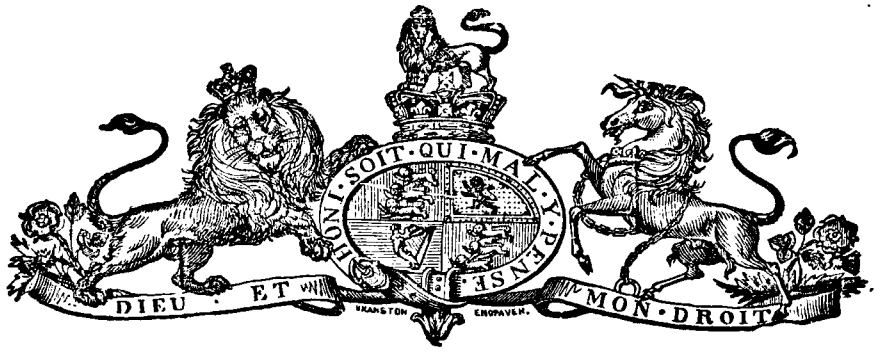


ANNO NONO & DECIMO

VICTORIÆ REGINÆ.

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CAP. LXV.

An Act to provide for the more effectual Execution of the Office of a Justice of the Peace, and the better Administration of the Police, within the Borough of *Wolverhampton* and certain Parishes and Places in the Neighbourhood thereof, all in the County of *Stafford*. [18th *August* 1846.]

WHEREAS the Execution of the Office of a Justice of the Peace within the Borough of *Wolverhampton* in the County of *Stafford*, and the several Parishes, Towns, Townships, Liberties, Hamlets, Vills, and Places therein and in the Neighbourhood thereof, (that is to say,) the Parishes of *Darlaston*, *Kingswinford*, *Sedgley*, *Tipton*, *Wednesbury*, and *Westbromwich*, and the Towns, Townships, Liberties, Hamlets, Vills, and Places of *Bilston*, *Wednesfield*, *Willenhall*, *Wolverhampton*, *Wordsley*, *Brierley Hill*, *Coseley*, *Upper Gornall*, *Lower Gornall*, *Gornall Wood*, *Gospel-End*, *Strait Green*, *Woodsitton*, *Ettingshall*, *Dudley Port*, *Toll End*, *Hill Top*, *Spon Lane*, and *Quarry Bank*, or some of them, in the several Parishes of *Darlaston*, *Kingswinford*, *Sedgley*, *Tipton*, *Wednesbury*, *Westbromwich*, and *Wolverhampton*, all within the Mineral

District

District of the Southern Division of the said County of *Stafford*, has become and is likely to continue difficult and burdensome, owing to the very great and increasing Extent of the Population and Manufactories within the Borough and Places aforesaid, and the Attendance of a sufficient Number of Justices of the Peace for the said County cannot always be procured for the prompt Administration of the said Office therein, and it would tend to afford better Protection to the Persons and Properties of the Inhabitants, and be of advantage to the Public, if Provision were made by Authority of Parliament for the Appointment of a Justice of the Peace, with a Stipend or Salary, for the more effectual Execution of the Office of a Justice of the Peace within the said Borough, and Parishes and Places in the Neighbourhood thereof, and for other Purposes connected therewith: May it therefore please Your Majesty that it may be enacted; and 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, That it shall be lawful for Her Majesty, Her Heirs and Successors, from Time to Time, as Occasion may require, to appoint, and from Time to Time to remove, One fit and able Person, being a Barrister at Law of Six Years standing at the least, and being a Justice of the Peace for the County of *Stafford*, to execute the Office of a Justice of the Peace within the said Borough of *Wolverhampton*, and the Places in the Neighbourhood thereof, herein-before mentioned; and it shall be lawful for any such Person so appointed to act as a Justice of the Peace within the said Borough, and Places in the Neighbourhood thereof, without having such Qualification and without taking such Oath of Qualification as are required by Law for qualifying any Person to act as a Justice of the Peace, any Law or Statute to the contrary notwithstanding; and it shall also be lawful for any such Person so appointed a Justice of the Peace to receive and take the Stipend or Salary herein-after mentioned as a Remuneration for his Services under the Provisions of this Act.

