



CHAPTER 56.

An Act to amend the Law respecting the Metropolitan Water Companies. A.D. 1897.
[6th August 1897.]

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 :

1.—(1.) Any water consumer or any local authority may complain to the Railway and Canal Commission that any of the metropolitan water companies has failed to perform some statutory duty of the company, and the Commission may hear and determine that complaint, and if satisfied of such failure order the company within the time limited by the order to fulfil the duty, and may, if they think fit, by any such order, impose any penalty for such failure which can be imposed under any Act, and enforce any such order in like manner as any other order of the Commission.

Complaint may be made to Railway and Canal Commission.

(2.) If at any time complaint as to the quantity or quality of the water supplied by any of the metropolitan water companies for domestic use is made to the Railway and Canal Commission, by any water consumer or local authority, the Commission may hear and determine such complaint, and if satisfied that the complaint is well founded, may order the company, within such reasonable time as is specified in the order, to remove the ground of such complaint, and may enforce such order in like manner as any other order of the Commission, and may award damages to the complainant.

(3.) All enactments relating to the Railway and Canal Commission (except section two of the Railway and Canal Traffic Act, 1894, which restricts the power to award costs) shall, with the necessary modifications, apply to the Railway and Canal Commission for the purpose of their jurisdiction under this Act. 57 & 58 Vict. c. 54.

(4.) This Act shall be in addition to and not in substitution for any existing proceedings or remedy.

2. A local authority may aid any water consumer in obtaining the determination of any question which appears to the local authority to be of interest to water consumers within the district

Power of local authorities to aid water consumers.

A.D. 1897. of such local authority with respect to the rights, duties, and liabilities of any of the metropolitan water companies in reference to the quantity or quality of water supplied or the charges made by them. A local authority aiding any legal proceedings under this section may, if the court think fit, be made a party to the proceedings, and shall be liable for costs accordingly.

Extension to whole water area, and adaptation of Metropolis Water Acts. 15 & 16 Vict. c. 84. 34 & 35 Vict. c. 113.

3. The Metropolis Water Act, 1852, and the Metropolis Water Act, 1871, shall, as respects the metropolitan water companies, extend to the whole of the area within which any of the companies is for the time being authorised to supply water, and for the purpose of the said Acts as so extended reference to that area shall be substituted for references to "the metropolis" and "the limits of this Act," and as respects any area outside the administrative county of London a reference to the council of a county or county borough shall be substituted for a reference to the metropolitan authority, and so much of the said Acts or of any local Act as is inconsistent with such substitution shall be and is hereby repealed.

Return of proceedings taken.

4. The Railway Commissioners shall include in their annual report a return of all proceedings taken before them under this Act.

Definitions.

5. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

34 & 35 Vict. c. 113.

The expression "metropolitan water companies" means the water companies specified in section three of the Metropolis Water Act, 1871, namely; the New River Company, the East London Waterworks Company, the Southwark and Vauxhall Water Company, the Company of Proprietors of the West Middlesex Waterworks, the Company of Proprietors of Lambeth Waterworks, the Governor and Company of Chelsea Waterworks, the Grand Junction Waterworks Company, and the Company of Proprietors of the Kent Waterworks:

The expression "water consumer" means any person who is supplied with water by any of the metropolitan water companies, or who pays or is liable to pay any money charged by any of those companies for or in respect of the supply of water, whether under the name of rent, rate, or otherwise, and includes any householder or owner or occupier of a house entitled to make a communication with the mains or pipes of any of those companies: Provided that nothing in this Act shall affect the terms of any agreement existing at the time of the passing of this Act between a water company and a water consumer as to the supply of water:

The expression "local authority" means the council of any county, borough, or district, the mayor, aldermen, and commonalty of the city of London, and any vestry, district board, or local board of health in the county of London.

6.—(1.) This Act may be cited as the *Metropolis Water Act, A.D. 1897.*

(2.) This Act shall come into operation on the first day of September next after the passing thereof.

Short title
and com-
mencement.

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