CHAPTER 83.

An Act for explaining the Telegraph Acts, 1868 to 1871, and for enabling a further Sum to be raised for the purposes of the said Acts and of the Pensions Commutation Act, 1872. [5th August 1873.]

WHEREAS by the Telegraph Act, 1869, and the Telegraph Money Act, 1871, the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury in this Act referred to as the Treasury were authorised to raise for the purposes of the said Acts any sum or sums of money not exceeding in the whole eight million pounds:

And whereas the purposes of the Telegraph Acts, 1868 to 1870, were the purchasing, working, maintaining, and extending telegraphs:

And whereas by the nineteenth section of the Telegraph Act, 1869, after declaring that the amount to be raised should be appropriated by the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt in such manner, and transferred to such parties as shall be directed by the Postmaster General for the purposes of the Telegraph Acts, under such regulations as shall be prescribed by the Treasury, it was further enacted that the gross revenue received by the Postmaster General for the transmission of messages by means of electric telegraphs shall be paid into the Exchequer to the account of the Consolidated Fund, and that the expenses incurred in working, maintaining, and extending telegraphs shall be paid out of moneys provided by Parliament:

And whereas a portion of the said amount of eight million pounds so raised as aforesaid has been expended upon certain extensions of telegraphs for the purpose of producing a greater uniformity in the working of the telegraphic and postal systems of the United Kingdom, and doubts have been entertained whether such expenditure was lawful, regard being had to the provisions of the nineteenth section of the said Telegraph Act, 1869, relating to the extension of telegraphs:

And whereas an estimated sum of about eight hundred and twelve thousand eight hundred pounds, part of the Post Office revenue which ought to have been paid into the Consolidated Fund, has been improperly expended for the purposes of the said Telegraph Acts, and it is necessary that funds should be provided to make good to the said Fund the sum so improperly diverted from it:

And whereas it it expedient to provide further funds for the purposes of the said Telegraph Acts, and of the Pensions Commutation Act, 1872:

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 Telegraph Act, 1869.

1. It is hereby declared that the said nineteenth section of the Telegraph Act, 1869, in so far as the same relates to the expenses incurred in extending telegraphs, does not apply to any charges in respect of extensions of telegraphs already paid or coming in course of payment previously to the first day of October one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three.

Power for Commissioners of the Treasury to raise a further sum of 1,250,000*l.* for the purposes of the Telegraph Acts.

2. The Treasury may, in addition to any sum previously authorised to be raised by them, raise for the purpose of making good to the Consolidated Fund the sums so improperly diverted as aforesaid and for the purposes of the Telegraph Acts, 1868 to 1870, the Telegraph Moneys Act, 1871, the Pensions Commutation Act, 1872, or any of such Acts, any sum or sums of money not exceeding in the whole one million two hundred and fifty thousand pounds sterling, by the creation in manner provided by the Telegraph Act, 1869, of terminable annuities for any period of years not exceeding thirty, of three pounds per centum per annum capital stocks of annuities, or by the issue of exchequer bills or exchequer bonds, or by all or any of the said modes, and the interest upon such securities shall be chargeable upon and payable out of the Consolidated Fund, or the growing produce thereof.

The provisions of the Telegraph Act, 1869, relating to the terminable annuities, three pounds per centum per annum capital stocks of annuities, or exchequer bills, or exchequer

bonds, therein named, shall apply to the creation or issue, for the purposes of this Act, of any terminable annuities, any three per cent. capital stocks of annuities, exchequer bills, or exchequer bonds.

Certain charges not to be defrayed out of moneys raised under this Act.

3. No part of the moneys raised in pursuance of this Act shall be applied to defray any charges in respect of telegraph extensions coming in course of payment on and after the first day of October one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three.

Mode of issuing moneys raised.

4. All moneys raised in pursuance of this Act shall be placed to the account of the Paymaster General at the Bank of England, and shall be issued from time to time under regulations to be made by the Treasury, and to be laid by them before Parliament; but in applying such moneys to meet the charges sanctioned by this Act regard shall be had to the several heads of expenditure in the schedule hereto, and no greater sum shall be applied to the expenditure under any one of such heads than is apportioned thereto in the said schedule, except with the sanction of the Treasury, to be given upon a certificate of the Postmaster General that the excess so proposed to be expended under any one head is compensated by a deficiency of expenditure under some other head, and that the total sum to be expended under this Act in carrying into effect the provisions thereof will not exceed the said sum of one million two hundred and fifty thousand pounds.

Accounts of expenditure.

5. Accounts of all expenditure defrayed out of moneys raised in pursuance of the said Telegraph Acts, 1869 to 1871, and of this Act, shall be prepared by the Postmaster General in such form as may be approved by the Treasury, and be transmitted to the Comptroller and Auditor General, to be examined by him as if they were appropriation accounts, in manner directed by the Exchequer and Audit Departments Act, 1866.

Short title.

6. This Act may be cited for all purposes as the Telegraph Act, 1873.

SCHEDULE referred to in this Act.

HEADS OF PROPOSED EXPENDITURE.

	£
1. Sum required to make good amount improperly diverted from the Consolidated Fund to 31st March 1873	812,800
2. Expenses of telegraph extensions which shall come in course of payment previous to 1st October 1873	120,000
3. Cost of undertakings purchased or to be purchased	87,200
4. Commutation of pensions	230,000
	£1,250,000

CHAPTER 84.

An Act to explain the Militia Pay Acts, 1868 and 1869, and to facilitate the sale of property held for Militia purposes. [5th August 1873.]

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:

"Sub-lieutenant" included under "lieutenant."

1. The Militia Pay Acts, 1868 and 1869, shall be construed as if the word "lieutenant" in the said Acts included "sub-lieutenant."

Amendment of 35 & 36 Vict. c. 68. s. 10., as to sale of militia

2. Whereas by the tenth section of "The Military Forces Localisation Act, 1872," it was enacted that the commissioners of lieutenancy of the city of London, the justices of any county, riding, division, or liberty of a county (in this section included under the