Her Majesty to appoint a Stipendiary Justice for the Borough of Wolverhampton.

II. And be it enacted, That it shall be lawful for any such Stipendiary Justice to sit and act as a Justice of the Peace of the said County within the said Borough and Parishes and Places aforesaid, or in the Neighbourhood thereof, either alone or together with any other Justice or Justices of the Peace of the said County who may think proper to attend; but such Stipendiary Justice shall not during his Continuance in his said Office act as a Justice of the Peace out of the Limits of this Act, except only in the event of any Riot, Prize Fight, unlawful Assembly, or Breach of the Peace, or except only in the event of his having such Qualification and taking such Oath of Qualification as are required by Law for qualifying any Person to act as a Justice of the Peace, in any of which Cases he shall have full Power to act as a Justice within any County for which he is or shall be appointed a Justice of the Peace.

Justice may act as a Justice of the Peace, with or without other Justices, but must not act out of the Limits, except in certain Cases.

III. Provided always, and be it enacted, That it shall be lawful for any such Stipendiary Justice to do alone any Act within the Limits of this Act which by any Law now in force, or by any Law not

Justice may act alone in certain Cases, where

not containing an express Enactment to the contrary, hereafter to be made, is or shall be directed to be done by more than One Justice, in all Cases relating to Assaults, taking Recognizances of Bail in Cases of Felony, enforcing and compelling Payment of Poor Rates, Church Rates, Highway Rates, County Rates, and Police Rates, and in the Removal of poor Persons born in *Scotland*, *Ireland*, the Islands of *Man*, *Scilly*, *Jersey*, or *Guernsey*, and chargeable in *England*.

more than One Justice is required by Law.

IV. Provided also, and be it enacted, That no Stipendiary Justice of the Peace to be appointed by virtue of this Act shall during his Continuance in Office as such Stipendiary Justice be capable of being elected or of sitting as a Member of the House of Commons.

Justice not to be a Member of the House of Commons.

V. And be it enacted, That such Stipendiary Justice shall reside within the Borough of *Wolverhampton*, or within Two Miles of the Collegiate Church in the Town of *Wolverhampton*, and shall attend at some suitable public Rooms or Offices at the Times and in the several Towns herein-after mentioned, for the hearing and despatch of Business; (that is to say,) in every Week Two Days at *Wolverhampton*, One Day at *Bilston* or *Sedgley* alternately, One Day at *Wednesbury* or *Westbromwich* alternately, and One Day at *Brierley Hill*, and on each Day from the Hour of Ten of the Clock in the Forenoon to the Hour of Four of the Clock in the Afternoon, unless the Business of the Day be sooner disposed of, and at all such other Times when any special Occasion may require his immediate Services: Provided always, that the Attendance of such Justice may, when requisite, be supplied by any other Justice of the Peace for the said County; provided also, that no such Attendance shall be given on *Sunday*, *Christmas Day*, *Good Friday*, or any Day appointed for a public Fast or Thanksgiving, unless in Cases of urgent Necessity, or when it shall be directed by One of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State.

The Limits within which the Justice must reside, his Attendances, and Places of Meeting.

