



ANNO VICESIMO & VICESIMO PRIMO

VICTORIÆ REGINÆ.

Cap. cxxvii.

An Act for incorporating the *Victoria Gas Company*, and for authorizing them to acquire and enlarge the *North Woolwich Gasworks*, and to supply Gas; and for other Purposes.

[10th August 1857.]

WHEREAS the Gasworks called the *North Woolwich Gasworks*, situate in the Parish of *West Ham* in the County of *Essex* have been established for supplying with Gas the *Victoria (London) Docks* and the Neighbourhood thereof: And whereas the Population of the District supplied by those Gasworks is increasing, and the Extension of the Docks of the *Victoria (London) Dock Company* will lead to a greatly increased Demand for Gas there, and it would be of public Advantage that better Provision should be made for the Supply of Gas within the Limits of this Act, and that those existing Gasworks should be improved: And whereas the several Persons in that Behalf in this Act named, and others, have agreed to form themselves into a Company for acquiring and improving those Gasworks, and supplying Gas within the Limits of this Act, and the Owners of those Gasworks are willing to transfer

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them

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them to such a Company; and it is expedient that a Company be incorporated, and be authorized to improve those Gasworks, and to acquire some adjoining Lands, and to extend the Gasworks, and to supply Gas within the Limits of this Act: And whereas the several Purposes of this Act cannot be attained without the Sanction of Parliament: 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, as follows; (to wit,)

Short Title. I. This Act may be cited for all Purposes as "The *Victoria Docks Gas Act, 1857.*"

8 & 9 Vict. cc. 16. & 18. and 10 & 11 Vict. c. 15. incorporated. II. "The Companies Clauses Consolidation Act, 1845," and "The Lands Clauses Consolidation Act, 1845," and "The Gasworks Clauses Act, 1847," are incorporated with this Act: Provided always, that this Act shall not authorize the Purchase of any Lands otherwise than by Agreement.

Same Meanings to Words in this Act as in incorporated Acts. III. The several Words and Expressions to which by the Acts incorporated with this Act Meanings are assigned have in this Act the same respective Meanings, unless there be in the Subject or Context something repugnant to or inconsistent with such Construction.

Limits of Act. IV. The Limits of this Act for the Supply of Gas comprise the following Parishes and Places; (that is to say,) *East Ham, Plaistow*, and so much of the Parish of *West Ham* as is not comprised within such Portion of a Segment of a Circle (of which the Radius is a straight Line One thousand Yards in Length, measured from any Point of the *Essex* Extremity of the Bridge known as the Iron Bridge over the River *Lea* in the *Barking* Road,) as lies wholly on the North Side of that Road in the County of *Essex*, and so much of the Parish of *Woolwich* in the County of *Kent* as lies on the Northern Side of the River *Thames*: Provided always, that the Company shall not be entitled to supply Gas to the Houses and other Buildings immediately abutting upon so much of the South Side of the said *Barking* Road as is within the said Segment of a Circle.

Company incorporated. V. *William Smith, Edward Ladd Betts, William Hartland, and John Dawson Lowden*, and all other Persons who have subscribed or hereafter subscribe to the Undertaking, their Executors, Administrators, Successors, and Assigns respectively, are by this Act united into a Company by the Name of "The *Victoria Docks Gas Company*," for the Purpose of making and supplying Gas within the Limits of this Act, and carrying on the general Business of a Gaslight and Coke Company,

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Company, and doing all incidental Things, and for the other Purposes of this Act, and by that Name shall be One Body Corporate, with perpetual Succession and a Common Seal, and with Power to purchase, hold, and dispose of Lands and other Property for the Purposes but subject to the Restrictions of this Act.

VI. The Capital of the Company shall be One hundred thousand Pounds, in Ten thousand Shares of Ten Pounds each. Capital.

VII. The greatest Amount of a Call shall be Two Pounds Ten Shillings, and the Interval between successive Calls shall be at least Two Months, and the aggregate Amount of all the Calls in any One Year shall not exceed Three Fourths of the nominal Amount of a Share. Calls.

VIII. When the whole of the Capital is subscribed, and One Half thereof is paid up, the Company may borrow on Mortgage not exceeding Twenty-five thousand Pounds. Power to borrow on Mortgage.

