

[14 GEO. 5.]

*Birkenhead Corporation*  
*(Ferries) Act, 1924.*

[Ch. vi.]



## CHAPTER vi.

An Act to relieve the corporation of Birkenhead from the obligation to maintain a service of steamers between New Ferry and Liverpool. A.D. 1924.

[15th April 1924.]

**W**HEREAS the mayor aldermen and burgesses of the county borough of Birkenhead (in this Act referred to as "the Corporation") were by the Birkenhead Corporation (Ferries) Act 1897 authorised to acquire and maintain the ferries across the River Mersey between the Cheshire side of the said river and Liverpool known respectively as Rock Ferry and New Ferry :

And whereas by section 15 of that Act it is provided as follows—

“ During a period of thirty years from the taking over of the possession by the Corporation of the ferries known as Rock Ferry and New Ferry the Corporation shall unless prevented by causes beyond their control maintain a service of steamers between New Ferry and Liverpool at least equal in all respects to the service at present maintained and also at least equal to any service which may for the time being at any time hereafter be provided by the Corporation for passengers between Rock Ferry and Liverpool ” :

And whereas after the acquisition of the said ferries the Corporation in order to encourage greater use of the ferry services by the public instituted a better and more frequent service of steamers both from Rock Ferry and

[Price 3d. Net.]

A.D. 1924. New Ferry and maintained such services at considerable loss to the Corporation until the year 1922 when the New Ferry Pier was partially demolished by collision rendering impossible the continuance of a service from that pier :

And whereas the reconstruction of the pier and the execution of the works which would be essential before such service could be resumed would involve a large expenditure of money and occupy considerable time while the period of thirty years referred to in the said section 15 during which the Corporation are required to maintain the New Ferry service will expire in the year 1927 :

And whereas since the said collision the Corporation have increased the service of steamers between Rock Ferry and Liverpool thus meeting all the requirements of the public desiring to use the ferries and in view of existing facilities no public necessity exists for a ferry service between New Ferry and Liverpool :

And whereas in the circumstances hereinbefore mentioned the expenditure which would be involved in reconstructing the New Ferry Pier so as to enable the Corporation to comply with the provisions of the said section 15 during the short remaining portion of the said period of thirty years would be wasteful and unjustifiable :

And whereas since the adoption of electrical power for working the Mersey Railway and the tramway system of the Corporation experience has shown that the provision of a ferry service from New Ferry to Liverpool is unremunerative and is likely to continue to entail considerable loss upon those who provide it :

And whereas it is accordingly expedient that the Corporation should be relieved from the obligation to maintain a service of steamers between New Ferry and Liverpool for the remainder of the said period of thirty years :

And whereas the object of this Act cannot be attained without the authority of Parliament :

And whereas in relation to the promotion of the Bill for this Act the requirements of the Borough Funds Acts 1872 and 1903 have been observed :

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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):—

A.D. 1924.

1. This Act may be cited as the Birkenhead Corporation (Ferries) Act 1924. Short title.

2. Notwithstanding anything contained in section 15 (Obligation with respect to service of steamers) of the Birkenhead Corporation (Ferries) Act 1897 the Corporation shall not be required to maintain a service of steamers between New Ferry and Liverpool for the remainder of the period of thirty years referred to in that section : Repeal of obligation to maintain ferry.

Provided that if and when the urban district council of Bebington and Bromborough give or obtain the consents necessary for the purpose the Corporation shall on every weekday and on Sundays after one p.m. during the remainder of the said period run a service of motor omnibuses from Port Sunlight viâ Toll Bar Corner to Rock Ferry Provided also that during the remainder of the said period the Corporation shall issue tickets available by any omnibus tramcar and ferry steamer of the Corporation at an inclusive charge of threepence for the journey in either direction between Toll Bar Corner and Liverpool viâ Rock Ferry.

3. The costs charges and expenses preliminary to and of and incidental to the preparing applying for obtaining and passing of this Act as taxed and ascertained by the taxing officer of the House of Lords or of the House of Commons shall be paid by the Corporation out of the revenue of their ferry undertaking or out of the borough fund of the borough of Birkenhead or out of such other funds and revenues and in such proportions as the Corporation may by resolution determine. Costs of Act.

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