VI. And be it enacted, That a Salary at the Rate of One thousand Pounds in each Year shall be paid by the Treasurer to be appointed as herein-after directed to such Stipendiary Justice and his Successors respectively, such Salary to commence from the Time when any such Justice shall enter on the Duties of his Office, and to be paid so long as any such Justice shall continue to discharge the Duties of his Office, such Salary to be payable and paid by Four equal quarterly Payments on the Twenty-fourth Day of *June*, the Twenty-ninth Day of *September*, the Twenty-fifth Day of *December*, and the Twenty-fifth Day of *March*, or on any following Day, on demand made by or by Authority of such Justice; and a due Proportion of the first quarterly Sum shall be paid at the Time and in manner aforesaid, in case the Justice shall enter on the Duties of his Office on any Day between such quarterly Days; and in case of the Resignation or Removal of any such Justice between any such quarterly Days of Payment, then he shall be entitled to and be paid a due Proportion of the said Salary up to the Period of his Resignation or Removal; and in case of his Death between any such quarterly Days of Payment his

Salary of Stipendiary Justice, and Mode of Payment.

his Representatives shall be entitled to and be paid a due Proportion of the said Salary up to the Period of his Death.

Power to Justice to appoint a Clerk, being an Attorney at Law.

VII. And be it enacted, That it shall be lawful for any such Stipendiary Justice from Time to Time to appoint One fit and able Person, being an Attorney at Law of some One of the Superior Courts at *Westminster*, of Seven Years standing at the least, as a Clerk, and from Time to Time, at his Pleasure, to remove any Clerk so appointed; and such Clerk shall attend in his own Person, and not by any Deputy, Substitute, or Proxy, (except when prevented by Illness, or some other sufficient Cause to be allowed under the Hand of such Justice,) at all official Sittings of any Justice acting for the Purposes of this Act, and assist him in the Execution of his Duties; and the said Clerk shall be allowed and paid a Salary or Sum not exceeding Four hundred Pounds *per Annum*, at the Discretion of the said Stipendiary Justice, in full Recompence for his Trouble and Attendance and Expences in the Execution of this Act, such Salary or Sum to be paid by the Treasurer to be appointed as herein-after mentioned in Four equal quarterly Payments in every Year, and the first quarterly Payment thereof to be made at the End of Three Calendar Months from the Time of such Appointment.

Salary of Clerk, and Mode of Payment.

Justices of the Hundred of Seisdon may direct a Sitting to be periodically holden by Stipendiary Justice within any of the Parishes, &c. within the said Hundred.

VIII. Provided also, and be it enacted, That it shall be lawful for the Justices of the Peace for the said County of *Stafford* acting for the Northern Division of the Hundred of *Seisdon*, at any Meeting of such Justices holden for the Purpose, and of which Meeting and of the Object thereof Ten Days Notice at least, by Post or otherwise, shall have been given to every such Justice, if they shall think it expedient so to do, from Time to Time to fix and and direct a Sitting or Sittings to be periodically holden by such Stipendiary Justice so to be appointed as aforesaid at or within any other or others of the said Parishes, Townships, or Places herein-before mentioned as are within the said Northern Division of the Hundred of *Seisdon*, and the said Justice shall from Time to Time attend and hold his Sitting at or within the Parish, Township, or Place to be so fixed for that Purpose accordingly.

Justices of the Hundred of Seisdon to settle a Table of Fees to be taken by the Clerk, subject to the Approval of One of the Secretaries of State.

IX. And be it enacted, That as soon as conveniently may be after the passing of this Act Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace acting for the Northern Division of the Hundred of *Seisdon* in the County of *Stafford*, in Special Sessions assembled, or any Two of them, shall make and settle a Table of the Fees which shall be taken by the Clerk to be appointed under this Act; and such Table of Fees shall be submitted to One of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, and such Table of Fees shall be confirmed and allowed by such Secretary of State, either with or without any Additions, Abatements, or Alterations therein to be made, or not, at the Discretion of such Secretary of State, and thenceforth such Clerk shall and lawfully may demand and take the Fees therein mentioned: Provided always, that it shall be lawful for any such Justices in Special Sessions assembled, or any Two of them, from Time to Time as Occasion may require, to

to make and settle any other Table of Fees to be taken instead of the Fees contained in any former Table, which shall be also submitted to and be confirmed and allowed by One of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, in the Manner herein-before mentioned with respect to the first-mentioned Table of Fees; provided also, that until such Tables of the Fees so to be taken shall have been made and confirmed as aforesaid it shall be lawful for such Clerk to take such Fees as are authorized by the Table for the Time being to be taken by the Clerks to the Justices acting for the said County of *Stafford*; provided also, that a Copy of the Table of Fees payable to such Clerk shall be affixed for public Inspection in the public Office or Place of public Business of the Justice or Justices acting in pursuance of this Act.