IX. The Mortgagees of the Company may enforce the Payment of the Principal Moneys and Interest due to them by the Appointment of a Receiver, and the Amount to authorize a Requisition for a Receiver shall be Three thousand Pounds. Arrears may be enforced by Appointment of a Receiver.

X. All Moneys raised under this Act by the Company, whether by Shares or by borrowing, shall be applied only for Purposes by this Act authorized. Application of Moneys.

XI. The Number of the Directors shall, after the First Ordinary Meeting of the Company, be Six. Number of Directors.

XII. *William Smith, Edward Ladd Betts, William Hartland, and John Dawson Lowden* shall be the First Directors of the Company, and shall continue in Office until the Ordinary Meeting of the Company in the Year One thousand eight hundred and fifty-eight. First Directors.

XIII. The Qualification of a Director shall be the Possession in his own Right of Fifty Shares. Qualification of Directors.

XIV. The Quorum for a Meeting of Directors shall be Three. Quorum of Directors.

XV. The First Ordinary Meeting of the Company shall be held within Eight Months next after the passing of this Act. First Ordinary Meeting.

XVI. The subsequent Ordinary Meetings of the Company shall be held in the Month of *August* in every Year, the First of such Meeting Subsequent Ordinary Meetings.

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Meetings to be held in the Month of *August* One thousand eight hundred and fifty-nine: Provided always, that the General Meetings subsequent to the First Ordinary Meeting may be held at such other Times as the Company from Time to Time resolve.

Quorum for Meetings.

XVII. The Quorum for Meetings of the Company shall be Five Shareholders holding Shares to the aggregate nominal Amount of at least Ten thousand Pounds.

Power to Purchase Lands by Agreement.

XVIII. Whereas Plans showing the Situation of the Lands intended to be taken for the Purposes of this Act, and a Book of Reference thereto containing the Names of the Owners or reputed Owners, Lessees or reputed Lessees, and Occupiers of the Lands, have been deposited with the Clerk of the Peace for the County of *Essex*: Therefore the Company from Time to Time, but only by Agreement, may purchase, take, and use such of the Lands shown on those Plans and referred to in that Book of Reference as they think requisite for any of the Purposes of this Act.

Errors in Plans may be corrected by Justices, who shall certify the same.

XIX. If any Omission, Mis-statement, or erroneous Description be made of any Lands, or of the Owner, Lessee, or Occupier of any Lands, shown on the deposited Plan or described in the deposited Book of Reference, the Company, after giving Ten Days Notice to the Owner of the Lands in question, may apply to Two Justices for the Correction thereof; and if it appear to such Justices that the Omission, Mis-statement, or erroneous Description arose from Mistake, they shall certify the same accordingly, and shall in the Certificate state the Particulars of any such Omission, and in what respect any such Matter is mis-stated or erroneously described.

Certificate of Correction to be deposited.

XX. Every such Certificate shall be deposited with the Clerk of the Peace for the County of *Essex*, and shall be kept by him with the deposited Plan and Book of Reference, and thereupon the Plan and Book of Reference shall be deemed to be corrected according to the Certificate; and the Company may purchase, take, and use the Lands in accordance with the Certificate.

Custody of deposited Plan, &c.

XXI. The Clerk of the Peace shall retain the deposited Plan and Book of Reference and Certificates of Correction, and permit all Persons interested to inspect and make Copies and Extracts of the same in like Manner, and upon like Terms, and under like Penalty for Default, as is provided by the Act of the Seventh Year of *William* the Fourth and the First Year of Her present Majesty, Chapter Eighty-three, with respect to Documents therein referred to.

XXII. True

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XXII. True Copies or Extracts of the deposited Plan and Book of Reference and Certificates of Correction, respectively certified by the Clerk of the Peace (which Certificate he shall when required give to all Persons interested), shall be received in all Courts and elsewhere as Evidence of the Contents thereof.

Certified Copies of deposited Plan, &c. to be Evidence.

XXIII. The Owners or other the Persons having, under the Provisions of "The Lands Clauses Consolidation Act, 1845," Power to sell and convey Lands, may sell to the Company, and the Company may purchase from them by Agreement, the existing *North Woolwich* Gasworks, including all the Estate, Right, and Interest of such Owners or Persons in the Lands thereto belonging and therewith used, and all Mains, Pipes, Apparatus, Rights, Privileges, Licences, Authorities, and Appurtenances thereto belonging or therewith used or enjoyed, and all which Lands and Premises are accordingly within the Meaning of the Word "Lands" as used in that Act.

