

ACTS OF PARLIAMENT PASSED DURING THE SESSION OF 1886, 49 & 50, VICTORIA.

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

1. An Act for the temporary provision for the conduct of the business of the Office of Land Registry.
2. An Act to declare the meaning of section 11 of the Fisheries Act, 1878, so far as regards eels.
3. An Act to remove doubts as to the validity of certain marriages.
4. An Act to apply certain sums out of the Consolidated Fund to the service of the years ending 1885-6.
5. An Act for extending to grounds for drill and other military purposes the enactments relating to the acquisition and regulation of rifle ranges.
6. An Act to continue the Glebe Loans (Ireland) Acts.
7. An Act to apply the sum of twelve million seven hundred and thirteen thousand pounds out of the Consolidated Fund to the service of the year ending March, 1887.
8. An Act to provide during twelve months for the discipline and regulation of the Army.
9. An Act to amend the Prisons Act of 1877 so far as regards the superannuation of prison officers.
10. An Act to repeal the Contagious Diseases Acts 1866 to 1869.
11. An Act to provide for the payment of compensation for damage done during a certain riot in the metropolitan district.
12. An Act to amend the Bankruptcy Office Accommodation Act, 1885.
13. An Act to provide for the transfer to the dominion of Canada of the lighthouse at Cape Race, Newfoundland.
14. An Act for extending the hours within which marriages may be solemnised.
15. An Act to amend the law as to the rating of lands occupied for sporting purposes in Scotland.
16. An Act to amend the law in regard to the vacating of seats in the House of Commons.
17. An Act to make temporary provision for the better relief of the destitute poor in Ireland.
18. An Act to grant certain Duties of Customs and Inland Revenue, and to amend the laws relating to Inland Revenue.
19. An Act to suspend for a period certain payments under the National Debt Act, 1881; and to reduce for a like period the permanent annual charge of the National Debt.
20. An Act to amend the law in respect to the discovery and interment of persons drowned.
21. An Act to amend the Burial Grounds (Scotland) Act, 1885.
22. An Act to amend the enactments relating to offices, stations, and buildings for the metropolitan police.
23. An Act to amend the Companies' Acts of 1862-67, 1870-77, 1879-80, and 1883.
24. An Act to continue and amend, for a further limited period, the Peace Preservation (Ireland) Act, 1881.
25. An Act for giving facilities for the care, education, and training of idiots and imbeciles.
26. An Act to apply the sum out of the Consolidated Fund to the service of the year ending March, 1887, and to appropriate the supplies granted in this Session of Parliament.
27. An Act to amend the law relating to the guardianship and custody of infants.
28. An Act to amend the law relating to the Bankruptcy, so far as relates to agricultural labourers' wages.
29. An Act to amend the law relating to the tenure of land by Crofters in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, and for other purposes relating thereto.
30. An Act to amend the Patriotic Fund Acts, 1887 and 1881.
31. An Act to remove doubts respecting the sitting and acting of the Chancellor and other officers of the University of Oxford as Justices of the Peace.
32. An Act to amend the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act, 1878.
33. An Act to amend the law respecting international and colonial copyright.
34. An Act to extend the time for the repayment of loans granted by the Governors of Queen Ann's Bounty, and for the augmentation of the maintenance of the poor clergy to incumbents of benefices.
35. An Act respecting the representation in the Parliament of Canada of territories which for the time being form part of the Dominion of Canada, but are not included in any province.
36. An Act to provide for the determination of the Acts respecting the sale and transfer of incumbered estates in the West Indies.
37. An Act to remove certain doubts respecting the construction of the Patents, Designs, and Trade Marks Act, 1883, so far as respects the drawings by which specifications are required to be accompanied, and as respects exhibitions.
38. An Act to provide compensation for losses by riots.
39. An Act to amend the law relating to the salmon and fresh-water fisheries.
40. An Act to amend the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1872.
41. An Act to alter certain duties of Customs and to amend the laws relating to the Customs, and for other purposes.
42. An Act for amending the law as to the appointment of Revising Barristers in England.
43. An Act to amend the law relating to the appointment of Revising Barristers and the attendance of County Officers' (Ireland) Revision Courts.
44. An Act further to amend the Acts relating to the raising of money by the Metropolitan Board of Works, and for other purposes.
45. An Act to grant money for the purpose of loans by the Public Works Loan Commissioners, the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland, the Irish Land Commissioners, and the Fishery Board for Scotland, and to amend the Acts and make other provisions.
46. An Act to amend the Act of the sixth and seventh years of William IV., chapter 108.
47. An Act to appoint additional commissioners for executing the Acts for granting a land tax and other rates and taxes.
48. An Act to amend the Medical Acts.
49. An Act to empower the Admiralty to form a harbour of refuge at Peterhead, in the county of Aberdeen, and to execute and maintain break-water piers, and other works and conveniences in connection therewith.
50. An Act to amend the law relating to the terms of removal from houses in Scotland.

