become *ipso facto* void as if he had died or had resigned the same, any Law, Statute, Canon, or Usage to the contrary notwithstanding; provided, however, that nothing herein contained shall be deemed, construed, or taken to affect or alter the Laws now in force in *Ireland* regulating and respecting the Unions or Divisions of Parishes.

Act may be amended, &c.

XIV. And be it enacted, That this Act may be amended or repealed by any Act to be passed in this present Session of Parliament.

CAP. XCIX.

An Act for the better assessing and collecting the Poor Rates and Highway Rates in respect of Small Tenements. [14th *August* 1850.]

'WHEREAS the Collection of Poor Rates and Highway Rates assessed upon the Occupiers of Tenements of small annual Value is expensive, difficult, and frequently impracticable, and it is expedient to make better Provision for the rating of such Tenements, and for the Collection of such Rates:' 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, That from and after the passing of this Act it shall be lawful for the Vestry of any Parish, from Time to Time and at all Times hereafter, to declare and order that the Owners of Tenements in such Parish the yearly rateable Value whereof shall not exceed Six Pounds shall be rated and assessed to the Rates for the Relief of the Poor in respect of such Tenements instead of the Occupiers thereof, and the Order so made shall remain in force until rescinded in the Manner herein-after authorized.

Vestries to determine whether 6*l.* Tenements shall be rated to the Owners instead of Occupiers.

II. And be it enacted, That it shall be lawful for the Vestry of the said Parish, by a Majority of Two Thirds at least of the Votes of the Persons present at a Meeting duly called for that Purpose pursuant to Notice, as herein-after mentioned, and competent to vote thereat, at any Time after the Expiration of Two Years from the Time when any such Order shall have been so made, to order that from and after a Day to be fixed by such Vestry, not being less than Three Years from the Date of such original Order, such Order shall cease and be rescinded, in which Case, from and after such last-mentioned Day, the said Order shall be rescinded and no longer in force: Provided nevertheless, that the Provisions in this Act contained shall remain and continue in force for the Purpose of collecting and recovering any Rate which may have been previously made in pursuance of such Order: Provided also, that Notice for calling every such Meeting as aforesaid shall be by Writing, signed by Four Rate-payers of the Parish affixed on the principal outer Door of the Parish Church or Chapel of the Parish, or on the usual Place of affixing Notices relating to the Affairs of the Parish, at some Time not less than Thirty or more than Forty Days previous to such Meeting.

Order may be rescinded by a Majority of Two Thirds of Persons present at Vestry.

III. And be it enacted, That whilst any such Order as firstly herein-before mentioned is in force the respective Owners of such Tenements shall be rated and assessed (instead of the Occupiers thereof) to the Rates for the Relief of the Poor and to the Rates for the Repairs of the Highways which otherwise such Occupiers might by Law be rated to.

Whilst Order in force, the Poor Rates and Highway Rates to be rated to Owners.

IV. And be it enacted, That whilst such Order as firstly herein-before mentioned is in force the Owner of every Tenement in every Parish the yearly rateable Value whereof shall not exceed Six Pounds shall be assessed to the Rates for the Relief of the Poor and to the Rates for the Repairs of the Highways in respect of such Tenement at Three Fourths of the Amount at which such Tenement would be liable to be rated in case this Act had not passed; and further, that whilst such Order as firstly herein-before mentioned is in force, if any Owner of One or more such Tenements shall be desirous of paying a Rate for One Year in respect of all such Tenements in any Parish, whether such Tenements be occupied

Owner to be rated on a reduced Scale.

pied or unoccupied, and shall give Notice in Writing of such his Desire to the Overseers of the Poor and the Surveyors of the Highways within One Calendar Month after the passing of this Act, or in any subsequent Year within Fourteen Days next after the Twenty-fifth Day of *March* in that Year, then and in such Case such Owner shall be assessed to the Rates for the Relief of the Poor and to the Rates for the Repair of the Highways in respect of such Tenement or Tenements respectively, whether the same be occupied or unoccupied, from thenceforth till the Twenty-fifth Day of *March* following, at a Sum not being less than One Half of the Amount at which such Tenement or Tenements respectively would be liable to be rated if occupied in case this Act had not passed.

Remedies for recovering of Rates.

V. And be it enacted, That the Rates to be assessed as aforesaid, together with the Costs and Charges of levying and recovering the same, may be levied on the Goods of and recovered from the respective Owners of such Tenements as aforesaid, by Distress, Action, Suit, or other Proceeding, in the same Way as such Rates, if lawfully assessed on the Occupiers of such Tenements, might by Law be levied on the Goods of or recovered from such Occupiers; and, further, the Goods and Chattels of the Occupiers of such Tenements shall be liable to be distrained and sold for Payment of such of the said Rates as shall accrue due during their respective Occupations, in the same Way as if such Rates were assessed on such Occupiers.

Owners possessed to have the Privileges of Occupiers.

VI. And be it enacted, That every such Owner so rated as aforesaid shall have the same Right of Appeal (subject to the same Conditions) against Rates, and the same Right to vote in Vestry, as if he were an Occupier duly rated in respect of the same Tenement.

When Owner is rated, Occupier to be entitled to the same Municipal Privileges under 5 & 6 W. 4. c. 76. as if he was rated instead of the Owner.