Until Table of Fees approved, present Fees to be taken.

X. And be it enacted, That such Clerk so to be appointed shall receive all Fees and Monies chargeable and to be received in respect of any Act or Business to be done or transacted by any Justice or Clerk in the Execution or by virtue of his or their Office or Employment as Justice of Peace or Clerk as aforesaid, and shall pay the same over to the Treasurer of the Fee Fund herein-after mentioned, and keep a full, true, and particular Account in Writing of all such Fees and Monies, and shall once in every Quarter of a Year, or oftener if required, render to the said Justices acting for the said Northern Division of the Hundred of *Seisdon* a true Account, verified by the Declaration of such Clerk before some Justice acting for the said Division (which Declaration every or any such Justice is hereby empowered and authorized to receive), of all Fees and Monies received by him under the Authority of this Act during the Period of such Account, in such Form and with such Particulars as the said Justices acting for the Division aforesaid shall from Time to Time require.

Clerk to receive and keep an Account of Fees.

XI. And be it enacted, That all Fees and Monies which such Clerk to the Stipendiary Justice shall so receive as aforesaid shall be carried to the Account of, and, together with all Monies arising from the Rates under this Act, shall constitute One aggregate general Fund, to be called "The Fee Fund of the Justices for the Northern Division of the Hundred of *Seisdon*," and which Fund shall be placed and remain in such Bank within the Town of *Wolverhampton* as the Justices assembled at the General or Quarter Sessions of the Peace for the County of *Stafford*, or at any Adjournment of the same, shall from Time to Time direct; and it shall be lawful for the said Justices in Quarter Sessions assembled, upon Notice to be given thereof with the Notice for holding the Sessions, if they shall think it necessary or expedient so to do, from Time to Time to appoint any fit Person to be Treasurer of the said Fee Fund, with such yearly or other Salary or Allowance, to be paid out of the same Fund, as the said Justices shall think fit: Provided always, that sufficient Security shall be taken from every such Treasurer, and every other Officer intrusted with the Custody of such Fee Fund, or with the Custody of the Monies arising from the Rates under this Act, for the faithful Execution and due Performance of his Office, such Treasurer to be removable from his said Office at the Pleasure of the said Justices.

Fees and Monies received under the Act to form One general Fund.

Quarter Sessions to appoint a Treasurer, who shall give Security.

Application of the Fee Fund.

XII. And be it enacted, That the aforesaid Fee Fund shall be applicable and shall be from Time to Time applied in the Payment of the Salary of the Stipendiary Justice to be appointed under this Act, and of the Clerk and Treasurer to be appointed as aforesaid, and in Payment of the Expences of applying for, obtaining, and passing this Act (together with lawful Interest for any Money which shall have been advanced and paid for such Expences from the Time of advancing the same), and in purchasing or providing Lands, Buildings, Rooms, Offices, Lock-up Houses, and Conveniences necessary for the Purposes of this Act, and in their Repair and Maintenance, and in paying the Expences of Printing, Stationery, and all Charges and Expences by this Act authorized, and in the Payment of the Charges and Expences of carrying this Act and the Purposes thereof into execution.

Accounts to be kept, balanced, and audited.

