiring residence shall be suspended while the permission continues.

(3.) Where the proprietor of a house subject to statutory conditions dies, the condition requiring residence shall be suspended until the expiration of twelve months from the death, or any earlier date at which the personal representatives transfer the ownership or interest of the proprietor in the course of administration; and where the proprietor of any such house becomes bankrupt, or his estate is administered in bankruptcy under section one hundred and twenty-five of the Bankruptcy Act, 1883, and in either case an arrangement under this Act is made with the trustee in bankruptcy, the condition as to residence shall, if the local authority think fit, be suspended during the continuance of the arrangement.

List of advances.

8.—(1.) A local authority shall keep at their offices a book containing a list of any advances made by them under this Act, and shall enter therein with regard to each advance—

(i) a description of the house in respect of which the advance is made;

(ii) the amount advanced;

(iii) the amount for the time being repaid;

(iv) the name of the proprietor for the time being of the house; and

(v) such other particulars as the local authority think fit to enter.

(2.) The book shall be open to inspection at the office of the local authority during office hours free of charge.

Local authorities and rates.

9.—(1.) A local authority for the purpose of this Act shall be the council of any county or county borough; and if the council of any urban district not being a county borough, or of any rural district, pass a resolution undertaking to act under this Act, that council shall, subject in the case of the council of a district containing a population according to the last census for the time being of less than ten thousand to the consent of the county council, be the local authority in that district for the purpose of this Act to the exclusion of any other authority: Provided that, if the council of any district are dissatisfied with any refusal or failure of the county council to give their consent, they may appeal to the Local Government Board, and the Local Government Board may, if they think fit, give their consent, and the consent so given shall have the same effect as the consent of the county council.

(2.) Where the council of an urban or rural district becomes the local authority for the purposes of this Act, all the powers, rights, and liabilities of the county council in respect of advances already made by them under this Act for the purchase of the ownership of any house in the district shall vest in the council of the urban or rural district, subject to the payment by that council to the county council of the outstanding principal and interest of any such advance.

(3.) All expenses of a local authority in the execution of this Act shall be paid in the case of a county out of the county rate, and in the case of a county borough out of the borough fund or borough

rate, and in the case of any urban or rural district out of any fund or rate applicable to the general purposes of the Public Health Acts; but no sum shall be raised in any urban or rural district the council of which becomes a local authority for the purposes of this Act on account of the expenses of a county council under this Act.

(4.) If in any local financial year the expenses payable by a council and not reimbursed by the receipts under this Act exceed in a county a sum equal to one halfpenny, and in a county borough or urban or rural district a sum equal to one penny in the pound upon the rateable value of the county, county borough, or district, deducting in the case of a county the rateable value of any urban or rural district in the county, the council of which have become a local authority under this Act, no further advance under this Act shall be made by that council, until the expiration of five years after the end of that financial year or if those expenses at that date exceed one halfpenny or one penny in the pound, as the case may be, on the rateable value for the time being, until they fall below such sum.

(5.) A local authority may borrow for the purposes of this Act in like manner as they may borrow, in the case of a county council for the purposes of the Local Government Act, 1888, and in the case of the council of a county borough for the purpose of section one hundred and six of the Municipal Corporations Act, 1882, and in the case of an urban or rural district council for the purpose of the Public Health Acts, and those Acts shall apply accordingly with the necessary modifications.

(6.) Money borrowed under this Act shall not, in the case of a county council, be reckoned as part of the total debt of a county for the purposes of section sixty-nine, sub-section two, of the Local Government Act, 1888, and shall not, in the case of an urban or rural district council, be reckoned as part of their debt for the purpose of the limitation on borrowing under section two hundred and thirty-four, sub-section two, of the Public Health Act, 1875.

51 & 52 Vict. c. 41.

38 & 39 Vict. c. 55.

(7.) The Public Works Loan Commissioners may in manner provided by the Public Works Loans Act, 1875, lend any money which may be borrowed by a local authority for the purposes of this Act.

38 & 39 Vict. c. 89.

(8.) Any capital money received or retained by a local authority in payment or discharge of any advance under this Act, or in respect of the sale or other disposal of any house taken possession of under this Act, shall be applied, with the sanction of the Local Government Board, either in repayment of debt or for any other purpose to which capital money may be applied.

(9.) Separate accounts shall be kept by every local authority of their receipts and expenditure under this Act.

