



CHAPTER lxxiv.

An Act to make further provision for the main-
tenance of the Royal Albert Hall to provide
for a rate on seats therein and for other purposes.
[29th July 1927.]

A.D. 1927.

WHEREAS by Royal Charter under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom dated the eighth day of April in the thirtieth year of the reign of Her most gracious Majesty Queen Victoria the Corporation of the Hall of Arts and Sciences (hereinafter called "the Corporation") was incorporated for the purpose of building and maintaining a hall and buildings connected therewith on the estate of Her Majesty's Commissioners for the Exhibition of one thousand eight hundred and fifty-one at South Kensington and of appropriating the hall to purposes connected with science and art as therein mentioned and the Corporation accordingly built the Royal Albert Hall (in this Act called "the hall") which was opened on the twenty-ninth day of March one thousand eight hundred and seventy-one and has ever since been used for the purposes authorised by the said Charter and by a supplemental Charter dated the twenty-fifth day of October in the fifty-first year of the reign of Her said most gracious Majesty :

And whereas the members of the Corporation are registered holders of seats or of boxes containing a certain number of seats in the hall which have been allotted to them in proportion to the amount of their subscriptions

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A.D. 1927. — to the building of the hall or have been subsequently purchased by or have otherwise become vested in them :

And whereas the management and maintenance of the hall is vested in a council consisting of a president and eighteen ordinary members who are empowered amongst other things to sell or let the boxes or seats which remain at the disposal of the Corporation either for the full remainder of the period of nine hundred and ninety-nine years from the twenty-fifth day of March one thousand eight hundred and sixty-seven for which the hall is held by the Corporation or for any less period on such terms as they think fit :

And whereas by the Royal Albert Hall Act 1876 (hereinafter called "the Act of 1876") the Corporation were empowered to rate the members in every year at such sum (in the said Act called "the seat rate") not exceeding two pounds for every seat as the members present at a general meeting called for that purpose some time in the month of February in each year should determine :

And whereas the funds which the council have at their disposal for maintaining repairing and furnishing the hall and supporting an adequate staff of officers and servants are derived chiefly from their receipts for letting the use of the hall upon particular occasions and from concerts and other entertainments together with such seat rate as aforesaid and are by reason of increased cost of such maintenance repair furnishing and support insufficient for those purposes :

And whereas by the London County Council (Parks &c.) Act 1915 the hall was made subject to certain provisions (from which it had previously been exempt) of the Metropolis Management and Building Acts Amendment Act 1878 and of the Metropolitan Board of Works (Various Powers) Act 1882 relating to means of escape in case of fire and safety of persons resorting thereto as if the hall were a house or place of public resort to which those Acts or either of them applied :

And whereas the London County Council acting in pursuance of the said provisions or some of them have made requirements thereunder on the Corporation which involve the expenditure of large sums of money on the hall :

And whereas the Corporation have no funds at their disposal to enable them to comply with such requirements : A.D. 1927.

And whereas it is expedient that provision should be made to enable the Corporation to meet the said requirements and that better provision should be made to enable the Corporation to maintain and carry on the hall and to extend the objects to which the hall may be appropriated and that such other provision should be made as is in this Act contained :

And whereas the purposes of this Act 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 as the Royal Albert Hall Act 1927 and the Royal Albert Hall Act 1876 and this Act may be cited together as the Royal Albert Hall Acts 1876 and 1927. Short title.

2. In this Act the following words and expressions shall have the meanings hereby assigned to them respectively unless there be something in the subject or context repugnant to such construction (that is to say) :— Interpretation.

“ The Charter ” means the Royal Charter of the Corporation of the eighth day of April one thousand eight hundred and sixty-seven ;

“ The supplemental Charter ” means the supplemental Charter of the Corporation dated the twenty-fifth day of October one thousand eight hundred and eighty-seven ;

“ The Corporation ” means the Corporation of the Hall of Arts and Sciences ;

“ The council ” means the council of the Corporation ;

“ The Act of 1876 ” means the Royal Albert Hall Act 1876 ;

“ The trustees ” means the trustees appointed under the Act of 1876 as existing from time to time ;

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“Seat” means a permanent seat in the hall with a registered owner whether such seat be in the amphitheatre or form one of several seats in a private box;

“Seat rate” means and includes any rate in respect of a seat to which a member shall at any time become liable under this Act or under the Act of 1876 as amended by this Act;

“Member” means a member of the Corporation whether a body corporate or an individual and in the case of several persons jointly entitled to the same seat means all such persons collectively;

“Registered holder” means any person appearing in the register of seatholders kept by the Corporation;

“The endowment fund” and “the endowment fund account” mean the endowment fund and the endowment fund account provided for by the Act of 1876;

“The special maintenance account” means the special maintenance account provided for by the Act of 1876.

