ANNO QUINQUAGESIMO QUARTO

GEORGII III. REGIS.

CAP. CLVII.

An Act for the better Regulation of the Conduct of the Business of the Office of Works, and the Expenditure thereof. [29th *July* 1814.]

WHEREAS by an Act passed in the Twenty-second Year of His present Majesty's Reign, intituled *An Act for enabling His Majesty to discharge the Debt contracted upon His Civil List Revenues, and for preventing the same from being in Arrear for the future, by regulating the Mode of Payments out of the said Revenues, and by suppressing or regulating certain Offices therein mentioned, which are now paid out of the Revenues of the Civil List*, certain Regulations were made for the Conduct and Expenditure of the Business of the Office of Works; but the same have been found in Practice to be inadequate for the Purposes for which they were intended; and it is therefore expedient that further and more effectual Provision should be made for that Purpose, and that the Expenditure and Execution of all other of His Majesty's Public Buildings, the Expence of which shall be defrayed out of any Funds granted by Parliament, should be placed under the same Superintendence and Control; be it therefore enacted by the King'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, That from and after the passing of this Act, so much of the said Act of the Twenty-second Year aforesaid, as relates to the Appointment of a Surveyor or Comptroller of His Majesty's Works (being *bonâ fide* by Profession an Architect

22 G. 3. c. 82.

So much of Act as relates to Office of Works, repealed.

Architect or Builder) and to the Rules and Methods therein directed to be obſerved with regard to all Works which might theretofore have been done by the Board of Works, for His Majeſty's Service, and to the Payment of the Expence incurred thereby, ſhall be and the ſame is hereby repealed.

Appointment of Surveyor General.

II. And be it further enacted, That from and after the paſſing of this Act, it ſhall be lawful for His Majeſty to appoint, during His Royal Pleaſure, any fit and proper Perſon to be Surveyor General of His Majeſty's Works and Public Buildings, whether the Expence of ſuch Works and Public Buildings ſhall be defrayed out of His Majeſty's Civil Liſt Revenues, or out of any Funds granted by Parliament, or out of any Part of the Public Revenue heretofore uſually included in the incidental Charges of ſuch Department; and to grant to ſuch Surveyor General, ſuch Salary as His Majeſty may think fit, not exceeding One thouſand five hundred Pounds *per Annum*; and the ſaid Surveyor General during the holding of the ſaid Office ſhall be and he is hereby declared to be incapable of being elected into or of ſitting and voting in Parliament.

Appointment of Aſſiſtant Architects.

III. And be it further enacted, That it ſhall be lawful for the Commiſſioners of His Majeſty's Treaſury for the Time being, or any Three or more of them, from Time to Time to nominate and appoint a fit and proper Perſon, being an Architect by Profeſſion, to be Aſſiſtant Surveyor and Caſhier in the ſaid Office, and alſo to nominate and appoint any Number of Perſons not exceeding Three, and being Architects by Profeſſion, under the Denomination of "Architects attached to the Office of Works;" who ſhall be ſubject to the Orders and Directions of the ſaid Surveyor General, in preparing Plans, Eſtimates, working Drawings and Reports, and alſo in making Surveys, inſpecting Workmen and ſuperintending the Execution of Contracts, at all Times, and at ſuch of the Royal Palaces or other Public Buildings as the ſaid Surveyor may appoint; and to grant the ſaid Aſſiſtant Surveyor and Caſhier ſuch Salary, and to the ſaid attached Architects ſuch Salary and Commiſſion, as to them the ſaid Commiſſioners of the Treaſury may ſeem proper.

Exiſting Offices may be aboliſhed.

IV. And be it further enacted, That it ſhall be lawful for the ſaid Commiſſioners of His Majeſty's Treaſury, or any Three or more of them, to aboliſh any of the Offices at preſent exiſting in the Office of Works, which it may appear to them inexpedient or unneceſſary to continue; and to nominate and appoint ſuch Officers and Clerks in the Office of ſuch Surveyor General, with ſuch Salaries as to them may ſeem expedient.

Retired Allowances may be granted where Offices are aboliſhed.

V. And be it further enacted, That in caſe the Commiſſioners of His Majeſty's Treaſury ſhall deem it expedient to aboliſh any of the Offices at preſent exiſting in the Office of Works, it ſhall be lawful for them, or any Three or more of them, to make ſuch Proviſion, by way of Retired Allowance, for the Perſon or Perſons whoſe Office or Offices may be ſo aboliſhed, as they may deem juſt and reaſonable, until ſuch Perſon or Perſons be otherwiſe provided for.

