

PUBLIC ACTS OF PARLIAMENT PASSED DURING
THE SESSION 1883,

IN THE 46TH YEAR OF HER MAJESTY'S REIGN.

* * * *The figure before each Act denotes the Chapter.*

1. An Act to amend the Consolidated Fund (Permanent Charges) Redemption Act, 1873.
2. An Act to apply certain sums out of the Consolidated Fund to the service of the year ending March 31, 1882-3-4.
3. An Act to amend the law relating to Explosive Substances.
4. An Act to enable the Trustees of the National Gallery to lend works of art to other public galleries in the United Kingdom.
5. An Act to apply a sum out of the Consolidated Fund to the service of the year ending March 31, 1884.
6. An Act to provide during twelve months for the Discipline of the Army.
7. An Act to amend the Bills of Sale (Ireland) Act, 1879.
8. An Act to amend the Glebe Loans (Ireland) Acts.
9. An Act to make further provision for taking dues for repairing and improving the harbours in the Isle of Man.
10. An Act to grant certain duties of Customs and Inland Revenue, to alter other duties, and to amend the laws relating to Customs and Inland Revenue.
11. An Act to provide for expenses incurred by the Guardians of the Poor in relation to Poor Law Conferences.
12. An Act to amend the Act for the revention of crime in Ireland, 1882, as to the audience of solicitors.
13. An Act to apply the sum of five millions nine hundred and seventy-three thousand and twelve pounds out of the Consolidated Fund to the service of the year ending March 31, 1884.
14. An Act to amend the laws relating to the pay and pension of the Royal Irish Constabulary and the police force of Dublin, &c.
15. An Act to amend the Lands Clauses Consolidated Act, 1845.
16. An Act to grant a sum of money to Admiral Baron Alcester, G.C.B., in consideration of his eminent services.
17. An Act to grant a sum of money to General Baron Wolseley of Cairo, G.C.B., &c., in consideration of his eminent services.
18. An Act to make provision respecting Municipal Corporations and other local authorities not subject to the Municipal Corporation Act.
19. An Act to amend the Medical Act, 1858.
20. An Act to amend the law relating to the Registry of Deeds Office, Ireland.
21. An Act to continue certain Turnpike Acts and to repeal certain other Turnpike Acts, and for purposes connected therewith.
22. An Act to carry into effect an international convention concerning the fisheries in the North Sea, and to amend the laws relating to British sea fisheries.
23. An Act to apply the sum of fifteen millions one hundred and eighty-two thousand seven hundred and seven pounds out of the Consolidated Fund to the service of the year ending March 31, 1882.
24. An Act to make temporary provision for the destitute poor in Ireland.
25. An Act to explain and amend the 82nd section of the General Prisons (Ireland) Act 1877.
26. An Act to promote the sea fisheries of Ireland.
27. An Act further to amend the Acts relating to the raising of money by the Metropolitan Board of Works, and for other purposes.
28. An Act to amend the Companies Act 1862 and 1867.
29. An Act to consolidate the Accounting Departments of the Supreme Court of Judicature, and for other purposes.
30. An Act to authorise companies registered under the Companies Acts 1862, to keep local registers of their members in British Colonies.
31. An Act to prohibit payment of wages to workmen in public-houses and certain other places.
32. An Act to make further provision respecting the application of the revenues of Greenwich Hospital, and for other purposes.
33. An Act to amend the Irish reproductive Loan Fund Act.
34. An Act to amend the law relating to railway passenger duty, and to amend and consolidate the law relating to the conveyance of the Queen's forces by railway.
35. An Act to make better provision as regards the metropolis for isolation and treatment of persons suffering from cholera and other infectious diseases, and for other purposes.
36. An Act to provide for a better application and management of the parochial charities of the City of London.
37. An Act to amend the Public Health Act 1875, and to make provision with respect to the support of public sewers and sewage works in mining districts.
38. An Act to amend the law respecting the trial and custody of insane persons charged with offences.
39. An Act for further promoting the Revision of the Statute Law by repealing certain enactments which have ceased to be in force or have become unnecessary.
40. An Act to continue various expiring laws.
41. An Act to amend the Merchant Shipping Acts 1854 to 1880, with respect to fishing-vessels and apprenticeship to the sea fishing services.
42. An Act to grant money for the purpose of loans by the Public Works Loan Commissioners to Public Works in Ireland and the Irish Land Commissioner, and to amend the acts relating to such Commissioners, and for other purposes.
43. An Act for promoting the extension of tramway communication in Ireland, and for assisting emigration, and for extending certain provisions of the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1881, to the case of public companies.
44. An Act to explain the effect of section 195 of the Municipal Corporations Act 1882.
45. An Act for preventing the sale of medals resembling current coin.
46. An Act to suspend for a limited period, on account of Corrupt Practices, the holding of an election of a member or members to serve in Parliament for certain cities and boroughs.
47. An Act to extend the power of nomination in Friendly and Industrial, &c., Societies, and to make further provision for cases of intestacy in respect of personal property of small amount.
48. An Act to enable sanitary authorities in Ireland to take possession of land for the erection of temporary cholera hospitals.
49. An Act for promoting the revision of the Statute Law by repealing various enactments relating to civil procedure or matters connected there-

with, and for amending, in some respects, the law relating to civil procedure.

