period of three years from the date of such adoption, cause the child to be visited at least twice in each year by some competent person appointed by them for the purpose, who shall report to them on such visit. The guardians may, if they think fit, at any time during such period, revoke their consent to the adoption, and thereupon the child shall be forthwith returned to them by the person having the custody of the same.

Extension of power to detain paupers for limited periods. 34 & 35 Vict. c. 108.

4. Section four of the Pauper Inmates Discharge and Regulation Act, 1871, shall be amended by inserting after the words "seventy-two hours" the following words:—

"4. If he has, in the opinion of the guardians, discharged himself frequently without sufficient reason, one hundred and sixty-eight hours";

and by inserting as an additional proviso at the end of the section the following words:

"(4) that a direction requiring a longer notice than seventy-two hours to be given must be entered in the minutes, and must specify the name or names of the pauper or paupers to whom it applies."

Short title.

5. This Act may be cited as the Poor Law Act, 1899.

CHAPTER 38.

An Act to make further Provision for the Improvement of Telephonic Communication, and otherwise with respect to Telegraphs. [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:

Grant of two million pounds for the purpose of the Telegraph Acts. 55 & 56 Vict. c. 59.

1. The Treasury may, without prejudice to the exercise of any powers previously given for the like purpose, issue out of the Consolidated Fund or the growing produce thereof such sums not exceeding in the whole the sum of two million pounds, as may be required by the Postmaster General for the purpose of the Telegraph Acts, 1863 to 1897, according to estimates approved by the Treasury, and sub-sections two and three of section one of the Telegraph Act, 1892 (which relate to the mode in which money may be raised), shall apply with respect to the sum so authorised to be issued.

Payment of expenses of exercise of powers under telephone licence.

2.—(1.) Where the council of a borough or an urban district are licensed by the Postmaster General to provide a system of public telephonic communication, they may defray the expenses of exercising the powers conferred by the licence in the case of a borough out of the borough fund or borough rate, and in the case of an urban district not a borough out of the rate out of which the

general expenses of the council in the execution of the Public Health Acts are defrayed, and may borrow money for the purpose in accordance with the Public Health Acts, but in the case of a borough any money so borrowed shall be borrowed on the security of the borough fund or borough rate; and the council may, subject to the provisions of the Telegraph Acts, 1863 to 1897, and of the licence, exercise their powers under the licence throughout the area for which it is granted, although part of that area may be outside the borough or urban district.

(2.) In the application of this Act to Scotland, a royal or parliamentary burgh shall be substituted for a borough, and a police burgh for an urban district, and the town council or commissioners thereof, as the case may be, for the council of a borough or urban district, and for the borough fund or borough rate, or the rate out of which the general expenses of an urban district council in the execution of the Public Health Acts are defrayed, there shall be substituted the police or the burgh general assessment, or, where there is no assessment so named, an assessment under any head of the burgh assessments or city rate under any local Act payable by occupiers only; and the town council or commissioners, as the case may be, may, with the consent of the Secretary for Scotland, borrow for the purposes of this Act on the security of that assessment or rate, but subject to the conditions for the repayment of loans prescribed by the Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1897.

60 & 61 Vict. c. 38.

(3.) In Ireland expenses incurred for the purpose of this section may be defrayed as expenses incurred in the execution of the Public Health (Ireland) Acts, 1878 to 1896, for sanitary purposes, and money may be borrowed accordingly.

Provisions as to existing companies.

3.—(1.) Where an existing company have before the passing of this Act, under a licence from the Postmaster General, provided a system of public telephonic communication in any exchange area, and it is proposed to grant a new licence to a local authority or to another company to provide public telephonic communication in the same exchange area, or any part thereof, then, if the existing company consent to it being made a condition of their licence—

(*a*) that they will not give favour or preference to any person whomsoever within the area specified in the new licence, and will not, within that area, as a condition of giving a service, require from any person the grant of any facility except for the purpose of supplying telephonic communication to that person; and

(*b*) that their charges shall not, within the area specified in the new licence, exceed the maximum rates or fall below the minimum rates authorised in that behalf by the Postmaster General within that area,

it shall be a condition of the grant of the new licence, that where it is proved to the satisfaction of the Postmaster General that the existing company have incurred or contracted to incur, in the area specified in the new licence, material expenditure in laying down underground wires, and have by agreement with any local authority within that area acquired powers for that purpose, those powers

shall continue for the period specified in the new licence for the duration thereof, but, subject as aforesaid, on the terms and conditions specified in the agreement (including any provisions thereof for determination on breach of covenant), except so far as they may be varied by any subsequent agreement with the local authority.