XIII. And be it enacted, That full and accurate Accounts of all Monies received and expended under the Provisions of this Act shall be kept by such Persons as shall be appointed by the Justices of the Court of General or Quarter Sessions for the Purpose, and in such Manner as such Justices shall from Time to Time order or direct; and such Accounts shall be balanced once in every Year at the least, and such Accounts shall be audited once in every Year at the least by such Justices, or by such Person or Persons as such Justices may appoint as Auditor or Auditors of such Accounts, which they are hereby authorized to appoint; and all Accounts, Books, and Vouchers relating to such Accounts shall be produced to such Justices, or to such Auditors; and the Remuneration of such Auditors may be defrayed by the Order of such Justices out of the said Fee Fund; and such Justices may make such Orders and Regulations for effecting such several Purposes as to such Justices shall seem expedient.

Abstract of Accounts, audited and certified, to be transmitted to the Clerk of the Peace, and be open to Inspection.

XIV. And be it enacted, That an annual Account in abstract shall be prepared of the total Receipts and Expenditure of all Funds to be levied under this Act for the past Year, under the several distinct Heads of Receipts and Expenditure, with a Statement of the Balance of the said Account duly audited and certified by Three or more of the Justices of the Peace of the Northern Division of the Hundred of *Seisdon*, or by such Auditors as aforesaid; and a Copy of such annual Account shall be transmitted free of Charge to the Clerk of the Peace for the said County of *Stafford* on or before the Twenty-first Day of *March* in each Year, to be by such Clerk of the Peace laid before the next General Quarter Sessions of the Peace; and such Clerk of the Peace shall be entitled to a Fee of Five Shillings for receiving such Copy, and the same shall at all reasonable Times be open to the Inspection of the Public, on Payment of One Shilling, and the further Sum of One Shilling *per* every Hour of such Inspection; and if the Person having the Custody of such Accounts under the Authority of such Justices shall omit to prepare and transmit such Account as aforesaid, he shall forfeit for every such Omission the Sum of Twenty Pounds.

Penalty.

Clerks disqualified from acting

XV. And be it enacted, That no Clerk appointed under this Act, except as herein-after provided, shall, during the Continuance of his Office,

Office, or within Six Calendar Months after he shall have resigned, or shall have been removed from such Office, be concerned, either by himself or any Partner, or in any Manner, directly or indirectly, as an Attorney or Agent in any Matter brought or to be brought before the Justice, or in any Prosecution at any Court of Sessions or of the Peace, or of Oyer and Terminer and Gaol Delivery, arising out of or consequent upon any Proceeding before the Justice; and any Clerk who shall offend against this Enactment shall forfeit the Sum of Fifty Pounds, to be recovered by any Person who will sue for the same, by Action of Debt or Information, to be commenced within Six Calendar Months next after the Commission of the Offence; but nothing herein contained shall subject any such Clerk to any Penalty for any Act done by him in the Discharge of his official Duty.

as Attornies in certain Cases.

Penalty.

XVI. And be it enacted, That in order to provide suitable and convenient Rooms and Offices for the Attendance and Business of the said Stipendiary Justice, and proper Lock-up Houses or temporary Places of Confinement for Persons charged with Felonies, Misdemeanors, and other Offences within the Limits of this Act, and for any Uses or Purposes incidental to the Execution of this Act, it shall be lawful for Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace acting for the said County of *Stafford*, in General or Quarter Sessions assembled, and they are hereby authorized and empowered (on Application or Requisition made to them for the Purpose in Writing, transmitted to the Office of the Clerk of the Peace of the said County, signed by any Five or more Householders in the Township of *Wolverhampton* as one Division, of the Township of *Bilston* as one other Division, of the Parish of *Wednesbury* as one other Division, of the Parish of *Westbromwich* as one other Division, and of the Parish of *Kingswinford* as one other Division respectively, liable to be rated or assessed in such Townships or Parishes or Places respectively for the Purposes of this Act to the Amount of Twenty Pounds each or upwards, and of which Application or Requisition Notice shall be given by the Clerk of the Peace (with the Notice for holding the Sessions,) to treat, contract, and agree with any Person or Persons for the Purchase of, or for the hiring for any Term or for any Number of Years of any fit and suitable Buildings and Premises, or of any Land or Ground for the Erection thereon of any Buildings for any of the Purposes aforesaid, and also to contract and agree with any Person or Persons for the erecting of any such Rooms, Offices, or Lock-up Places as aforesaid, or any of them, or for any Uses or Purposes incidental to the Execution of this Act, and from Time to Time to fit up, repair, alter, improve, and maintain the same respectively, as the said Justices shall from Time to Time order and direct; and the Treasurer to be appointed for the Purposes of this Act shall and he is hereby authorized and required from Time to Time to pay the Purchase Money for such Houses, Buildings, Lands, Grounds, and Premises, and also the Costs and Expences of all Erections, Alterations, Fittings-up, Repairs, and Works made or done from Time to Time by the Order or Directions of the said Justices, for the Purposes of this Act, and also such yearly or periodical Rents or Payments as shall be agreed upon as aforesaid between such Justices and the respective Owners, Lessees, or Persons interested in such Houses,