Rate on
seats.

3.—(1) Subject to the provisions of this Act every member for the time being is hereby charged with and made liable for the payment to the Corporation for a period of six years from the first day of January one thousand nine hundred and twenty-seven of a seat rate of three pounds in each such year in respect of each seat of which he is the registered holder and section 4 (Annual meeting to be held for fixing the amount to be paid by the members for maintenance of the hall and carrying out the purposes of the Charter) of the Act of 1876 shall during the said period cease to have effect.

(2) After the expiration of the said period of six years the provisions of section 4 (Annual meeting to be held for fixing the amount to be paid by the members for maintenance of the hall and carrying out the purposes of the Charter) of the Act of 1876 shall be read and have effect as if “three pounds” had been inserted therein in lieu of “two pounds” and section 5 (As to votes of members for certain purposes) and section 13 (Annual sums to be carried to separate account and paid to

trustees) of the Act of 1876 shall extend and apply accordingly. A.D. 1927.

(3) The provisions of section 11 (Power to compound for seat rate) of the Act of 1876 shall be read and have effect as if wherever " fifty pounds " occurs therein " seventy-five pounds " had been inserted therein.

(4) Notwithstanding anything in the Charter the Corporation shall after the expiration of the said period of six years pay out of any moneys which at the date of such expiration shall stand to the credit of or shall be in the hands of the Corporation to the holders of seats whose names appear at the expiration of the said period on the register of seatholders kept by the Corporation rateably in proportion to the amounts of seat rates paid in respect of such seats during such six years a sum equal to sixty-five per centum of the amount which if the members had been entitled to profits would have been divisible among the members as profits (which amount is in this section referred to as " profits ") in respect of such period of six years Provided that—

- (i) the sum to be paid to any member by the Corporation under the provisions of this subsection shall not exceed the sum of one pound for each year in such period of six years for each seat in respect of which such member is registered as aforesaid;
- (ii) no sum shall be payable thereunder to holders of seats in respect of which a composition has previously to the first day of January one thousand nine hundred and twenty-six been paid under the provisions of section 11 (Power to compound for seat rate) of the Act of 1876;
- (iii) if any sum paid under the foregoing provisions of this subsection shall not amount to one pound for each year in the said period of six years for each seat in respect of which such payment is to be made the Corporation shall after the expiration of the year next following the said period apply as aforesaid out of any moneys which at the expiration of such following year shall stand to the credit of or shall be in the hands of the Corporation a sum up to but not exceeding sixty-five per centum of the profits in respect of such following year in or

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towards paying rateably as aforesaid to the holders of each seat whose names appear on the said register at the expiration of such following year any amount by which the sum paid under the said foregoing provisions shall have fallen short of one pound for each year in the said period of six years for each such seat.

(5) The Corporation shall obtain from the auditors of the Corporation a certificate of the amount of the profits and such certificate shall be final and conclusive for the purposes of this section.

(6) If in any year any member refuses or for one month after demand made by the council for payment thereof neglects to pay the seat rate in respect of any seat of which he is the registered holder the council may let such seat until the full amount of the seat rate for which such member is liable be paid and in the meantime such member shall not be entitled to use his seat :

Provided always that when and so soon as the council shall have received the full amount for which such member is liable they shall forthwith give notice in writing to him that they have received such amount and that he is again entitled to the use of his seat.

Amount due
at end of
year to be
recovered
by action.

4. If at the expiration of any year the seat rate payable by any member for that year be not fully paid either by the member or by sums received by the council from the letting of the seat of such member the amount of such seat rate or so much thereof as shall then be due shall be recoverable in any court of competent jurisdiction.

Application
of seat rate.

5.—(1) All sums received by way of seat rate shall be paid by the treasurer or collector of the Corporation to such bank as the trustees from time to time direct to the credit of the account of the trustees with such bank.

(2) The trustees shall in each year during the said period of six years from the first day of January one thousand nine hundred and twenty-seven apply out of the sums so received as aforesaid a sum equal to two pounds in respect of each seat in respect of which seat rate has been paid in that year in and towards meeting

the cost of complying with any requirements in relation to the hall made by any public body in pursuance of any statutory authority in that behalf or any extraordinary or other capital expenditure in relation to the hall and may if they think fit accumulate any sums so applicable as aforesaid in or towards the formation of a capital fund for meeting any such cost or expenditure and the trustees may accumulate in augmentation of such fund any of the income produced by such fund and may apply towards such purposes or any of them any moneys forming the said fund or any of the income produced by the fund.

