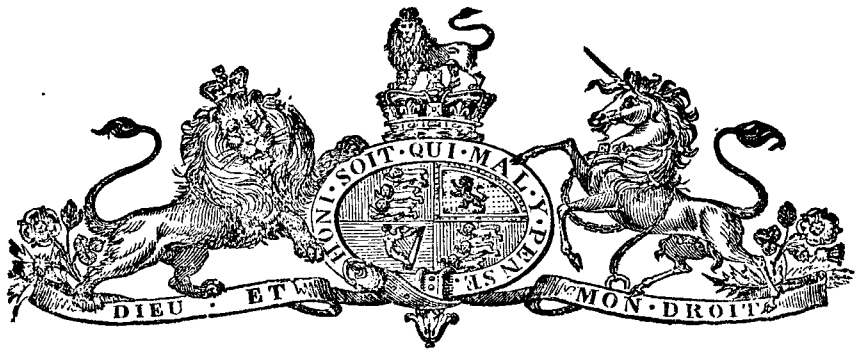


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CAP. VIII.

An Act for facilitating in certain Cases the Proceedings of the Commissioners appointed to make Inquiry respecting Trades Unions and other Associations of Employers or Workmen.

[5th *April* 1867.]

WHEREAS a Commission has been issued by Her Majesty to inquire into and report on the Organization and Rules of Trades Unions and other Associations, whether of Workmen or Employers, and to inquire into and report on the Effect produced by such Trades Unions and Associations on the Workmen and Employers respectively, and on the Relations between Workmen and Employers, and on the Trade and Industry of the Country, with Power to investigate any recent Acts of Intimidation, Outrage, or Wrong alleged to have been promoted, encouraged, or connived at by such Trades Unions or other Associations, and also to suggest any Improvements to be made in the Law with respect to the Matters aforesaid, or with respect to the Relations between Workmen and their Employers for the mutual Benefit of both Parties: And whereas a Case of Outrage within the Scope of the said Commission of Inquiry has been committed at *Sheffield*, and

Representations have been made on behalf of the Workmen as well as Employers of Labour in that Town stating that it would be for the Advantage and to the Satisfaction of both Workmen and Employers that a searching Inquiry on Oath should be made into the Circumstances of such Outrage and the alleged Complicity of the Trades Unions therein: And whereas the Powers for the effectual conducting of such Inquiry cannot be conferred without the Authority of Parliament:

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 for all Purposes as "The Trades Union Commission Act, 1867."

Limits of Inquiry under this Act.

2. The Commissioners or such One or more of them as they may with the Concurrence of the Chairman for that Purpose appoint, or such Number of Persons not exceeding Three, and qualified in manner herein-after mentioned, as One of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State may, upon the Application of the Chairman of the said Commission, appoint, may, in pursuance of this Act, inquire into any Acts of Intimidation, Outrage, or Wrong alleged to have been promoted, encouraged, or connived at by Trades Unions or Associations, whether of Workmen or Employers in the Town of *Sheffield* or its immediate Neighbourhood, and as to the Causes of such Acts and the Complicity therein of such Trades Unions or Associations, subject to the following Restrictions:

(1.) That no Inquiry in exercise of the Powers of this Act shall be held elsewhere than at *Sheffield* or its immediate Neighbourhood:

(2.) That no Inquiry in exercise of the Powers of this Act shall be made into any Case of Intimidation, Outrage, or Wrong which has occurred more than Ten Years before the passing of this Act, without the written Sanction of One of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, to be given at the written Request of the Chairman of the Commission:

Provided that no Person shall be appointed by the said Secretary of State in pursuance of this Section to conduct such Inquiry under this Act unless he is a Member of the said Commission, or a Barrister of not less than Ten Years Standing.

Persons appointed to conduct

3. The Persons appointed to conduct an Inquiry under this Act shall have all such Powers, Rights, and Privileges as are vested in any

any of Her Majesty's Superior Courts, or in any Judge thereof, on the Occasion of any Action or Suit in respect of the following Matters: Inquiries to have Powers, &c. herein named.

(1.) The enforcing the Attendance of Witnesses and examining them on Oath, Affirmation, or otherwise, as they or he may think fit:

(2.) The compelling the Production of Documents:

(3.) The punishing Persons guilty of Contempt:

And a Summons under the Hand or Hands of One or more of the Persons so appointed may be substituted for and shall be equivalent to any Form of Process capable of being issued at Law in any Action or Suit for enforcing the Attendance of Witnesses or compelling the Production of Documents.

Any Warrant of Committal to Prison issued for the Purpose of enforcing the Powers conferred by this Section shall be under the Hand of One or more of the Persons so appointed as aforesaid, and shall specify the Prison to which the Offender is to be committed, and shall not authorize the Imprisonment of any Offender for a Period exceeding Three Calendar Months.

Every Inquiry under this Act shall be conducted in public, and due Notice shall be given of the Time and Place of holding the same, but with Power to the Person or Persons conducting the same to adjourn any Meeting as Occasion may require.

4. Any Person examined as a Witness in an Inquiry under this Act, who in the Opinion of the Person or Persons conducting the Inquiry makes a full and true Disclosure touching all the Matters in respect of which he is examined, shall receive a Certificate under the Hand of such Person or Persons, stating that the Witness has upon his Examination made a full and true Disclosure as aforesaid; and if any Civil or Criminal Proceeding be at any Time thereafter instituted against such Witness in respect of any Matter touching which he has been so examined, the Tribunal before which such Proceeding is instituted shall, on the Production and Proof of the Certificate, stay the Proceeding, and may in its Discretion award to such Witness any Costs he may have been put to by the Institution of the Proceeding: Provided that no Evidence taken under this Act shall be admissible against any Person in any Civil or Criminal Proceeding whatever, except in the Case of a Witness who may be accused of having given false Evidence before any Person conducting an Inquiry under this Act. Indemnity to Witnesses.

5. Every

Penalty for false swearing, &c.

5. Every Person who, upon Examination upon Oath or Affirmation in any Inquiry under this Act, wilfully gives false Evidence, shall be liable to the Penalties of Perjury.

Expenses of Witnesses.

6. The reasonable Expenses incurred by any Person who may be summoned to appear to give Evidence in any Inquiry under this Act, according to a Scale to be approved by the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, may be allowed to such Person by a Certificate under the Hand of the said Commissioner or Examiner, and shall be paid to such Person by the said Commissioners of the Treasury, and shall be deemed to be Expenses incurred by the Commissioners for the Purposes of their Commission.

Protection to Persons appointed to conduct Inquiries.

7. The Persons appointed to conduct an Inquiry under this Act shall have such and the like Protection and Privileges, in case of any Action brought against them for any Act done or omitted to be done in the Execution of their Duty, as is now by Law given by any Act or Acts now or hereafter to be in force to Justices acting in execution of their Office.

Limitation of Actions.

8. No Action shall be brought against any Person appointed to conduct an Inquiry under this Act, or any other Person whomsoever, for any Thing done in the Execution of his Duty under this Act, unless such Action be brought within Six Calendar Months next after the doing of such Thing.

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