As to providing Offices for the Justice, and Lock-up Houses for the Purposes of this Act.

Houses, Buildings, and Premises, on demand, and Production of any Lease, Assignment, Contract, or Agreement made in pursuance of this Act, on an Order signed by any Three or more of the said Justices for such Payments; and all such Buildings, Land, Ground, and Premises shall be conveyed to the Clerk of the Peace of the County of *Stafford* for the Time being, and be vested in and held by him in trust for the Purposes of this Act.

Constables authorized to take Recognizances in certain Cases, without Fee or Reward.

XVII. And be it enacted, That for the better Administration of the Police within the Limits of this Act it shall be lawful for such Stipendiary Justice, by Writing under his Hand, to appoint One or more of the Constables in every Township within the Limits aforesaid, and at his Pleasure in like Manner to vacate any such Appointment, for the Purpose of taking, and every such Constable so appointed is hereby authorized to take, Recognizances, without any Fee or Reward, from any Person who shall be brought before him in the Night-time (or at any other Time when such Justice is not sitting for the Despatch of Business as aforesaid) on any Charge not amounting to Felony, for the Appearance of such Person before such Justice, or before any other Justice or Justices of the Peace of the said County of *Stafford* acting for the said Division, at his or their next public Sitting, for further Examination; and such Recognizances so to be taken as aforesaid shall be of equal Obligation to the Parties entering into the same, and liable to the same Proceedings for the estreating thereof, as if the same had been taken before any of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace; and every such Constable shall enter in a Book to be kept for that Purpose the Names, Residences, and Occupations of the Parties and of their Sureties (if any) entering into any such Recognizance, together with the Conditions thereof, and the Sums respectively acknowledged, and shall lay the same before the Justice or Justices who shall be present at the Time and Place when and where the Parties are required to appear; and if the Parties do not appear at the Time and Place required, or within One Hour afterwards, such Justice or Justices shall cause a Record of the Recognizance to be drawn up, and to be signed by such Constable, and shall return the same to the next General or Quarter Sessions of the Peace, or the Adjournment thereof, for the said County of *Stafford*, with a Certificate at the Back thereof, signed by such Justice or Justices, that the Parties have not complied with the Obligation therein contained, and the Clerk of the Peace shall make the like Extracts and Schedules of every such Recognizance as of Recognizances taken in the Sessions of the Peace; but in case the Parties not appearing shall apply by any Person on their Behalf to postpone the hearing of the Charge against them, it shall be lawful for such Justice or Justices to enlarge the Recognizances to such further Time as he or they shall think proper; and in case of Appearance of the Parties before any Justice in pursuance of a Recognizance, then such Recognizance shall be discharged by such Justice, without a Fee.

