



ANNO NONO

# GEORGII IV. REGIS.

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## *Cap. xl.*

An Act for amending Three Acts of the Thirtieth Year of King *George* the Second, and the Thirty-second and Thirty-fifth Years of His late Majesty King *George* the Third, so far as relates to the draining and preserving certain Fen Lands and Low Grounds within the Township or Hamlet of *March* in the *Isle of Ely* and County of *Cambridge*, called the Fourth District.

[13th May 1828.]

**W**HEREAS an Act was passed in the Thirtieth Year of the Reign of His late Majesty King *George* the Second, intituled *An Act for draining and preserving certain Fen Lands, Low Grounds, and Commons, in the Townships or Hamlets of March and Wimblington, and in the Parish of Upwell in the Isle of Ely and County of Cambridge*; and by the said Act, the said Fen Lands, Low Grounds, and Commons are divided into and made Six Districts, and the said Districts are bounded in manner described in and by the said Act; and by the said Act separate Commissioners are appointed for draining, preserving, and improving such Part of the said Fen Lands, Low Grounds, and Commons, as lie within the Fourth of the said Districts, with Power to the said Commissioners to assess, rate, and charge the several Owners and Occupiers of the said

[Local.] 10 I Fen



32 G.3.c.108.

Fen Lands and Low Grounds, and all and every Commoner having Right of Common upon the Commonable Parts thereof, by an equal and proportionable Tax or Assessment, in any Sum of Money not exceeding Two Shillings *per* Acre in any One Year, for carrying on and effecting the said Work of Drainage within the said District, and for maintaining and supporting the same: And whereas an Act was passed in the Thirty-second Year of the Reign of His late Majesty King George the Third, intituled *An Act for dividing, allotting, and inclosing the Commons and Waste Grounds within the Town or Hamlet of March, in the Manor and Parish of Doddington in the Isle of Ely and County of Cambridge; and for altering and amending an Act passed in the Thirtieth Year of the Reign of His late Majesty King George the Second, for draining and preserving certain Fen Lands, Low Grounds, and Commons, in the Townships or Hamlets of March and Wimblington, and in the Parish of Upwell in the Isle of Ely and County of Cambridge;* and certain Persons were by the said Act appointed Commissioners for dividing, allotting, and inclosing the several Commons and Waste Grounds within the Limits of the said Act of the Thirtieth Year of His said late Majesty; and the said Commissioners for inclosing the said Lands were (amongst other Things) authorized and directed to ascertain and distinguish, in and by their Award, or (in the meantime, until the making and completing the said Award,) by any other Writing or Instrument under their Hands, which and how much of the said several Commons and Waste Grounds within the said Six Districts were and ought to be deemed High Land, not subject to the Drainage Tax, and also which and how much of the same Commons and Waste Grounds were and ought to be deemed Fen Lands or Low Grounds liable to Taxes for Drainage: And whereas the said Commissioners have, by virtue of the Powers given to them by the said Act of the Thirty-second Year of His late Majesty King George the Third, by a certain Writing or Instrument under their Hands assigned and set out One hundred and thirty-four Acres and Eighteen Perches (being Part of the Commons and Waste Lands within the said Fourth District) as Lands which ought to be deemed Fen Lands or Low Grounds liable to Taxes for the Purpose of Drainage, which Writing hath been produced to the Commissioners for draining the said Lands and Grounds within the said Fourth District; and a more particular Description of those Lands hath been set forth by the said Commissioners in and by their Award:

35 G.3.c.48.

Reign of His late Majesty King George the Third, intituled *An Act for amending Two Acts of the Thirtieth Year of King George the Second, and the Thirty-second Year of His present Majesty, so far as relates to the draining and preserving certain Fen Lands and Low Grounds within the Township or Hamlet of March in the Isle of Ely and County of Cambridge;* and the said Commissioners were authorized and required by the said Act to rate and assess all the several Fen Lands and Low Grounds within the said Fourth District with an additional annual Rate or Assessment of Two Shillings *per* Acre, over and above the Sum of Two Shillings *per* Acre by the said Act of the Thirtieth Year of the Reign of His said late Majesty King George the Second, so that the whole Sum to be assessed upon the said Lands should not be more than Four Shillings *per* Acre: And whereas the