Power to purchase by Agreement the existing *North Woolwich* Gasworks.

XXIV. On such Owners or other Persons and the Company agreeing for such Purchase, and on such Purchase being completed, the existing *North Woolwich* Gasworks, and the Lands and Premises so agreed to be purchased therewith, shall be by this Act vested in the Company; and, subject to the Provisions of this Act, the Company from Time to Time may enlarge and improve those Gasworks in and upon the Lands so agreed to be purchased.

Power to enlarge existing Gasworks.

XXV. Subject to the Provisions of this Act, the Company from Time to Time may continue, make, lay down, maintain, alter, or discontinue such Gasworks, Retorts, Gasometers, Receivers, and Buildings, Cisterns, Engines, Machines, and other Apparatus, Cuts, Drains, Watercourses, Machinery, and other Works and Conveniences, and also such Houses, Buildings, and Approaches thereto, upon the Lands by this Act authorized to be held by the Company, and may continue, lay down, maintain, alter, or discontinue all such Pipes and Apparatus, and may manufacture Gas, and do all such other Acts as they think proper and convenient for supplying Gas within the Limits of this Act, and for other Purposes by this Act authorized, and may manufacture, sell, and dispose of as they think fit the Coke, and all Products, Refuse, or Residuum arising, remaining, or obtained from the Materials used in the Manufacture of the Gas, and may provide and do all such Things as they deem expedient for such Purposes.

Company may make and maintain Gasworks, and manufacture Gas, &c.

XXVI. Provided always, That the Company shall not erect or make any Works for the Manufacture of Gas, except within the

Limits for Erection of Works.

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Limits

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Limits of the Lands which the Company are by this Act authorized to hold.

Power to Company to contract for lighting Streets, &c., and for Supply to Buildings, &c.

XXVII. The Company from Time to Time may enter into any Contract with the *Victoria (London) Dock Company*, or their Lessees, or any Persons having the Control or Management of any Street, Bridge, Market, Quay, Pier, Harbour, or other Place within the Limits of this Act, for lighting or supplying the same or any Part thereof with Gas, and providing the same with Lamp Pillars and Posts, Lamp Brackets, Lamps, and Glass, and other Apparatus, and for the Repair thereof respectively, and also from Time to Time may enter into any Contract with any Person for lighting or supplying with Gas any Church, Chapel, Dwelling House, Manufactory, Warehouse, or other public or private Building or Place within the Limits of this Act, and on such Terms and Conditions as the Company and such Persons respectively mutually agree on.

Company may place Pipes to light Buildings.

XXVIII. The Company, with the Consent of the Owner or Occupier of any Building, may lay any Pipe, Branch, or other necessary Apparatus from any Branch Pipe into, through, or against the Building, for the Purpose of lighting it, and with the like Consent may provide and set up any Apparatus necessary for securing to any Building a proper and complete Supply of Gas, and for measuring and ascertaining the Extent of such Supply.

Maximum Charge for Gas.

XXIX. The maximum Charge for Gas supplied by the Company shall be, for Ten Years from the passing of this Act, after the Rate of Six Shillings for One thousand Cubic Feet of Gas, and from and after the Expiration of such Ten Years after the Rate of Five Shillings for One thousand Cubic Feet of Gas.

Quality of Company's Gas.

XXX. All the Gas supplied by the Company for the Purposes of lighting shall be of such Quality as to produce from an Argand Burner having Fifteen Holes and a Seven-inch Chimney, and consuming Five Cubic Feet of Gas an Hour, a Light equal in Intensity to the Light provided by Twelve Wax Candles of Six to the Pound, burning One hundred and twenty Grains an Hour.

Company to erect a Meter to test Purity of Gas.

XXXI. The Company shall, within Twelve Months after the passing of this Act, erect in some convenient Part of their Works an experimental Meter, furnished with an Argand Fifteen-hole Burner and a Seven-inch Chimney, or other approved Burner and Chimney capable of consuming Five Cubic Feet of Gas an Hour, with other necessary Apparatus for testing the illuminating Power of the Gas supplied by the Company for the Purposes of lighting.