(10.) In the application of this Act to the county of London any sanitary authority—

(*a*) shall have the same powers as an urban district council, an the expenses of such authority shall be paid out of the general

rate or in the case of the City of London out of the consolidated rate; and

(*b*) may borrow in like manner as they can borrow for the purposes of the Metropolis Management Acts, 1855 to 1893; and those Acts shall apply with the necessary modifications.

Residence and ownership.

10.—(1.) A person shall not be deemed for the purposes of this Act to be resident in a house unless he is both the occupier of and resident in that house.

(2.) For the purposes of this Act "ownership" shall be such interest or combination of interests in a house as, together with the interest of the purchaser of the ownership, will constitute either a fee simple in possession or a leasehold interest in possession of at least sixty years unexpired at the date of the purchase.

(3.) Where the ownership of a house is acquired by means of an advance under this Act, the purchaser of the ownership, or, in the case of any devolution or transfer, the person in whom the interest of the purchaser is for the time being vested, shall be the proprietor of the house for the purposes of this Act.

General modifications as regards Scotland.

11. This Act shall apply to Scotland with the following modifications:—

(1.) The Secretary for Scotland shall be substituted for the Local Government Board:

(2.) The expression "the terms of Whitsunday and Martinmas, Lammas and Candlemas," shall be substituted for the expression "the usual quarter days":

(3.) The expression "ownership" shall include a leasehold interest of at least sixty years unexpired at the date of the purchase:

(4.) Where a local authority take possession of a house under the provisions of this Act, a certificate by the clerk of the local authority, in the form contained in Schedule A. annexed to this Act, setting forth that fact and the grounds on which possession has been so taken, shall be registered in the register of sasines, and when so registered shall, without any other instrument, vest the ownership absolutely and irredeemably, subject to any prior burden, in the local authority; and the sheriff of the county in which the house is situated may, upon production of such certificate so registered, grant warrant for summarily ejecting the proprietor of the house and all tenants or occupants thereof:

(5.) Where a local authority take possession of a house under the provisions of this Act, the value of the interest in the house at the disposal of the local authority shall in the absence of a sale and in default of agreement be settled summarily by the sheriff, whose decision shall be final, and the amount which shall be determined to be due to the proprietor shall in the event of his death after possession has been so taken by the local authority be deemed to be moveable property:

(6.) Where the principal and interest of an advance under this Act have been fully paid, the certificate of the clerk of the

local authority to that effect, in one of the forms contained in Schedule B. annexed to this Act, when registered in the register of sasines shall be equivalent to the registration of a discharge of the bond or other security granted for the advance:

(7.) Sub-section five of section three shall be read as if for the words "in the case of the bankruptcy of the proprietor of the "house, or in the case of a deceased proprietor's estate being "administered in bankruptcy under section one hundred and "twenty-five of the Bankruptcy Act, 1883," there were inserted the words "in the case of the sequestration of the "estate of the proprietor or deceased proprietor of the "house."

Sub-section three of section seven shall be read as if for the words "where the proprietor of any such house becomes "bankrupt or his estate is administered in bankruptcy under "section one hundred and twenty-five of the Bankruptcy "Act, 1883," there were substituted the words "where the "estate of the proprietor or deceased proprietor of any such "house is sequestrated."

(8.) The reference to the Arbitration Act, 1889, shall not apply: In lieu of sub-section (*e*) of section two of this Act, it is enacted that:—

Before making an advance under this Act in respect of a house, a local authority in Scotland shall be satisfied that the repayment to the local authority is secured by a bond and disposition in security or other security under which the house shall be held to vest in the local authority in the case of the breach of any of the statutory conditions. The said bond or other security shall refer to this Act and shall be subject to the provisions of section four, sub-section (1), but the personal liability thereunder shall be transferred to the transferee.

(9.) Sub-section five of section five, sub-sections one to six inclusive of section nine, and sub-sections two and three of section ten of this Act shall not apply.

Local authorities and rates in Scotland. 55 & 56 Vict. c. 55.

12. In Scotland—

(1.) The local authority for the purpose of this Act shall be—

(*a*) in counties including the burghs (as defined in the Burgh Police (Scotland) Act, 1892) situated therein and having a population of less than seven thousand according to the census last taken—the county council:

52 & 53 Vict. c. 50.

Provided that in section eight of the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1889, the expression "purposes hereinafter mentioned" shall be deemed to include the purposes of this Act.