said



said Commissioners have caused divers Engines and other Works to be erected and made within the said Fourth District at a very considerable Expence, from which the Proprietors of the said Lands and Grounds have for several Years received great Benefit, but the Sum authorized to be raised by the said Acts hath been found inadequate to defray the Expence of draining the said Lands, and the Commissioners have been obliged to borrow the whole Sums authorized to be borrowed by them upon Assignments of the Taxes of the said District by virtue of the said Acts, to enable them to carry on the Work of Drainage, which Debt remains undischarged: And whereas it is necessary and proper that the Commissioners for Drainage should be empowered and required to raise a further Sum of Money than they are authorized to do by the said Act of the Thirtieth Year of His said late Majesty King *George* the Second, and the Thirty-fifth Year of His late Majesty King *George* the Third, and that several other Amendments and Alterations should be made in the said Acts: 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, That the several Clauses, Provisions, Powers, Authorities, Restrictions, Exemptions, Matters, and Things contained in the said Acts of the Thirtieth Year of the Reign of His late Majesty King *George* the Second, and of the Thirty-second and Thirty-fifth Years of the Reign of His late Majesty, so far as the same relate to the draining, preserving, and otherwise improving the Lands and Grounds within the said Fourth District, (except such as are varied, altered, or repealed, and as relate to Exemptions from Stamp Duties,) shall be in force and from Time to Time put in execution for draining, preserving, and otherwise improving the Lands and Grounds within the said Fourth District, as well those comprised in the Act of the Thirtieth Year of His said late Majesty, as those annexed to the said District by the said Acts of the Thirty-second and Thirty-fifth Years of the Reign of His late Majesty, according to the true Intent and Meaning of the said Acts and this Act, in such and the like Manner in all respects, and to all Intents and Purposes, as if the same were repeated and re-enacted in and by this Act.

The several Provisions, of the recited Acts which relate to the Lands in the 4th District extended to this Act.

II. And whereas the Mode of appointing Commissioners for the said Fourth District, under the said Act of the Thirtieth Year of King *George* the Second, hath been found to be inconvenient; be it therefore further enacted, That the said Act of the Thirtieth Year of King *George* the Second, so far as relates to the Qualification, Election, and Power of voting of Commissioners for the said Fourth District, shall be, and the same is hereby repealed, except as regards those that are specially named in the said Act.

Mode of appointing Commissioners under the recited Act 30 G. 2. repealed.

III. And be it further enacted, That every Person being the real Owner of Sixty Acres of Land lying within the said District shall without any further Qualification be a Commissioner; and if any such Owner shall have One hundred Acres over and above the said Sixty Acres, he shall have One additional Vote at every Meeting for putting this Act and the said recited Act of the Thirtieth of *George* the

Appointment of Commissioners.



the Second into Execution; and every Commissioner of the said Fourth District who for the Time being is the real Owner of One hundred Acres or more of such Lands as aforesaid is hereby authorized to appoint, by Writing under his or her Hand, from Time to Time, as he, she, or they shall think proper, an Agent to act in his or her Absence as a Commissioner; and such Agent shall and may, in the Absence of the Persons respectively by whom they shall be appointed, act as a Commissioner in the Execution of this Act, in such and the same Manner, and as fully and effectually, to all Intents and Purposes, as such Commissioners might respectively act and do if they were personally present.

First Meeting of Commissioners.

IV. And be it further enacted, That the said Commissioners shall meet at the House known by the Sign of the *Griffin*, in the said Hamlet or Town of *March*, on the Third *Wednesday* next after the passing of this Act, at or about the Hour of Twelve at Noon, of which Meeting the usual public Notice shall be given.

Accounts to be kept of Receipts and Disbursements, which shall be open to Inspection.

V. And be it further enacted, That the said Commissioners shall and they are hereby required to order and direct a Book or Books to be provided and kept by their Clerk for the Time being, in which Book or Books such Clerk shall enter or cause to be entered true and regular Accounts of all Sums of Money received, paid, laid out, and expended for or on account of this Act, and of the several Articles, Matters, and Things for which such Sums of Money shall have been disbursed, laid out, and paid; which Book or Books shall, at all reasonable Times, be open to the Inspection of the said Commissioners, or any Person or Persons paying or contributing towards the Rates hereby granted, without Fee or Reward; and the said Commissioners and Person or Persons shall and may take Copies of or Extracts from the said Book or Books, or any Part or Parts thereof, without paying any thing for the same; and in case the said Clerk shall refuse to permit or shall not permit the said Trustees or such Person or Persons, or any of them, to inspect such Book or Books, or to take such Copies or Extracts as aforesaid, such Clerk shall forfeit and pay any Sum not exceeding Five Pounds, to be recovered in manner herein-after mentioned.

Clerk not to act as Treasurer, and vice versa.

VI. Provided always, and be it further enacted, That it shall not be lawful for the said Commissioners to continue or appoint any Person or Persons who has or have been or may be appointed their Clerk or Clerks in the Execution of this Act, or the Partner or Partners of any such Clerk or Clerks, or the Clerk or Clerks or any other Person or Persons in the Service or Employ of any such Clerk or Clerks, or of the Partner or Partners of any such Clerk or Clerks, the Treasurer or Treasurers for the Purposes of this Act, or to continue or appoint any Person or Persons who has or have been or may be appointed Treasurer or Treasurers, or the Partner or Partners of any such Treasurer or Treasurers, or the Clerk or any other Person in the Service or Employ of any such Treasurer or Treasurers or of the Partner or Partners of any such Treasurer or Treasurers, to be the Clerk or Clerks to the said Commissioners; and if any Person shall act in both the Capacities of Clerk and Treasurer for the Purposes