XXXII. Any

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XXXII. Any Two Justices of the Peace acting in and for the County of *Essex*, not being Directors or Shareholders of the Company, on receiving a Requisition signed by not less than Five Consumers of the Gas of the Company complaining that the Gas supplied to them is not, in their Judgment and Belief, of the full illuminating Power prescribed by this Act, may, if they shall think fit, by Order in Writing under their Hands, appoint some competent Person to proceed to the Works of the Company; and the Person so appointed, on giving Six Hours previous Notice in Writing to the Company, may, at any reasonable Hour in the Daytime, on producing the said Order, enter on the Works of the Company, and in the Presence of the Superintendent or other Officer of the Company make Experiment of the illuminating Power of the Gas of the Company by means of the experimental Meter and other Apparatus provided for by this Act, and the Company and their Officers shall afford all reasonable Facilities and Assistance to the making of such Experiment; and if it shall thereupon be proved to the Satisfaction of the said Two Justices, after hearing the Parties, that the illuminating Power of the Gas supplied by the Company did not when so tested as aforesaid equal the illuminating Power by this Act prescribed, or that the Company or their Officers refused to afford such reasonable Facilities as aforesaid, or hindered or prevented the making of such Experiment, in any such Case the Company shall forfeit such Sum, not exceeding Twenty Pounds, as the said Justices shall determine.

Power to Justices, on Requisition, to authorize testing of Gas.

XXXIII. The Costs of and attending such Experiment, including the Remuneration to be paid to the Person making the same, and the Costs of the Proceedings before the Justices, shall be ascertained by the Justices, and in the event of any Penalty being imposed on the Company, shall be paid with such Penalty by the Company; but in the event of the Gas being found, when tested, to be of not less illuminating Power than is by this Act prescribed, such Costs shall be awarded to be paid by the several Persons making such Requisition as aforesaid to the Company, and shall be paid accordingly, and shall be recoverable as a Penalty.

Cost of Experiment to be paid according to the Event.

XXXIV. Every Consumer of the Gas supplied by the Company shall, upon being required by the Company by Notice in Writing so to do, consume the Gas so supplied by a Meter, to be provided either by the Company at the Expense of the Consumer, or, at the Option of the Consumer, by the Consumer and approved by the Company.

Consumers may be required to use Meters.

XXXV. If any Person wilfully, fraudulently, or by culpable Negligence injure or suffer to be injured any Meter or Gas Apparatus

Penalty for damaging, &c. Meters.

or

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or Fitting belonging to the Company, or fraudulently alter the Index to any Meter or any Part of such Meter, or any Pipe connected therewith, every Person so offending shall for every such Offence forfeit to the Company any Sum not exceeding Five Pounds, and the Company may in addition thereto recover the Amount of any Damage by them sustained.

Recovery of
Rent for Gas
and Fittings
under, 20l.

XXXVI. In addition to the other Powers and Provisions in that Behalf of this Act, the Rate, Rent, or Payment from Time to Time due for any Gas supplied under this Act, or the Price or Rent of any Pipe, Burner, Lamp, Meter, or Fitting from Time to Time supplied, sold, delivered, or let to Hire under this Act, may be recovered by the Company by Action or other Proceeding in any Court of competent Jurisdiction, although the Demand in respect thereof be less than Twenty Pounds.

Undisputed
Rates, &c.
may be re-
covered by
Distress.

XXXVII. All Gas Rates, Rents, or other Payments for Gas from Time to Time due under this Act to the Company, and all Damages, Costs, and Expenses by this Act directed to be paid, and all Costs of furnishing and fixing any Gas Meters, Pipes, or Apparatus, and the Amount of which is not disputed, may be levied by Distress, and any Justice on Application may issue his Warrant accordingly.

Costs of Pro-
ceedings may
be included
in Warrant
of Distress.

XXXVIII. Any Justice who issues any Warrant of Distress for the Recovery of any Sum payable under this Act may order that the Costs of the Proceedings for the Recovery of the Sum shall be paid by the Person liable to pay the Sum, and such Costs shall be ascertained by such Justice, and shall be included in the Warrant of Distress for the Recovery of the Sum.

Several
Names in
One War-
rant, &c.

XXXIX. Several Names and several Sums may be included in One Warrant, Summons, or Notice under this Act, and either in the Body thereof or in a Schedule thereto.

Expenses of
Act.

XL. All the Costs, Charges, and Expenses of and incidental to the obtaining and passing of this Act shall be paid by the Company.

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