(*b*) in other burghs—the town council or commissioners of the burgh:

(2.) All expenses of a local authority in the execution of this Act shall be paid—

(*a*) in the case of county councils out of the general purposes rate: Provided that the proportion of such expenses

corresponding to the valuation of the burghs, for the purposes of this Act included as aforesaid, within which burghs such general purposes rate is not levied shall be paid to the county council in compliance with a requisition to that effect to be sent to the town council or commissioners of each burgh annually, and not later than the month of October in each year, and to be paid out of a rate levied in the like manner and with the like powers as the public-health general assessment of the burgh on or before the fifteenth day of January next ensuing:

(*b*) in the case of town councils and commissioners of other burghs, out of a rate levied in the like manner and with the like powers as the public health general assessment of the burgh. The ratepayers within the last-mentioned burghs shall not be assessed for any expenses incurred by a county council in the execution of this Act:

(3.) If in any local financial year the expenses payable by a local authority and not reimbursed by the receipts under this Act exceed a sum equal to, in the case of counties one halfpenny, and in the case of burghs separately assessed under this Act one penny, in the pound upon the rateable value of all lands and heritages within the area of the local authority for the purposes of this Act, no further advances under this Act shall be made by that local authority until the expiration of five years after the end of that financial year, or if the expenses at that date exceed one halfpenny in counties, including the burghs situated therein and having a population of less than seven thousand as aforesaid, or one penny in the pound in burghs separately assessed under this Act, until they fall below that sum;

(4.) A local authority may borrow for the purposes of this Act in like manner as they may borrow in the case of a county council for the purpose of the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1889, and in the case of a town council or the commissioners of a burgh for the purposes of section one hundred and forty-one of the Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1897, and these Acts shall apply accordingly with the necessary modifications. 60 & 61 Vict. c. 38.

13. In Scotland the local authority shall cause to be prepared and duly registered all deeds, writs, and instruments necessary for completing or transferring the title of the purchaser of a house under this Act, and for securing the payment of the principal and interest of any advance and shall include as part of the advance the cost so incurred or to be incurred according to scales set forth in tables fixed by the local authority, with the approval of the Secretary for Scotland: Preparation of titles, &c. in Scotland.

Provided that—

(1.) The local authority if they think fit may appoint a person duly qualified to carry out the provisions of this section, and shall assign to him such salary or remuneration as they may determine; and

(2.) The local authority shall not be liable for any expenses incurred by a purchaser of a house under this Act for legal or other advice or assistance rendered to him on his own employment.

Application of Act to Ireland.

14. This Act shall apply to Ireland with the following modifications:—

(1.) The Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland shall be substituted for the Public Works Loan Commissioners:

23 & 24 Vict. c. 154.

(2.) So much as relates to civil-bill ejectments in sections fifty-two to seventy-three of the Landlord and Tenant (Ireland) Act, 1860, shall be substituted for sections one hundred and thirty-eight to one hundred and forty-five of the County Courts Act, 1888, and sections eighty-four to eighty-nine of the said Act of 1860 shall be substituted for the Small Tenements Recovery Act, 1888:

(3.) Any reference to section one hundred and twenty-five of the Bankruptcy Act, 1883, shall not apply:

(4.) So much of sub-section three of section seven as relates to a transfer of ownership or interest by personal representatives, shall not apply save where the title to such ownership or interest devolves on the personal representatives of the proprietor:

19 & 20 Vict. c. 102.

(5.) Sections six to twenty of the Common Law Procedure Amendment Act (Ireland), 1856, shall be substituted for the Arbitration Act, 1889:

(6.) In section nine the words "five thousand" shall be substituted for the words "ten thousand":

41 & 42 Vict. c. 52.

(7.) The Public Health (Ireland) Acts, 1878 to 1896, shall be substituted for the Public Health Acts, and in particular section two hundred and thirty-eight of the Public Health (Ireland) Act, 1878, shall be substituted for section two hundred and thirty-four of the Public Health Act, 1875:

61 & 62 Vict. c. 37.

(8.) A local authority may borrow for the purposes of this Act in like manner as they may borrow in the case of a county council under the Order in Council under section one hundred and four of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898, and in the case of the council of an urban district for the purposes of the Public Health (Ireland) Act, 1878:

(9.) Article twenty-two of the said Order in Council shall be substituted for section sixty-nine of the Local Government Act, 1888:

(10.) The Public Works (Ireland) Acts, 1831 to 1886, shall be substituted for the Public Works Loans Act, 1875:

(11.) The Local Government Board for Ireland shall be substituted for the Local Government Board:

(12.) An advance shall not be made under this Act for the purchase of a house acquired under the Labourers (Ireland) Acts, 1883 to 1896, and held by a district council under those Acts:

Registration of title in Ireland.

