



CHAPTER xliii.

An Act to remove the restrictions in respect of sulphur A.D. 1906.
compounds (other than sulphuretted hydrogen) now
imposed upon certain gas companies. [20th July 1906.]

WHEREAS the several gas companies (hereinafter severally and collectively referred to as "the Companies") enumerated in the first column of the schedule hereto (hereinafter called "the schedule") are by virtue of the Acts severally set forth in their relative position in the second column of the schedule (which said Acts are hereinafter called "the scheduled Acts") now subject to certain statutory restrictions with respect to the testing for sulphur compounds in the gas supplied by them respectively :

And whereas a departmental committee known as "the Metropolitan Gas Committee" was appointed by the Board of Trade in the year 1904 to inquire and report as to the statutory requirements relating to the illuminating power and purity of gas supplied by the metropolitan gas companies and as to the methods now adopted for testing the same and as to whether any alteration was desirable in such requirements or methods and if so whether any consequential alteration should be made in the standard price of gas :

And whereas the said committee after taking evidence on the various matters referred for inquiry to them reported (inter alia) as follows :—

"With regard to the injurious effects of the presence
" in gas of sulphur compounds other than sulphuretted
" hydrogen the evidence is conflicting But it is not
" disputed that only a small percentage of the gas under-
" takings in the United Kingdom (whether in the hands

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“ of companies or local authorities) are required to take
“ these sulphur products out of the gas they supply
“ Nevertheless it does not appear that any complaints are
“ made by the inhabitants of other districts on the ground
“ that the gas thus unpurified causes injury to health or is
“ more destructive to articles such as leather etc. than it
“ is supposed to be in London. In the face of this striking
“ fact the committee are of opinion that those who contend
“ for the maintenance of the clauses relating to sulphur
“ compounds (other than sulphuretted hydrogen) have not
“ sufficiently shown that their abolition in the case of the
“ London companies would be detrimental to the public. On
“ the other hand all the witnesses on behalf of the com-
“ panies have spoken with much emphasis of the anxiety
“ caused to the management on account of the uncertain
“ action of the lime purifiers and the knowledge that the
“ slightest excess of impurity will render them liable to
“ the odium of police court proceedings and they have laid
“ much stress upon the nuisance to the neighbourhood
“ which they contend is inevitable when purification is
“ done by means of lime. And there is no doubt that the
“ nuisance which is occasioned by the use of lime for
“ extracting these sulphur products is very serious not
“ only by reason of the annoyance caused to the neigh-
“ bourhood but also by the deleterious effect on the
“ workmen employed in connection with the process :

“ After careful consideration of the evidence submitted
“ to them on this question the committee are of opinion
“ that the requirement that the sulphur impurities shall
“ be removed to such an extent as to demand the use of
“ lime should be discontinued and in view of the fact
“ that no effective substitute for lime has been found they
“ abstain from suggesting the imposition of any modified
“ restriction in place of that now existing ”:

And whereas the metropolitan gas companies have by virtue of an Act intituled the London Gas Act 1905 (promoted by the London County Council) and the South Suburban Gas Company have by virtue of the South Suburban Gas Act 1905 been severally relieved of liability to forfeiture for sulphur impurities other than sulphuretted hydrogen :

And whereas it is expedient that the Companies should be relieved of the existing restrictions imposed upon them in respect

of sulphur compounds (other than that of sulphuretted hydrogen) in the gas supplied by them and to this end that the scheduled Acts should be repealed to the extent shown in the third column of the schedule: A.D. 1906.

And whereas the object aforesaid cannot be effected without the authority of Parliament:

May it therefore please Your Majesty that it may be enacted and be it 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 as follows (that is to say):—

1. This Act may be cited for all purposes as the Gas Companies (Removal of Sulphur Restrictions) Act 1906. Short title.

2. From and after the passing of this Act the Companies shall not be liable to any forfeiture or penalty by reason of the presence in the gas supplied by them respectively of sulphur compounds other than sulphuretted hydrogen and the scheduled Acts are to the extent shown in the third column of the schedule hereby repealed. Relieving Companies of liability for forfeiture or penalty for sulphur compounds other than sulphuretted hydrogen.

3. For the protection of the mayor aldermen and councillors of the metropolitan borough of Wandsworth (hereinafter called "the Wandsworth Council") the following provisions shall unless otherwise agreed apply and have effect (that is to say):— For protection of Wandsworth Borough Council.

