

ACTS OF PARLIAMENT PASSED DURING THE SESSION OF 1887, 50 & 51 VICTORIA.

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

1. Act to apply certain sums out of the Consolidated Fund to the service of the years ending on the 31st day of March, 1887, and 1888.
2. Act to provide during twelve months for the discipline and regulation of the Army.
3. Act to amend the Acts relating to County Courts, so far as regards the payment of certain expenses.
4. Act to amend the provisions of the Merchant Shipping (Fishing Boats) Act.
5. Act to amend the law respecting the Customs Duties of the Isle of Man.
6. Act to abolish the office of the Chief Justiceship of the Common Pleas in Ireland, to enable the same fusion of the Courts to be effected in that country as has already been accomplished in England.
7. Act to amend the Custom Law Consolidation Act of 1876.
8. Act to extend the time for the repayment, by Incumbents of Benefices, of mortgages made and fixed under a previous Act.
9. Act to remove the disability of the Police to vote at Parliamentary Elections.
10. Act to enable His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught to return to England for a limited time for the purpose of being present at the celebration of Her Majesty's Jubilee without thereby resigning his command in Bombay.
11. Act for the Conversion of India Stock.
12. Act to define the respective rights of the parishioners of the Old Church of St. Mary, Truro, and of the authorities of the New Cathedral; also to provide for the formation of a Chapter Endowment Fund, and for the transfer of the patronage of the Dean and Chapter of Exeter to the New Cathedral body.
13. Act to extend in certain places the provisions of the Superannuation Act, 1859, and to extend and otherwise amend the provisions of the Colonial Governors (Pensions) Acts, 1868 and 1872.
14. Act to apply a sum out of the Consolidated Fund to the service of the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1888.
15. Act to grant certain duties of Customs and Inland Revenue, to alter other duties, and to amend the laws relating to the Inland Revenue.
16. Act to amend the law respecting the National Debt and the charge thereon on the Consolidated Fund, and to make further provision respecting local loans.
17. Act to amend the Metropolis Local Management Act, 1855, in regard to the government of Battersea and Westminster.
18. Act to amend the Trusts (Scotland) Act, 1867.
19. Act to provide for the fencing of quarries.
20. Act to make better provision for the prevention and punishment of crime in Ireland, and for other purposes relating thereto.
21. Act to limit the powers of the Water Companies to cut off the tenants' water supply where the rate is paid by the landlord.
22. Act to amend the Public Libraries Act.
23. Act to amend the Incumbents' Resignation Act, 1871.
24. Act to amend the Crofters' Holding (Scotland) Act, 1886.
25. Act to give Magistrates the power of allowing prisoners charged with a first offence their liberty, subject to proper precautions for their good behaviour.
26. Act to provide compensation to the occupiers of allotments and cottage gardens for crops left in the ground at the end of their tenancies.
27. Act to amend the law with respect to weighing of cattle in markets and fairs.
28. Act to amend and consolidate the law relating to the fraudulent marking of merchandise.
29. Act for the better prevention of the fraudulent sale of margarine as butter.
30. Act to amend the Settled Land Act, 1882.
31. Act to further amend the Acts relating to the raising of money by the Metropolitan Board of Works, and for other purposes.
32. Act for extending certain provisions of the Metropolitan Open Spaces Act, 1881, with amendments to urban sanitary districts throughout England and Wales.
33. Act to amend the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1881, and the Purchase of Land (Ireland) Act, 1885, and for other purposes connected therewith.
34. Act for the transfer to the Metropolitan Board of Works, and the maintenance of certain public parks and works in the Metropolis.
35. Act to amend and simplify the criminal law of Scotland.
36. Act for amending the allowances payable to clerks of general meetings of Lieutenancy.

There were passed, in addition, 37 others, making in all 73 public Acts. Of these, the principal were an Act to provide for the earlier closing of premises licensed for the sale of exciseable liquors in Scotland (chap. 38); an Act to provide for examination into the affairs of Trustee Savings Banks, and to remove doubts as to the law relating to the winding up of such banks (chap. 47); an Act to amend the law of Truck (chap. 46); and an Act to amend the Copyhold Acts, and for the enfranchisement of copyhold and customary lands (chap. 73).

The local Acts numbered 200, among the most important being the Manchester Ship Canal, and the City of London and Southwark Subway Through Extension, which, passing under the River Thames, connects the City with Stockwell.

The session of 1887, while it may be considered an important one in some respects, must be pronounced somewhat meagre as regards absolute business of general interest and public utility. The reason is not far to seek. Parliament opened with a debate on the Address, the discussion, beginning on January 27, was only brought to a conclusion on February 17, by the Speaker exercising the privilege of the Closure, which he possessed under the existing rules. The Procedure debate began on February 22, and the first rule did not pass until March 18. By this rule it is enacted "that after a question has been proposed, a member rising in his place may claim to move 'that the question be now put,' and unless it shall appear to the Chair that such motion is an abuse of the rules of the House or an infringement of the rights of the minority, the question 'That the question be now put,' shall be put forthwith, and decided without amendment or debate." Closely following the Procedure debate came the introduction

of the Criminal Law and Procedure (Ireland) Bill, better known, perhaps, as "The Crimes Bill," and in some quarters as "The Coercion Bill." The discussion of this Bill occupied the almost entire attention of the House until July 8th, when it was read a third time without a division. During the progress of the debate the Closure was applied several times. Irish affairs have, therefore, monopolised the largest share of the business of the session. Of the Acts enumerated above, the one which provides compensation to the occupiers of allotments for crops left in the ground at the end of their tenancies will no doubt remedy a grievance which has long been felt. The Act for the better prevention of the fraudulent sale of margarine will, it is hoped, put an end to the sale in England of foreign goods purporting to be of English manufacture. Of the Margarine Act—over which there was a hot contest, a determined attempt being made to substitute the term "butterine" for "oleo-argarine"—it may be said that it will prevent for the future the sale of imitation butter for real.