VI. And

VI. And be it further enacted, That it ſhall not be lawful for the Aſſiſtant Surveyor and Caſhier, or any of the Officers and Clerks employed in the ſaid Office of Works, (except as herein-after mentioned) to be in any Manner engaged in any Buſineſs as Architects or Builders, other than under the Proviſions of this Act, and the Orders of the ſaid Surveyor General; nor for the ſaid Aſſiſtant Surveyor and Caſhier, or any of the Officers and Clerks employed in the ſaid Office of Works; or to become Contractors, either openly or covertly, for the Execution of any Public Buildings or Works of any Deſcription carried on under the Controul or Superintendance of the ſaid Surveyor General: Provided always, that nothing in this Act contained ſhall extend or be conſtrued to extend to prevent the attached Architects to the Office of Works, or the Clerks of the Works, or Labourers in Truſt, or any of them, from carrying on their private Buſineſs as Architects, ſo as the ſame do not interfere with the due and faithful Execution of their Duties as Architects or Clerks of the Works or Labourers in Truſt attached or belonging to the Office of Works. Officers not to be engaged as Architects, Builders, or Contractors.

VII. And be it further enacted, That it ſhall not be lawful for the ſaid Surveyor General, or the ſaid Aſſiſtant Surveyor and Caſhier, or any of the attached Architects, or any other of the Officers and Clerks who may be employed in the ſaid Office of Works, to take or receive any Fee, Perquiſite, or Gratification, whatever, in reſpect of any Buſineſs done in the ſaid Office or connected therewith, other than the Salaries or Commiſſion to which they may be entitled under this Act, or the Authority of the Commiſſioners of His Majeſty's Treaſury. Fees not to be taken.

VIII. And be it further enacted, That if the Aſſiſtant Surveyor and Caſhier, or any other of the Officers and Clerks employed in the ſaid Office of Works (ſave and except the ſaid attached Architects and Clerks of the Works and Labourers in Truſt) ſhall be in any Manner engaged in Buſineſs as Architects or Builders other than under the Proviſions of this Act, and the Orders of the ſaid Surveyor General, or if the ſaid Aſſiſtant Surveyor and Caſhier, or any of the Officers and Clerks employed in the ſaid Office of Works ſhall become Contractors, either openly or covertly, for the Execution of any Public Buildings or Works of any Deſcription carried on under the Controul or Superintendence of the ſaid Surveyor General; or if the ſaid Surveyor General or the ſaid Aſſiſtant Surveyor and Caſhier, or any of the ſaid attached Architects, or any other of the Officers or Clerks employed in the ſaid Office of Works, ſhall take or receive any Fee, Perquiſite, or Gratification, in reſpect of Buſineſs done in the ſaid Office or connected therewith, other than the Salary or Commiſſion to which he may be entitled under this Act, or the Authority of the Commiſſioners of His Majeſty's Treaſury, and ſuch taking or receiving ſhall be proved to the Satisfaction of the Commiſſioners of His Majeſty's Treaſury for the Time being, every ſuch Perſon ſhall be and is hereby declared to be deprived of his Office or Situation in the ſaid Office of Works. Officers doing Private Buſineſs, or taking Fees, to be deprived of their Office.

IX. And be it further enacted, That it ſhall be lawful for the Commiſſioners of His Majeſty's Treaſury for the Time being, or any Three or more of them, and they are hereby required, as ſoon as conveniently may be after the paſſing of this Act, to prepare a full and complete Code of Inſtructions, Treaſury to prepare Inſtructions.

Inſtructions, for the Conduct of the whole Buſineſs of the Office of Works, and for the Regulation and Controul of the whole Expenditure thereof in all its Branches and Departments, conformably to the true Intent and Meaning of the ſaid Act of the Twenty-ſecond Year of His Majeſty, and ſhall tranſmit the ſame to the Surveyor General of the Office of Works, ſigned by the ſaid Commiſſioners, or any Three or more of them, for the Guidance of the ſaid Surveyor General and his Aſſiſtant and his attached Architects, and of all the other Officers and Clerks employed in the ſaid Office, in the Performance and Exerciſe of their ſeveral and reſpective Duties therein; and the ſaid Commiſſioners ſhall cauſe a Copy of the ſaid Code of Inſtructions to be laid before Parliament within Twenty-one Days after their Signature thereof (if Parliament ſhall be then ſitting) but if Parliament ſhall not be then ſitting, then within Twenty-one Days after the then next Meeting of Parliament; and it ſhall be lawful for the Commiſſioners of the Treaſury for the Time being, or any Three or more of them, from Time to Time to alter, vary, and change ſuch Code of Inſtructions, or to iſſue any additional Inſtructions, for the Conduct of the Buſineſs of the Office of Works, and the Regulation of the Expenditure thereof, in ſuch Manner as the Good of His Majeſty's Service may from Time to Time appear to them to require, always laying before Parliament, as herein-before directed with regard to the original Code of Inſtructions, a Copy of ſuch new Inſtructions.

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