(1) The gas examiner appointed by the Wandsworth Council (hereinafter called "the gas examiner") at the testing place or places prescribed by the Wandsworth and Putney Gas Act 1900 may make testings of the gas supplied by the Wandsworth and Putney Gas Light and Coke Company (hereinafter in this section called "the company") for the purpose of ascertaining—

(A) the calorific power by means of the apparatus prescribed from time to time by the metropolitan gas referees;

(B) the purity as regards sulphur other than sulphuretted hydrogen by means of the apparatus heretofore used by the gas examiner for that purpose or some other apparatus to be mutually approved by the company and the Wandsworth Council;

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(c) the illuminating power by means of a flat-flame burner as prescribed from time to time by the metropolitan gas referees which shall be of the best available pattern :

- (2) The gas examiner shall forthwith deliver to the Wandsworth Council and to the company a report of the result of each testing conducted by him under the provisions of this section :
- (3) The company shall not be liable to forfeiture in respect of any testings made under the provisions of this section :
- (4) The provisions of section 39 of the Wandsworth and Putney Gas Act 1900 with respect to the provision and maintenance of apparatus for the purpose of testing the purity and illuminating power of the company's gas shall apply to the provisions of this section :
- (5) The gas examiner shall make in accordance with this section testings at any testing place on such days (exclusive of Sundays) as the Wandsworth Council shall direct.

Costs of Act.

4. All costs charges and expenses of and incident to the preparing for obtaining and passing of this Act or otherwise in relation thereto shall be paid by the Companies.

The SCHEDULE referred to in the foregoing Act.

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Name of Company.	Act or Acts.	Extent of Repeal.
British Gas Light Company Limited.	British Gas Light Company Limited (Hull Station) Act 1901.	So much of section 6 as relates to sulphur in any other form than sulphuretted hydrogen.
British Gas Light Company Limited.	British Gas Light Company Limited (Norwich) Act 1875.	So much of section 7 as relates to sulphur in any other form than sulphuretted hydrogen.
British Gas Light Company Limited.	British Gas Light Company Limited (Norwich) Act 1896.	So much of section 6 as relates to sulphur in any other form than sulphuretted hydrogen.
British Gas Light Company Limited.	British Gas Light Company Limited (Staffordshire Potteries) Act 1866.	So much of section 21 as relates to sulphur in any form and section 22.
Cambridge University and Town Gas Light Company.	Cambridge University and Town Gas Act 1899.	So much of section 40 as relates to sulphur in any form.
Harrow and Stanmore Gas Company.	Harrow and Stanmore Gas Act 1894.	So much of section 59 as relates to sulphur in any form.
Harrow and Stanmore Gas Company.	Harrow and Stanmore Gas Act 1903.	Section 32 down to and including the words "section and".
Hastings and St. Leonards Gas Company.	Hastings and St. Leonards Gas Act 1883.	So much of section 38 as relates to sulphur.
Hampton Court Gas Company.	Hampton Court Gas Act 1903.	So much of section 38 as relates to sulphur in any form.
Ipswich Gas Light Company.	Ipswich Gas Act 1883	Section 28 subsections (2) (3) and (4).
Newcastle - upon - Tyne and Gateshead Gas Company.	Newcastle - upon - Tyne and Gateshead Gas Act 1864.	So much of sections 51 and 52 as relates to sulphur.
Newcastle - upon - Tyne and Gateshead Gas Company.	Newcastle - upon - Tyne and Gateshead Gas Act 1867.	So much of sections 32 and 33 as relates to sulphur.
Newcastle - upon - Tyne and Gateshead Gas Company.	Newcastle - upon - Tyne and Gateshead Gas Act 1879.	Section 27 subsection (3).

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Restrictions) Act, 1906.*

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Name of Company.	Act or Acts.	Extent of Repeal.
Reading Gas Company -	Reading Gas Act 1862	So much of sections 87 88 89 90 91 and 92 as relates to sulphur in any form.
Richmond Gas Company	Richmond Gas Act 1901.	So much of section 41 as relates to sulphur.
Shrewsbury Gas Light Company.	Shrewsbury Gas Act 1878.	So much of section 27 as relates to sulphur.
Tunbridge Wells Gas Company.	Tunbridge Wells Gas Act 1887.	So much of section 22 as relates to sulphur.
Walker and Wallsend Union Gas Company.	Walker and Wallsend Union Gas Act 1866.	Section 66.
Walker and Wallsend Union Gas Company.	Walker and Wallsend Union Gas Act 1884.	So much of section 36 as relates to sulphur.
Wandsworth and Putney Gas Light and Coke Company.	Wandsworth and Putney Gas Act 1900.	Section 38 subsections (d) (e) and (f).
Wolverhampton Gas Company.	Wolverhampton Gas Act 1893.	So much of section 42 as relates to sulphur in any form.

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