POSTAL INFORMATION.

Letter Post.—Letters posted at any branch office, receiving-house, pillar-post, or wall letter-box in the town districts of London up to 7 p.m. are in time for delivery the same night in the districts in which posted, and in certain adjoining districts. All the night mails for the provinces share in the extension of posting time. Thus, in the town districts the posting is as under:—In any letter-box, 6 p.m.; ditto, with fee of 4d., 7; at head district offices, with fee of 4d., 7.30; at St. Martin's-le-Grand, with fee of 4d., 7.45; at the railway stations, with fee of 4d., up to the time of the departure of the trains. For some towns the payment of a late fee is not required, as the night mail letters are forwarded by late trains.

In addition to the outward dispatch from the metropolis, an equally elaborate series of trains conveys the mails southwards, permitting of a much earlier delivery. There is practically no restriction as to the size of letters. The scale of postage applicable to letters between 2 oz. and 12 oz. in weight is continued without limit. The letter postage advances as follows:—For the first ounce, 1d.; for 2oz., 1½d.; for all greater weights, 3d. for every 2 oz., plus a penny. Consequently, letters weighing over 12 oz. will be accepted at the following rates of postage:—Above 12 oz., under 14 oz., 4½d.; above 14 oz., under 16 oz., 5d.; above 16 oz., under 18 oz., 5½d.; above 18 oz., under 20 oz., 6d.; above 20 oz., under 22 oz., 6½d.; above 22 oz., under 24 oz., 7d.; and so on at the rate of ½d. for every additional 2 oz. The parcel post is extended to places abroad at the same rates as for India, Gibraltar, and Egypt, and the insurance of registered postal packets, and also of parcels. The West India mails are dispatched regularly every two weeks—i.e., on each alternate Thursday, commencing at the end of July.

Inland Telegrams.—The charge is 6d. for the first twelve words, and 4d. for every additional word. Addresses are charged for.

Postage stamps are used for payment, and the public are required to affix them to the message forms just as they are required to affix them to letters.

When the terminal office—i.e., the office nearest to the address—is a Head Post Office, the amount paid for transmission covers the cost of delivery within one mile, or within the town postal delivery when that extends for more than a mile. When the address is beyond the free delivery, portage is charged at the rate of 6d. per mile or part of a mile, provided the whole distance does not exceed three miles; but the charge is calculated from the boundary within which no portage is levied.

Foreign Telegrams.—The rates vary very much, but full information can be obtained on application to the Secretary, General Post Office.

Inland Book Post.—The postage is one halfpenny for every 2 oz. or part of that weight.

A packet posted wholly unpaid is charged with double the book postage; and if posted partially prepaid, with double the deficiency.

Colonial and Foreign Book Post.—The limit of size for a book-packet addressed to any place abroad is 24 in. in length and 12 in. in width or depth. The postage is 1s. a pound.

Foreign Card Post.—The postage of a card is in every case one half the rate for a single letter.

Foreign post-cards with an impressed stamp of 1d. and 1½d. each are sold at that rate, and are transmissible to all Continental countries of the Postal Union.

Registration (Inland and Foreign).—The fee for registering a letter, newspaper, or book-packet passing between any two places in the United Kingdom is twopenny.

Postal Orders.—Postal orders, for certain fixed sums from 1s. up to £1, are issued to the public at all post offices at which money-order business is transacted.

The following are the amounts for which postal orders are issued, together with the poundage payable in respect of each order:—1s., 1s. 6d., 2s., 2s. 6d., 3s., 3s. 6d., 4s., 4s. 6d., 5s., 5s. 6d., 10s., 10s. 6d., 15s., 20s., 30s.

The person to whom a postal order is issued must, before parting with it, fill in the name of the money-order office at which the amount is to be paid.

Money Orders.—The commission on Inland Money Orders is:—For sums not exceeding £1, 2d.; exceeding £1 and not exceeding £2, 3d.; exceeding £2 and not exceeding £4, 4d.; exceeding £4 and not exceeding £7, 5d.; exceeding £7 and not exceeding £10, 6d.

The Parcel Post.—The rates of postage are:—For a parcel not exceeding 1 lb. in weight, 3d.; for each lb. after, up to 11 lbs., 1½d.

No parcel is accepted which weighs more than 11 lb., or is not sufficiently paid. The postage must, in all cases, be paid in advance, and, as a rule, by ordinary postage stamps, which should be affixed by the sender before tendering a parcel for transmission by Parcel Post at a Post Office.

Parcels not exceeding 3 lb. weight can be sent to almost any part of the world. Parcels sent to the Australian Colonies must not exceed 11 lb. in weight, and the rate of postage is, for a parcel not exceeding 2 lb., 2s.; and for any fraction of a pound or additional pound, 1s.

Foreign and Colonial Parcel Post.—Parcels within certain dimensions may now be sent to India and the Colonies, as well as most European countries; but they will be liable to the Customs duties, and regulations of each country, and the sender will be required to make a declaration on a special form provided for the purpose.