Justices at General or Quarter Sessions may

XVIII. And be it enacted, That for raising the Monies necessary from Time to Time for Payment of the Salary of the Stipendiary Justice to be appointed under this Act, and of the Clerk and Treasurer

surer to be appointed as aforesaid, and for Payment of the Expences of applying for, obtaining, and passing this Act (together with lawful Interest for any Money which shall have been advanced and paid for such Expences from the Time of advancing the same), and also for the Payment of the Charges and Expences of carrying this Act and the Purposes thereof into execution, it shall be lawful for the Justices of the Peace acting for the said County of *Stafford*, at any General or Quarter Sessions of the Peace holden in and for the said County, or at any Adjournment thereof, and they are hereby required, from Time to Time to make a Rate or Rates, Assessment or Assessments (not exceeding the Amount herein-after limited, and of which Rate or Assessment Notice shall be given with the Notice for holding the Sessions,) upon all Property rateable to the County Rate within the Limits of the said several Parishes, Townships, or Places, for the Purpose of raising so much Money as, together with the Fee Fund herein-before mentioned (the Amount or probable Amount of which shall from Time to Time be by the said Justices ascertained or estimated as correctly as may be), shall be sufficient for the Payment of the said several Salaries, Charges, and Expences herein mentioned, such Rate or Rates, Assessment or Assessments to be made in the same Manner as is now by Law directed, authorized, or practised for making County Rates.

make Rate for Payment of Expences of Act.

XIX. Provided always, and be it enacted, That the annual Value of the rateable Property within the Limits of the said several Parishes, Townships, or Places rateable under this Act as aforesaid, as such Value shall have been, or from Time to Time may be, ascertained and determined for the Purpose of assessing the County Rate upon or within the same Parishes, Townships, or Places respectively, shall be from Time to Time adopted and taken by the said Justices as the Basis of any Assessment and Rating to be made by them for the Purposes of this Act as aforesaid, without any separate or other Valuation of such Property or any Part thereof being made or required.

Mode of ascertaining Value of rateable Property.

XX. And be it enacted, That all and every the Powers, Authorities, Provisions, Clauses, and Regulations given or contained by or in any Act or Acts of Parliament now subsisting and in force, for or relating to the making, assessing, collecting, levying, paying, or enforcing of County Rates in *England*, shall, so far as the Nature of the Case will admit, and except as is herein otherwise specially provided, be deemed and taken to apply to the said Rate or Rates so by this Act directed or authorized to be made as aforesaid, as if the same Powers, Authorities, Provisions, Clauses, and Regulations were here severally repeated and re-enacted with reference to such Rate or Rates, and in the same Manner, and as fully and effectually, in all respects, as if such Rate or Rates respectively were a County Rate assessed or to be assessed upon the said several Parishes, Townships, or Places intended to be hereby made liable to the Payment thereof as aforesaid: Provided always, that the Sum to be raised by a Rate or Rates under the Authority of this Act as aforesaid (except as herein-after mentioned) shall not in any One Year exceed the Sum

Powers of Acts relating to County Rates applied to this Act.

of Two-pence in the Pound upon the annual Value of the rateable Property in the several Parishes, Townships, or Places aforesaid.

Rates in certain Parishes, &c. may be increased for erecting Offices, &c.

XXI. And whereas it may be necessary to increase the Amount aforesaid for defraying the Costs and Expences of purchasing, erecting, or providing Rooms, Lock-up Houses, and other Buildings, Offices, and Land, for the Purposes of this Act, as aforesaid; be it therefore enacted, That it shall be lawful for the Justices of the Peace acting for the said County of *Stafford*, at any General or Quarter Sessions of the Peace holden in and for the said County, or at any Adjournment thereof, to increase to any Extent, not exceeding the further Sum of Four-pence in the Pound altogether, nor Two-pence in the Pound in any One Year, the Rate or Charge on the Occupiers of rateable Property within the respective Parishes or Townships wherein any such Rooms, Lock-up Houses, Buildings, Offices, or Land shall be deemed requisite by the said Justices to be provided for the Purposes aforesaid, and wherein any Five or more of the Inhabitants liable to be rated or assessed as aforesaid shall make any such Application or Requisition as herein-before mentioned, and of which Application and Requisition Notice shall be given by the Clerk of the Peace with the Notice for holding the Sessions: Provided always, that no such increased Rate shall be made or assessed after the Expiration of Three Years from the passing of this Act.