51. An Act to make provision for the borrowing of money by parochial boards, and for other purposes relating to the relief of the poor in Scotland.
 52. An Act to amend the law relating to sea fishing-boats in Scotland.
 54. An Act to amend the Tithe Commutation Acts, as to extraordinary tithe rent-charge on hop grounds, orchards, fruit plantations, and market gardens; and to provide for fixing the capital values thereof and the redemption of the same.
 55. An Act to limit the hours of labour of children and young persons in shops.
 58. An Act for the protection of children against the sale to them of intoxicating liquors.
 57. An Act to amend the provisions of the Parliamentary Elections (Returning Officers) Act, 1875.
 58. An Act to regulate the expenses and to control the charges of returning officers at Parliamentary elections in Scotland.
 59. An Act to amend the Labourers' (Ireland) Acts.
- Beside the Acts enumerated, there were 119 Public-General and Local-Acts of an important nature passed during the Session; so that, on the whole, the work of the short Parliament of 1886 was by no means so bald of results as it was supposed. Indeed, some few of the Acts passed were of considerable national importance: that, for instance, for giving facilities for the care, education, and training of the idiot and imbecile, and whereby the friends of these afflicted members of the community are enabled to place them into legally constituted asylums, where they will not only be well cared for, but, if possible, educated to some useful purpose. The Guardians of the Poor are empowered to take charge of them, and contribute towards their support; and, for so doing, will be entitled to ask for special Government grants towards the cost of education and maintenance. The Act, also, relating to the guardianship of infants, whereby the rights of the mother to the care of her children are admitted, and more carefully adjusted than heretofore. The Act for the limitation of labour of children and young persons in shops is important in its bearing on health. The Tithe Commutation Act is of importance, as it will, no doubt, bring to an end those unseemly disputes which have arisen, far too frequently of late, between the Rector and his parishioners with regard to his demand for an extraordinary tithe rent-charge on hop-grounds, orchards, market gardens, &c. The Act relating to the tenure of land by Crofters in the Highlands of Scotland will, it is hoped, bring about a peaceful settlement of disputes which have so long prevailed among the cultivators, small holders, and the owners of the soil. Last, though not least, the Act for regulating the expenses of elections and the charges of returning officers at Parliamentary elections will certainly be the means of reforming one of the worst of the remaining abuses in the machinery of elections. Of this measure, it will be remembered that the House of Lords, at the last moment, struck out of the bill a most important clause—that relating to the payment of the charges of returning officers.

NEWSPAPER STATISTICS OF THE WORLD.

The total number of newspapers and other periodicals published in every part of the world is 35,000, thus giving one to every 28,000 inhabitants. Europe has 20,000 newspapers, Germany coming first with 5500, of which 800 are published daily, the oldest being the *Post Zeitung*, published at Frankfort in 1616, while the one with the largest circulation is the *Berliner Tagblatt*, which prints 55,000 copies. Great Britain comes next with 4000 newspapers, of which 800 are published daily; while France has 4092, of which 360 only are daily. Italy comes fourth with 1400 newspapers, of which 200 are published at Rome, 140 at Milan, 120 at Naples, 94 at Turin, and 79 at Florence, the oldest being the *Gazetta di Genoa*, first published in 1797. Twelve hundred newspapers are published in Austro-Hungary, of which 150 are daily, the most remarkable of the Austrian journals being one called *Acta Comparationis Litterarum Universarum*, which is a review of comparative literature, with contributors in every part of the world, each of whose articles is printed in its native tongue. Spain has about 850 journals, of which a third are political; and Russia has only 800, of which 200 are printed at St. Petersburg and 75 at Moscow. Several of these journals are published in three different languages, and there are also four published in French, three in German, two in Latin, and two in Hebrew, besides several others in Polish, Finnish, Tartar, and Georgian. Greece has upwards of 600 newspapers, of which 54 appear at Athens; while Switzerland has 450, and Holland and Belgium about 300 each. There are 3000 journals published in Asia, of which no fewer than 2000 appear in Japan; but in China the only newspapers not published by residents at the Treaty Ports are the *Ning-Pao*, an official journal published at Peking, the *Chen-Pao* and the *Hu-Pao*, published at Shanghai, and the Government journal which was brought out in Corea last year. There are three newspapers published in French Cochinchina, and one in Tongkin (*L'Avenir du Tonkin*); the rest of the newspapers credited to Asia appearing in India, with the exception of six, which are published in Persia. Africa can boast of only 200 papers, of which 20 appear in Egypt, and the remainder in the colonies of England, France, &c. The United States possess about 12,500 periodicals, of which 1000 are published daily, the oldest being the *Boston News*, which was first published in 1794. Of the United States journals, there are no fewer than 120 edited and published by negroes, the oldest of these being the *Elevator*, which was brought out at San Francisco about eighteen years ago. Canada has 700 newspapers, a considerable proportion of which are published in French, and in South America the Argentine Republic comes first with 60 newspapers. Australia has 700 journals, nearly all published in English, and the Sandwich Islands eight, of which five are in English, and three in the native tongue. Out of the 35,000 periodicals enumerated above, 16,500 are in English, 7800 in German, 6850 in French, 1600 in Spanish, and 1450 in Italian.

THE EXTENSION OF THE TELEPHONE is one of the most remarkable in the history of inventions. In August, 1877, the instruments used in the United States were only 780, while in February, 1885, there were 325,574. There are about 18,000 in Canada, and 13,000 in Great Britain. The number of exchanges has grown in America from 100 in 1880 to 782 in 1885. In January last, there were 137,223 miles of telephone wire in that country. There are 5186 persons employed in the American telephone exchanges. More patents have been issued on the telephone than in any other single line of invention in the United States. The total number for the last ten years is 1521.

RAILWAY ENTERPRISE.—The returns of 1886 show there was open for traffic at the end of 1885, 19,169 miles of railway; that the capital authorised in railway stock was £927,750,000, and the capital actually paid up £815,858,955. The total receipts from traffic were £66,644,967.