15.—(1.) Where a local authority make an advance under this Act in Ireland they shall cause the title to the premises in respect

of which the advance is made to be registered under the Local Registration of Title (Ireland) Act, 1891, and shall pay the cost of first registration out of the advance : 54 & 55 Vict. c. 66.

(2.) Rules under that Act—

(*a*) shall adapt that Act to the registration of ownerships under this Act, and provide for the easy transfer of such ownerships ;

(*b*) shall provide for the registration (if required) of a person as the proprietor under this Act with such a possessory or qualified title as is provided under the Land Transfer Acts, 1875 and 1897 ; and

(*c*) shall provide that the fees payable to the Local Registration of Title Office in respect of either first registration of, or any subsequent dealing with, such premises shall not exceed ten shillings.

(3.) The person appearing on the register for the time being as proprietor shall alone be the proprietor for the purposes of this Act.

16. This Act may be cited as the Small Dwellings Acquisition Act, 1899. Short title.

SCHEDULES.

SCHEDULE A.

Section 11.

I, *A.B.*, clerk of the local authority of , with reference to bond and disposition in security [or other security] dated [insert date], and recorded in the General Register of Sasines for the county of [or as the case may be], on the day of for £ , granted by *C.D.* [name and designation] over the house [shortly describe same], do hereby certify that said local authority has taken possession of said house in respect [here set forth the grounds on which possession has been so taken], and I grant this certificate in terms of the Small Dwellings Acquisition Act, 1899.

Dated at this day of

(Signed) *A.B.*

SCHEDULE B.

Section 11.

No. 1.

I, *A.B.*, clerk of the local authority of , with reference to bond and disposition in security [or other security] dated [insert date], and recorded in the General Register of Sasines for the county of [or as the case may be], on the day of for £ , granted by *C.D.* [name and designation] over the house [shortly describe same], do hereby certify that the principal and interest secured by said bond and disposition in security (or other security) have been fully paid, and I grant this certificate in terms of the Small Dwellings Acquisition Act, 1899.

Dated at this day of

(Signed) *A.B.*

No. 2.

I, *A.B.*, clerk of the local authority of , with reference to the within (or above) written bond dated [insert date], and recorded in the General Register of Sasines for the county of [or as the case may be], on the day of for £ , granted by *C.D.* [name and designation], do hereby certify that the principal and interest secured by said bond and disposition in security (or other security) have been fully paid, and I grant this certificate in terms of the Small Dwellings Acquisition Act, 1899.

Dated at this day of

(Signed) *A.B.*

CHAPTER 45.

An Act to amend the Patriotic Fund Act, 1881, and the Patriotic Fund Act, 1886. [9th August 1899.]

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:

Extension of benefits of Patriotic Fund to dependants of officers and men.

1. The surplus of the Patriotic Fund, and all other funds referred to in section four of the Patriotic Fund Act, 1881, and the contributions referred to in section three of the Patriotic Fund Act, 1886, and any other funds which are after the commencement of this Act placed under the administration of the Commissioners of the Patriotic Fund, shall, if and so far as any supplemental commission so directs, and without prejudice to any existing powers of the Commissioners, be applicable for the benefit not only of widows and children, but of other dependants of officers and men of Her Majesty's military and naval forces.

Short title. 30 & 31 Vict. c. 98. 44 & 45 Vict. c. 46. 49 & 50 Vict. c. 30.

2. This Act may be cited as the Patriotic Fund Act, 1899, and the Patriotic Fund Acts, 1867 to 1886, and this Act may be cited collectively as the Patriotic Fund Acts, 1867 to 1899.

CHAPTER 46.

An Act to amend the Enactments relating to the Improvement of Land. [9th August 1899.]

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:

Rentcharges for improvement of land. 27 & 28 Vict. c. 114.

1.—(1.) Where under the Improvement of Land Act, 1864 (in this Act referred to as the principal Act), or under any special improvement Act, a charge is after the commencement of this Act authorised in respect of an improvement of land, the period for the repayment of the charge shall be such period not exceeding