(2.) Where an existing company is at the passing of this Act under a licence from the Postmaster General supplying public telephonic communication in any exchange area, a licence to provide a system of public telephonic communication within the same area, or any part thereof, shall not be granted by the Postmaster General to any person or body other than the council of a borough or urban district, unless it is shown to the satisfaction of the Postmaster General that the application for the licence is approved by the council of each borough or urban district within which it is proposed by the application to establish a telephonic exchange.

(3.) An existing company shall not, without the consent of the Postmaster General given after the passing of this Act in each case, open an exchange in any exchange area in which they had not, before the passing of this Act, established an effective exchange.

(4.) Where a local authority or a new company, under a licence from the Postmaster General, provides a system of public telephonic communication in the whole or any part of an exchange area in competition with an existing company licensed by the Postmaster General before the passing of this Act, then, if the existing company consent to it being made a condition of their licence—

(*a*) that they will not give favour or preference to any person whomsoever within the whole of the exchange area in question, and will not, within that exchange area as a condition of giving a service, require from any person the grant of any facility except for the purpose of supplying telephonic communication to that person; and

(*b*) that their charges shall not within the whole of the exchange area in question exceed the maximum rates and (where the company are empowered by agreement with the local authority to lay underground wires) shall not fall below the minimum rates authorised in that behalf by the Postmaster General within the area specified in the new licence,

the licence of the existing company shall within the whole of the exchange area in question be extended and continue for the period specified in the new licence of the local authority or new company for the duration of such new licence, but, except as varied by this Act, the provisions of the licence of the existing company (including any provisions thereof for determination on breach of covenant) shall remain in force.

(5.) If the licence of an existing company is, under the provisions of this section, extended in respect of any exchange area for a period of not less than eight years beyond the term existing at the passing of this Act, the company shall, at the request of any other licensee of the Postmaster General providing public telephonic communication in the whole or any part of that exchange area, and under such circumstances and on such terms and conditions as may,

within six months from the passing of this Act, be prescribed by an order of the Postmaster General, made with the approval of the Treasury, afford all proper facilities for the transmission of telephonic messages between persons using the system of the company (either in the whole or in part of the exchange area, as the Postmaster General may prescribe) and persons using the system of such other licensee, provided that the licensee so requiring inter-communication shall in any such case afford similar facilities.

(6.) For the purposes of this section the expression "exchange area" means an exchange area as defined by any agreement made by an existing Company with the Postmaster General before the passing of this Act.

Short title. **4.** This Act may be cited as the Telegraph Act, 1899, and may be cited with the Telegraph Acts, 1863 to 1897.

CHAPTER 39.

An Act to amend the Law with respect to Customs Duties in the Isle of Man. [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:

Duty on wine. **1.**—(1.) In lieu of the duties of Customs now payable on wine imported into the Isle of Man, there shall be charged, levied, and paid the following duties, that is to say:—

	£	s.	d.
Wine not exceeding 30 degrees of proof spirit, the gallon	0	1	3
Exceeding 30, but not exceeding 42 degrees of proof spirit, the gallon	0	3	0
And for every degree, or part of a degree, beyond the highest above charged, an additional duty, the gallon	0	0	3
Sparkling wine imported in bottle, an additional duty, the gallon	0	2	6
Still wine imported in bottle, an additional duty, the gallon	0	1	0

(2.) The said duties on wine shall be chargeable, levied, and paid as from the twenty-sixth day of May, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine.

(3.) In this Act the expression "wine" includes lees of wine; and the expression "degree" does not include any fraction of the next higher degree.

Short title. **2.** This Act may be cited as the Isle of Man (Customs) Act, 1899.