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(3) Any moneys forming any part of such fund or which would under the foregoing provisions of this section be applicable to such fund and any of the income produced by such fund so far as the same shall not be required for any of the aforesaid purposes and the balance of any sums received in respect of seat rate for any year which remains after setting aside the sum so to be set aside to such fund as aforesaid shall be carried to the credit of and deemed to form part of the special maintenance account.

6.—(1) The trustees shall out of the interest dividends and annual income derived from the endowment fund so far as the same shall be sufficient for the purposes mentioned in this section pay to the credit of their account at their bankers for each seat in respect of which a composition shall have been paid before the first day of January one thousand nine hundred and twenty-six under the provisions of section 11 (Power to compound for seat rate) of the Act of 1876—

Payments
from endow-
ment fund.

(a) in each year during the period of six years from the first day of January one thousand nine hundred and twenty-seven the sum of two pounds for each such seat;

(b) in each year after the expiration of such six years such sum for each such seat (up to but not exceeding two pounds) as shall have been charged on each seat at the meeting held for that purpose in such year as provided by the Act of 1876 as amended by this Act;

and the amount of the sums so paid by the trustees as aforesaid shall be placed to the credit of the Corporation in the special maintenance account.

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(2) The trustees shall so far as aforesaid during the said period of six years in each year after the year in which a composition shall have been paid in respect of any seat under the provisions of section 11 (Power to compound for seat rate) of the Act of 1876 as amended by this Act apply a sum of two pounds in respect of each such seat to the purposes referred to in the section of this Act of which the marginal note is "Application of seat rate" and shall so far as aforesaid in each such year during the said period pay the sum of one pound and in each year after the expiration of such period the amount of the seat rate for that year in respect of each such seat to the credit of the special maintenance account.

(3) Any surplus income of the endowment fund remaining in any year after making the payments in this section before referred to shall be invested by the trustees in augmentation of the capital of the endowment fund.

As to moneys paid to special maintenance account.

7. All moneys which are by this Act to be paid or carried to the credit of or deemed to form part of the special maintenance account shall be applicable for the same purposes in every respect as those to which moneys standing to the credit of the Corporation in the special maintenance account are applicable under or by virtue of the Act of 1876.

Application of sections of Act of 1876.

8. The provisions of the following sections of the Act of 1876 shall extend and apply for the purposes of this Act (that is to say):—

Section 6 (Charge upon members for two pounds per annum in respect of each seat held by them);

Section 8 (Recovery of seat rate when ownership of seat is doubtful);

Section 9 (When seat belongs to joint members);

Section 10 (Corporation may refuse to register transfer of seat when seat rate in arrear);

Section 12 (Receipts);

Section 19 (Extending provisions of Charter as to accounts and auditors);

Section 20 (For indemnity of trustees);

and for the purpose of such application the said sections shall be read and construed as if any seat rate authorised by this Act or by the Act of 1876 as amended by this Act were the seat rate referred to in those sections respectively. A.D. 1927.

9. The Corporation may borrow on mortgage of the seat rate and other the income revenues and property of the Corporation provided that no greater principal sum than one hundred thousand pounds shall be owing by the Corporation on mortgage at any one time. Corporation may borrow.

10. Every mortgage on the security of the seat rate or income revenues or other property of the Corporation shall be under the common seal of the Corporation and may be according to the form set out in Part I of the schedule to this Act or to the like effect. Form of mortgage.

11. A person lending money to the Corporation shall not be bound to inquire whether the money is wanted or more than is wanted is raised or as to the observance by the Corporation of any of the provisions of this Act or be bound to see to the application or be answerable for any loss misapplication or non-application of the money lent or of any part thereof. Protection of lenders from inquiry.

12. The Corporation shall not be bound to see to the execution of any trusts whether express or implied or constructive to which any loan or security for a loan given by them under the authority of this Act may be subject but the receipt of the person in whose name any loan or security for loan stands shall from time to time be a sufficient discharge to the Corporation in respect thereof notwithstanding any trusts to which such loan or security may be subject and whether or not the Corporation have had express or implied notice of any such trust or of any charge or incumbrance upon or transfer of such loan or security or any part thereof or interest thereon and the Corporation shall not be bound to see to the application of the money paid on any such receipt or be answerable or accountable for any loss misapplication or non-application of any such money. Corporation not to regard trusts.

13.—(1) Any mortgagee of the Corporation may enforce the payment of arrears of interest or principal or principal and interest due on his mortgage by the appointment of a receiver. In order to authorise the appointment of a receiver in respect of arrears of principal Appointment of receiver.

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the amount owing to the mortgagees by whom the application for a receiver is made shall not be less than one thousand pounds in the whole.

