any portion thereof, the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury may, from time to time, as they think fit, raise any sum or sums not exceeding in the whole one million pounds, by the creation of annuities for any term not exceeding thirty years, or by the issue of Exchequer bonds or bills, or by all such means, and the sums so raised shall be placed to the credit of the account of Her Majesty's Exchequer, and form part of the Consolidated Fund. replace issues out of the Consolidated Fund.

Provided that the amount raised in pursuance of this section in any one year, ending on the thirty-first day of March, shall not exceed the total amount of the sums issued out of the Consolidated Fund in pursuance of this Act during that year.

5. The Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt may from time to time invest any moneys in their hands available for investment in Government securities in the purchase of any of the securities created under the authority of this Act. Commissioners for Reduction of National Debt may advance money on securities created under this Act.

If such investment be made in terminable annuities, the amount of annuity to be created in respect thereof shall be certified to the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury under the hands of the Comptroller General or Assistant Comptroller, and of the Actuary of the National Debt Office, acting under the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt.

The annuities so created shall be inscribed in the books of the Governor and Company of the Bank of England, and be payable to the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt out of the Consolidated Fund, or the growing produce thereof, at such times in each year as may from time to time be fixed by the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury.

The warrants of the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury issued under the authority of this Act shall be a sufficient authority to the Governor and Company of the Bank of England for doing the things thereby directed to be done for the purposes of this Act, and copies of such warrants shall be laid before both Houses of Parliament, if Parliament is then sitting, within one month of the respective dates thereof, and, if not sitting, within ten days after the next meeting of Parliament.

CHAPTER 72.

An Act to confirm a certain Provisional Order made under an Act of the fifteenth year of Her present Majesty, to facilitate arrangements for the Relief of Turnpike Trusts. [10th August 1872.]

WHEREAS by an Act of the fifteenth year of Her Majesty, chapter thirty-eight, "to facilitate arrangements for the relief of turnpike trusts, and to make certain "provisions respecting exemptions from tolls," herein-after referred to as the principal Act, power is given to one of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State to make provisional orders for reducing the rate of interest and for extinguishing the arrears of interest on mortgage debts charged or secured on the revenues of turnpike roads, in cases where such revenues are insufficient for the payment in full of the interest charged thereon: 14 & 15 Vict. c. 38.

And whereas by the Act of the session of the twenty-fourth and twenty-fifth years of the reign of Her present Majesty chapter forty-six, the principal Act is extended to turnpike roads, the Acts relating to which are continued by any annual Turnpike Acts Continuance Act, although their revenues are not insufficient for such payments as aforesaid: 24 & 25 Vict. c. 46.

And whereas, in pursuance of the principal Act, and the said Act extending the same, the Provisional Order referred to in the schedule annexed hereto has been made by Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department, and there are stated in

the said schedule the date of such order, and such particulars relating thereto as are therein specified:

And whereas it is expedient that the said Provisional Order should be confirmed and made absolute:

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:

Provisional Order confirmed.

1. The Provisional Order, the date of which is set forth in the first column of the said schedule, is hereby confirmed, and the provisions thereof shall be of the like force and effect as if it had been expressly enacted by Parliament.

Short title.

2. This Act may be cited for all purposes as "The Turnpike Trusts Arrangements Act, 1872."

SCHEDULE.

Date of Provisional Order.	TITLE OF LOCAL ACT.	Amount of Principal Debt.	Interest to be reduced to the under-mentioned Rate per Annum.	Date from which reduced Rate of Interest to commence.
		£ s. d.		
1872. 24 June.	4 Vict. c. xxxv., "An Act for more effectually repairing and improving the road from Market Harborough in the county of Leicester to Brampton in the county of Huntingdon," amended by the 5 Vict. c. 69.	12,692 0 0	2*l.* per Cent.	6 April 1872.

CHAPTER 73.

An Act to amend the Merchant Shipping Acts and the Passenger Acts.

[10th August 1872.]

WHEREAS it is expedient to amend the Merchant Shipping Acts and the Passengers Acts:

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:

Preliminary.

Short title.

1. This Act may be cited as the Merchant Shipping Act, 1872.

Commencement of Act.

2. This Act shall come into operation on the first day of January one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three.

Measurement of Ships.

Transfer to Board of Trade of duties of Commissioners

3. The twenty-third, twenty-seventh, twenty-eighth, and twenty-ninth sections of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1854, the fourteenth section of the Merchant Shipping Act Amendment Act, 1855, and the fourth section of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1871, shall