50. An Act to apply a sum out of the Consolidated Fund to the service of the year ending March 31, 1884, and to appropriate the supplies granted in this Session of Parliament.

51. An Act for the better prevention of corrupt and illegal practices at Parliamentary elections.

52. An Act to amend and consolidate the law of Bankruptcy.

53. An Act to amend the law relating to certain Factories and Workshops.

54. An Act to make further provision respecting the National Debt, and the investment of moneys in the hands of the National Debt Commissioners on account of Savings Banks and otherwise.

55. An Act to amend the law relating to the Customs and Inland Revenue, and to make other provisions respecting charges payable out of the public revenue, and for other purposes.

56. An Act to amend the laws relating to education in Scotland, and for other purposes connected therewith.

57. An Act to amend and consolidate the law relating to Patents for Inventions, Registration of Designs, and of Trade Marks.

58. An Act to amend the Post-Office Money Orders Act, 1848 and 1880, and extend the same to her Majesty's dominions out of the United Kingdom.

59. An Act to make better provision for the prevention of outbreaks of formidable epidemic, endemic, or infectious diseases, and to amend the Public Health Act (England), 1875, and the Public Health Act, 1878 (Ireland).

60. An Act to better the condition of labourers in Ireland.

61. An Act for amending the law relating to agricultural holdings in England.

62. An Act for amending the law relating to agricultural holdings in Scotland.

WORK OF THE SESSION 1883.

During the Session 1883, 228 public bills were introduced into Parliament. Fourteen of these related to Scotland, and forty-four to Ireland. Eighty-one measures were introduced by the Government, and nearly one half of them became law. Scotland fared badly, as, out of the fourteen measures which related to it, only two became law—a third, after passing the Commons, was thrown out by the Lords. Of the forty-four Irish bills, ten only were carried—seven by private members and three by the Government. The Government measures were—the Constabulary and Police Act, the Prison Service Act, and the Tramways and Public Companies Act. The only measures of importance carried by Irish members were that relating to labourers and that dealing with sea fisheries. There were also 265 private bills dealt with; 180 of these received the Royal assent; eighty-five, for various reasons, did not reach the final stage; and fourteen were thrown out because the preamble was not proved. Of the thirteen measures, applying to England, Scotland, and Ireland, mentioned in the Queen's Speech at the opening of the Session, five only became law. The most important of those which, as time went on, were obliged to be dropped were the London Municipality Bill, the Criminal Code Bill, the Rivers Conservancy Bill, the Floods Prevention Bill, the Sunday Closing Bill (Ireland), together with some others of scarcely less importance to the public welfare. Two measures, the Scotch Local Government Board Bill and the Irish Registration Bill, upon which a large amount of time and attention had been bestowed by the House of Commons, were thrown out by the House of Lords. The most important among the bills that became law were the Corrupt Practices Bill, for vindicating the purity and curtailing the expenses of elections; the Bankruptcy Bill, for discouraging dishonest bankruptcies and liquidations, and putting down fraudulent trading; the Patents Bill, for encouraging the inventive genius without depriving the public of the gain of inventions; and the two Agricultural Holdings Bills, for securing to tenants the value of their own improvements, and for encouraging agriculture and affording security for money judiciously expended in working their farms.

Another bill of considerable importance was the National Debt Bill, which aimed at redeeming within twenty years a very substantial portion of the National Debt of the country.

The Bankruptcy Bill is principally a re-enactment of the clauses of the Act of 1869, the real cause of the breakdown of which was two sections permitting liquidation by arrangement and composition. The new bill puts a stop to this, inasmuch that if compositions are made they shall be placed entirely under the supervision of the Court of Bankruptcy; and it will rest with the Court, and not the creditors, as heretofore, to give the debtor his discharge. The Act also provides that no composition or liquidation by arrangement shall be allowed without the sanction of the Court, or Registrar, who will only grant it when an arrangement appears to be reasonable and calculated to benefit the general body of creditors. It holds out a greater certainty of punishment to fraudulent debtors; and it draws a wide distinction between avoidable and unavoidable bankruptcies. It creates three classes of discharge certificates; and a discharge may be altogether withheld, if it can be shown that the bankruptcy has been caused "by rash and hazardous speculations, or unjustifiable extravagance in living." A penalty can be inflicted if an uncertified bankrupt incurs a debt of £20 without stating the fact. Trustees will no longer be permitted to squander and diminish estates, nor hold balances, or pay moneys, when collected, into their own account. The amount realised must be paid directly into the Bank of England. The official receiver or committee of inspection, acting under the Board of Trade, will keep a watch upon small estates, which will no longer be swallowed up in costs. Small debtors, tradesmen, and the working classes, whose debts do not exceed £50, may apply to a county court Judge, who will stop proceedings and at once afford relief from the exactions of the money-lender or holder of a bill of sale. The official receiver, appointed by and subject to the Board of Trade, replaces the former Comptroller in Bankruptcy. These are only some few of the gains secured by the Bankruptcy Bill.

The Corrupt Practices Prevention Act very considerably enlarges that of 1854 and the Ballot Act of 1872. It more particularly defines corrupt practices to mean treating, undue influence, bribery and personation, and it prescribes penalties ranging from fines to imprisonment with or without hard labour, incapacity of voting or of holding any public office, so that it will not only tend towards the extinction of the grosser forms of mischievous practices at elections, but by limiting the cost of elections it will also give increased freedom of choice to the constituencies.