(2) The application for the appointment of a receiver shall be made to the High Court.

Transfers of mortgages.

14. Any person entitled to any mortgage made by the Corporation under this Act may transfer his right and interest therein to any other person and every such transfer shall be by deed duly stamped wherein the consideration shall be truly stated and every such transfer may be according to the form in Part II of the schedule to this Act or to the like effect.

Fund for repayment of borrowed moneys.

15.—(1) In order to discharge any principal moneys borrowed under the powers of this Act the Corporation shall in every year in which any such principal moneys shall remain outstanding appropriate and set apart out of the seat rate or other income or revenues of the Corporation such a sum as the council may in such year determine not being less in any year than one-thirtieth part of such principal moneys as may be outstanding and the Corporation shall in each such year pay over to the trustees the sum so appropriated and set apart.

(2) All moneys so appropriated and set apart and any income resulting therefrom shall be applied by the trustees in or towards the formation of a sinking fund for paying off such principal moneys.

(3) The trustees shall invest all moneys forming any part of any such sinking fund and any income resulting therefrom in their names in some one or more of the securities mentioned in section 16 (Composition to be carried to separate account and invested by trustees) of the Act of 1876.

(4) The provisions of section 17 (Power to change securities) of the Act of 1876 shall apply to any securities in which moneys forming such sinking fund are invested as if they were securities referred to in that section.

Amending supplemental Charter.

16. Notwithstanding anything in the Charter or in article 9 of the supplemental Charter the hall may be appropriated to the purposes of and used for theatrical entertainments and operatic performances:

Provided that nothing in this section shall affect the operation of the Theatres Act 1843.

17. On any occasion (other than any occasion on which members may be excluded from the hall under the provisions of the section of this Act of which the marginal note is "As to occasions on which members may be excluded from the hall") on which the hall shall be appropriated to or used for any purpose for which it is necessary or convenient to erect a floor over the amphitheatre stalls therein a floor may be erected thereover and the holders of such amphitheatre stalls shall and that notwithstanding any provisions of the Charter for any occasion on which a floor shall be so erected not be entitled to the use of such stalls but on each such occasion the holder of any such stall shall be entitled to free admission to the hall and to all rights and privileges (other than the use of his stall) to which he would have been entitled as such holder but for the provisions of this section. Provided that on no occasion shall such floor remain over the amphitheatre stalls for a longer period than six weeks unless with the consent in writing of the holders of a majority of such stalls.

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As to amphitheatre stalls on certain occasions.

18. Notwithstanding anything contained in article 11 of the supplemental Charter the occasions on which the Corporation in general meeting may under the provisions of that article by resolution empower the council to exclude the members from the hall shall include occasions on which the hall is used for balls for the purposes of which a floor is erected over the amphitheatre stalls or other entertainments (not being (a) balls for the purposes of which a floor is not so erected as aforesaid or (b) boxing entertainments) whether the general public can or cannot obtain admission to such balls or entertainments by payment of money.

As to occasions on which members may be excluded from the hall.

19. The Corporation shall not let the use of the main hall for any continuous period exceeding one year.

Limiting period of letting use of main hall.

20. The following sections of the Act of 1876 are hereby repealed:—

Repeals.

Section 7 (Amount due at the end of the year to be recovered by action);

Section 18 (Income of endowment fund account to be carried to special maintenance account).

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Exemption
of com-
pounded
seatholders.

21. Notwithstanding anything contained in the Act of 1876 or in this Act—

(a) no seat rate shall be chargeable for any seat in respect of which a composition was made before the first day of January one thousand nine hundred and twenty-six under the provisions of section 11 (Power to compound for seat rate) of the Act of 1876;

(b) in any case in which a composition is after the passing of this Act made under the provisions of the said section 11 as amended by this Act no seat rate shall be chargeable for any seat in respect of which such composition is made for any year after the year in which the composition is made.

Costs of Act.

22. 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 Corporation.

The SCHEDULE referred to in the foregoing Act.

PART I.

FORM OF MORTGAGE.

By virtue of the Royal Albert Hall Act 1927 the Corporation of the Hall of Arts and Sciences in consideration of the sum of _____ paid to the treasurer of the said Corporation by _____ of _____ do grant and assign unto the said _____ his executors administrators and assigns the seat rate payable by virtue of the said Act and all other the income revenues and property of the Corporation To hold to the said _____ his executors administrators and assigns from this day until the said sum of _____ with interest at _____ per centum per annum for the same shall be fully paid and satisfied the principal sum to be repaid at the end of _____ years from the date hereof.

Given under our corporate seal this _____ day of _____ one thousand nine hundred and twenty-