Overseers of the several Parishes, &c. to levy and collect the Rates.

XXII. Provided also, and be it enacted, That the Overseer or Overseers of the Poor of the said several Parishes, Townships, or Places liable to the Payment of any Rate to be made under the Authority of this Act as aforesaid, or other the Person or Persons whose Duty it shall be to collect and levy the County Rates, shall, within the Time to be limited or expressed for that Purpose in or by the Order of the said Justices making such Rate as aforesaid (which Order shall of itself, and without any other Precept or Warrant whatsoever, be a sufficient Authority for the levying of the said Rate by such Overseer or Overseers, or other Person or Persons whose Duty it shall be to levy the same as aforesaid,) levy and collect such Rate, and pay the Amount thereof into the Hands of the Treasurer of the said Fee Fund, or, if there be no such Treasurer, into the Hands of the Clerk to the said Stipendiary Justice, who shall carry the same to the Account of the said Fee Fund herein-before directed to be formed; and in case any such Overseer or Overseers of the Poor, or other Person or Persons whose Duty it shall be to collect or levy such Rate as aforesaid, shall neglect, make default, or refuse to pay the same within the Time to be limited or specified for that Purpose as aforesaid, to the said Treasurer or Clerk hereby appointed and authorized to receive the same as aforesaid, it shall be lawful for any Justice of the Peace of the said County of *Stafford*, upon Complaint thereof made by such Treasurer or Clerk as aforesaid, to levy the same by Distress and Sale of the Offenders Goods.

Penalties applicable to the Rate to

XXIII. Provided also, and be it enacted, That all or any Forfeitures or Penalties to be inflicted or recoverable under or by virtue

of any of the statutable Powers or Provisions hereby extended or made applicable to the said Rate hereby directed to be made and levied as aforesaid, in respect of such Rate, or any Proceeding relating thereunto, shall, when recovered, be paid to the said Treasurer of the said Fee Fund, or to the said Clerk as aforesaid, and shall be by him carried to the Account of the said general Fee Fund, and be applied as Part thereof. be carried to the Account of the general Fee Fund.

XXIV. And be it enacted, That all other Fines, Penalties, and Forfeitures, except such as are herein-before referred to, and which shall be imposed by such Stipendiary Justice, either alone or together with any other Justice or Justices of the Peace for the said County, which are or shall be by any Act limited and made payable to Her Majesty, or to any Person whomsoever, save and except the Informer, who shall sue for the same, or any Party aggrieved, shall be recovered for and adjudged to be paid to the Treasurer of the Public Stock of the County of *Stafford*, and shall be applied in aid or reduction of the general County Rate: Provided always, that nothing herein contained shall extend to any Penalties or Forfeitures to be recovered under any Act relating to the Customs, Excise, or Post Office, or to Trade or Navigation, or any Branch of Her Majesty's Revenue. Penalties payable to Her Majesty, &c. shall be paid to County Treasurer, in aid of County Rate. Proviso.

XXV. And be it enacted, That the several Words herein-after particularized, used in this Act, shall bear the Interpretation following, unless there shall be something in the Subject Matter or Context repugnant thereto; (that is to say,) Interpretation of Act.

Words importing the Singular Number shall include the Plural Number, and Words importing the Plural Number shall include the Singular:

Words importing the Masculine Gender only shall include Females.

XXVI. And be it enacted, That this Act shall be a Public Act, and shall be judicially taken notice of as such. Public Act.

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