VII. And be it enacted, That where the Owner of any such Tenement shall be rated to the Relief of the Poor by virtue of this Act instead of the Occupier thereof, and such Owner shall have paid all Money due on account of any Rate or Rates in respect of such Tenement, such Occupier shall be entitled to all Municipal Privileges and Franchises to which by virtue of an Act made and passed in the Session of Parliament held in the Fifth and Sixth Years of the Reign of King *William* the Fourth, intituled *An Act to provide for the Regulation of Municipal Corporations in* England *and* Wales, he would have been entitled if he himself had been rated, and had paid such Rate or Rates; and if such Owner so rated as aforesaid shall not have paid such Rate or Rates, it shall be lawful for such Occupier to tender to the Overseers of the Poor, or other Person authorized by Law to receive the same, the Amount of any Rate or Rates then due from such Owner in respect of such Tenement, and such Overseer or other Person so authorized as aforesaid shall be bound to receive the same; and such Occupier shall, on the Payment or Tender of such Amount, be entitled to exercise all such Privileges and Franchises as herein-before mentioned: Provided always, that any Occupier so paying any Rate or Rates in respect of any Tenement where the Owner is rated to the same shall be entitled to deduct and retain the Amount so paid by him from the next Payment of Rent to be made by him to such Owner, or to recover the same from such Owner as Money paid to and for the Use of such Owner.

Owners of Tenements held for longer Periods than from Year to Year entitled to add to Rent the Amount paid for Rates.

VIII. And be it enacted, That such Owners paying such Rates in respect of Tenements continuing to be held by Occupiers under now existing Tenancies for a greater Term than from Year to Year shall be entitled to add what they shall so pay to the Rent payable in respect of such Tenements, and have the same Remedies for recovering the same as for Rent in arrear; and that Occupiers other than such as shall continue to hold under now existing Tenancies for a greater Term than from Year to Year may (whether paying such Rates voluntarily or by Compulsion) deduct the respective Amount so to be answered by them as aforesaid, together with all Costs and Charges they may have incurred on account thereof, from the Rent payable in respect of such Tenements, and such Amounts shall be deemed Debts due from such Owners to such Occupiers, and be recoverable by Action.

Interpretation of Terms.

IX. And be it enacted, That the Word "Tenement" in this Act shall be construed to include any Land, House, Cottage, Apartment, or corporeal Hereditament; the Word "Owner" shall be construed to mean any Person receiving or claiming the Rent of any such

such Tenement for his own Use, or receiving the same for the Use of any Corporation aggregate, or of any public Company, or of any Landlord or Lessor who shall be a Minor, under Coverture, or insane, or for the Use of any Person who shall not be usually resident within Twenty Miles from the Parish in which such Tenement shall be situated; the Word "Person" shall be construed to include any Corporation or public Company as well as any Individual; the Word "Parish" shall be construed to include any Parish, Township, Vill, or Place maintaining its own Poor separately; the Word "Vestry" shall be construed to include any Meeting of the Inhabitants of any such Parish, Township, Vill, or Place, to be held after due Notice for carrying into execution the Laws for the Relief of the Poor; and wherever in this Act, in describing any Person, Matter, or Thing, the Word importing the Singular Number or the Masculine Gender only is used, the same shall be understood to include and be applied to several Persons as well as one Person, and Females as well as Males, and several Matters or Things as well as one Matter or Thing respectively; unless there be something in the Subject or Context repugnant to such Construction.

X. And be it enacted, That this Act shall extend only to *England* and *Wales*, and shall not apply to any Place where Owners are made liable to be rated to the Relief of the Poor under the Provisions of any local Act. Extension of Act.

XI. And be it enacted, That this Act may be amended or repealed by any Act to be passed in this present Session of Parliament. Act may be amended, &c.

CAP. C.

An Act for Inspection of Coal Mines in *Great Britain*. [14th *August* 1850.]

WHEREAS it is expedient that Provision should be made for the Inspection of Coal Mines in *Great Britain:* Be it enacted, therefore, 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, That it shall be lawful for One of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State from Time to Time to appoint any fit Person or Persons to be an Inspector or Inspectors of Coal Mines, and from Time to Time to remove any such Inspector or Inspectors; and Notice of the Appointment of every such Inspector shall be published in the *London Gazette*. Secretary of State may appoint Inspectors of Mines.

II. And be it enacted, That it shall be lawful for any such Inspector as aforesaid to enter, inspect, and examine any Coal Mine or Colliery, and the Works and Machinery belonging thereto, at all reasonable Times and Seasons, by Day or Night, but so as not to impede or obstruct the working of the said Coal Mine or Colliery, and to make Inquiry into and touching the State and Condition of such Coal Mine or Colliery, Works and Machinery, and the Ventilation of such Coal Mine or Colliery, and the Mode of lighting or using Lights in the same, and into all Matters and Things connected with or relating to the Safety of the Persons employed in or about the same; and the Owner or Agent of such Coal Mine or Colliery is hereby required to furnish the Means necessary for such Entry, Inspection, Examination, and Inquiry; and if such Inspector find any Part of such Coal Mine or Colliery, Works or Machinery, or any Aircourses, Airdoors, Waterways, Drains, Pits, Levels, Shafts, or other Matter or Thing in or connected with such Coal Mine or Colliery, or the Mode of lighting or using Lights in the same, to be dangerous or defective, so as in his Opinion to threaten or tend to the bodily Injury of any Person employed in or about such Coal Mine or Colliery, such Inspector shall thereupon summon before him the Manager or principal Colliery Viewer or Agent having charge of the said Coal Mine or Colliery, in order to his being heard upon the Matter giving rise to such finding as aforesaid; and if such Manager or principal Colliery Viewer or Agent shall not attend after reasonable Notice, or having attended shall fail to satisfy such Inspector, then such Inspector shall serve Notice in Writing of the particular Grounds on which he shall be of opinion that the said Powers and Duties of Inspectors.