Where complaint is made to a Secretary of State that the aggregate amount received by the treasurer of a local authority in respect of court fees unduly exceeds or unduly falls below the aggregate amount paid by that authority by way of salary as aforesaid, or that for other reasons it is expedient that the table of court fees should be revised, he may, if he think fit, by order, require the local authority to make a return to him within the time specified in the order of the aggregate amount so received and paid during three years previous to the order, or of the table of court fees in force for the time being, as the case may be, and if, on receiving such return, or on the failure of the local authority to make the return, he is, after making such inquiry as he thinks proper, satisfied of the truth of the complaint, he may, by order, require the local authority to make and lay before him, within the time (not being less than four months from the date of the order) specified in the order, a table of court fees in pursuance of this section, and if the local authority fail to comply with the order, he may, in like manner (so nearly as circumstances admit) as if the local authority had laid before him a table of fees in pursuance of this section, settle a table of fees and certify that the fees in that table are proper to be taken within the jurisdiction of the said local authority.

A Secretary of State, upon certifying a table of fees in pursuance of this section, shall cause copies thereof to be sent to the clerk of the local authority to be by him distributed to the clerks of petty sessional divisions and clerks to justices within the jurisdiction of that authority, and if at any time thereafter any of those clerks or any other person wilfully demands or receives any other or greater court fee than such as is set down in the said table, he shall forfeit for every such demand or receipt twenty pounds, to be recovered by action of debt by any person who may sue for the same.

Until a table is made in pursuance of this section, any of the said clerks may demand and receive such fees as he is at the passing of this Act lawfully authorised to demand and receive.

The expression "court fee" in this section means any fee, gratuity, or sum which may by law be demanded or received in respect of any business or act transacted or done by a clerk of special or petty sessions or a clerk of justices of the peace as such clerk, notwithstanding that by reason of such clerk being paid by salary, or of the provisions of this Act, he cannot receive the same for his own use, and includes fees for the giving of copies of depositions by any clerk mentioned in this section, whether received for his own use or not.

Account of fees by clerk.

9. The account of fees required by section eleven of the principal Act, as amended by this Act, to be rendered by any clerk shall be rendered quarterly, or at any less interval directed by the local authority, and if any clerk wilfully omits from any such account any fee received by him he shall forfeit for every such omission twenty pounds, to be recovered by action of debt by any person who may sue for the same.

Construction of Act, and repeal of part of 14 & 15 Vict. c. 55.

10. This Act shall, so far as is consistent with the tenour thereof, be construed as one with the principal Act; and so much of sections nine and ten of the principal Act as empowers a Secretary of State to direct that a clerk be paid by fees in lieu of salary (either generally or in respect of excepted business) is hereby repealed.

CHAPTER 44.

An Act to make provision respecting the Superannuation Allowance of Officers whose Salaries were formerly payable out of the Mercantile Marine Fund.

[10th August 1877.]

39 & 40 Vict. c. 80. 17 & 18 Vict. c. 104. 18 & 19 Vict. c. 119.

WHEREAS by section thirty-nine of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1876, the salaries of surveyors appointed under the Merchant Shipping Acts, 1854 to 1876, and of persons employed under the Passengers Act, 1855, which were formerly payable out of the Mercantile Marine Fund, were directed to be paid, after the first day of January one thousand eight hundred and seventy-seven, out of moneys provided by Parliament,

but no provision was made with respect to the superannuation allowances of those of the said surveyors and persons whose salaries had been previously paid out of the Mercantile Marine Fund, and it is expedient to make such provision:

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, as follows:

Short title.

1. This Act may be cited as the Superannuation (Mercantile Marine Fund Officers) Act, 1877.

Transfer of existing pensions to money to be provided by Parliament. 17 & 18 Vict. c. 104. 39 & 40 Vict. c. 80. 18 & 19 Vict. c. 119.

2. Where any superannuation or other retiring allowance was previously to the first day of January one thousand eight hundred and seventy-seven payable out of the Mercantile Marine Fund to any person in respect of his service as a surveyor appointed under the Merchant Shipping Acts, 1854 to 1876, or of his employment under the Passengers Act, 1855, such allowance shall be payable, and be deemed to have been payable, on and after the said first day of January one thousand eight hundred and seventy-seven, out of moneys provided by Parliament.

Grant of pension to existing officers. 39 & 40 Vict. c. 80.

3. Where a surveyor appointed under the Merchant Shipping Acts, 1854 to 1876, or a person employed under the Passengers Act, 1855, was immediately previous to the first day of January one thousand eight hundred and seventy-seven receiving a salary out of the Mercantile Marine Fund, and since that date has in pursuance of section thirty-nine of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1876, received such salary out of moneys provided by Parliament, the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury may grant to such surveyor or person, upon retirement or removal from his office or employment, the same superannuation allowance, gratuity, pension, or other allowance (if any), as might have been granted to him if he had continued to receive his salary out of the Mercantile Marine Fund; and in calculating the amount of such superannuation allowance, gratuity, pension, or other allowance, his service during the period that his salary was paid out of the Mercantile Marine Fund, and his service during the period that his salary was paid out of moneys provided by Parliament, shall be reckoned indifferently as the same service.

CHAPTER 45.

An Act to limit and regulate the Treasury Chest Fund. [10th August 1877.]

BE it 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, as follows:

Short title.

1. This Act may be cited as the Treasury Chest Fund Act, 1877.

Balance of Treasury Chest Fund.

2. The available balance of the assets above the liabilities of the Treasury Chest Fund shall not exceed one million pounds.

Mode of employment of Treasury Chest Fund.

3. The Treasury may employ the Treasury Chest Fund in making temporary advances for any public service, to be repaid to the Treasury Chest Fund out of money appropriated by Parliament to such service, or out of other money applicable thereto, and in the repayment of money deposited in any Treasury chest on account of any public service, and for the above purposes may, out of the Treasury Chest Fund, purchase and remit specie or bills, and pay bills drawn on the Treasury.

No expenditure whatever shall be finally defrayed out of or permanently charged upon the Treasury Chest Fund.

Annual account of Treasury Chest Fund.

4. The Treasury shall, as soon as is practicable after the end of every financial year, prepare an account showing for that year the receipts and payments of the Treasury Chest Fund, distinguishing those of the several Treasury chests, and the assets, liabilities,