poses of this Act, or if any Person or Persons, being the Partner or Partners of any such Clerk or Clerks, or the Clerk or any other Person in the Service or Employ of any such Clerk or of the Partner or Partners of any such Clerk or Clerks, shall act as Treasurer, or shall act as Deputy of the Treasurer, or in any Manner officiate for the Treasurer, or being the Partner or Partners of any such Treasurer or Treasurers, or the Clerk or Clerks, or any other Person or Persons in the Service or Employ of any such Treasurer or Treasurers or of his Partner or Partners, shall accept the Office of Clerk or Clerks, or shall act as Deputy of the Clerk, or in any Manner officiate for the Clerk in the Execution of this Act, or if any such Treasurer shall, after the passing of this Act, hold any Place or Office of Profit or Trust under the said Commissioners other than that of Treasurer, every such Person so offending shall for every such Offence forfeit and pay the Sum of One hundred Pounds to any Person or Persons who shall sue for the same; to be recovered, with full Costs of Suit, in any of His Majesty's Courts of Record at *Westminster*, by Action of Debt or on the Case, or by Bill, Plaint, or Information, wherein no Essoign, Protection, or Wager of Law, nor more than One Imparlane, shall be allowed.

VII. And be it further enacted, That the Owners and Occupiers of Lands lying within the said Fourth District shall be rated and assessed for such Lands by the said Commissioners for Drainage by virtue of the said former Acts and by this Act, with an additional Rate or Assessment of Six Shillings *per Acre per Annum*, or so much thereof as the said Commissioners shall direct to be raised, assessed, and levied upon them, in the same Manner and at such Times as are directed by the said Acts of the Thirtieth of *George* the Second, and the Thirty-fifth of His late Majesty, and subject to the same Power of Distress in case of Nonpayment; and that it shall and may be lawful for the Commissioners of the said District to drain any other Lands the Owners or Occupiers thereof may be desirous of draining, with the said Fourth District, subject to such Terms and Stipulations as the said Commissioners and the Owners or Occupiers thereof may agree upon at any General Meeting of the said Commissioners.]

Additional  
Rate to be  
levied.

VIII. And be it further enacted, That the Monies arising from the respective Rates or Assessments made or to be made by virtue of the said former Acts and this Act, so far as relates to the said Fourth District, shall be applied and disposed of, in the first place, to defray the Expences of obtaining this Act, and afterwards in making and cleansing such Drains, Banks, Bridges, Tunnels, and Outlets, and erecting and repairing such Works and Engines as will be necessary for draining the said Fen Lands and Low Grounds; and the Remainder of the Money to be raised by the said respective Rates or Assessments shall be applied in Discharge of any Sum or Sums of Money already advanced and due to any of the Owners or Occupiers of the Fen Lands and Low Grounds within the said Fourth District, as shall have been expended in Works of embanking and draining the said Lands and Grounds, and of any Bills due to the Engineers, Contractors, or Tradesmen, for Materials and Work done by Order of the said Commissioners, and in maintaining and keeping such

Application  
of Rates.

[*Local.*]

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Drains,



Drains, Banks, Bridges, Tunnels, Outlets, Works, and Engines as aforesaid; and after such Payments have been made, then in Payment of such Sums of Money as shall be due to any Person or Persons on Security of the Taxes of the said District, and to and for no other Use or Purpose whatsoever.

Commission-  
ers may  
borrow  
Money.

IX. And be it further enacted, That the said Commissioners for Drainage of the said Fourth District (not being fewer than Seven), assembled at the First Meeting to be holden after the passing of this Act, or any General Half-yearly Meeting to be holden as aforesaid, shall and may and they are hereby empowered from Time to Time to borrow any Sum or Sums of Money, not exceeding in the whole the Sum of Five thousand Pounds, which they shall think necessary for the several Purposes of this Act, and by Writing under their Hands and Seals to assign over the said additional Rates and Assessments to be made by virtue of this Act upon the said Lands and Grounds within the said Fourth District, as are liable to the Taxes for Drainage, and every Part thereof, as a Security for the Repayment of such Sum or Sums, with Interest for the same, to the Person or Persons who shall advance or lend the same, or to his, her, or their Executors, Administrators, or Assigns; and all and every such Person or Persons to whom such Mortgage, Assignment, or Transfer thereof shall be made, shall be, in proportion to the Sum or Sums therein mentioned, Creditors of the said additional Rates and Assessments and Sums of Money, in equal Degree one with another, and shall have the same Powers and Privileges for the Repayment thereof, by virtue of this Act, as the Creditors under the Act of the Thirtieth Year of the Reign of His late Majesty King *George* the Second, and shall have no Preference in respect to the Priority of advancing any Sum of Money; and that all Mortgages and Assignments which shall from henceforth be made by the said Commissioners shall be numbered progressively, beginning with Number Fifty-one; and that no such Mortgage or Assignment shall be made for any less Sum than One hundred Pounds.

Securities  
may be as-  
signed.

X. And be it further enacted, That every Person to whom any Assignment of the said Rates and Assessments shall be made shall have full Power from Time to Time, by Indorsement on the original Grant or Security, to assign and transfer the same to any Person or Persons whomsoever; and such Assignment shall be entered in a Book to be kept by the Commissioners for that Purpose (which Entry their Clerk is hereby required to make, upon any Person producing such Assignment or Transfer, and paying Ten Shillings for the said Entry); and after such Entry made, such Assignment shall entitle such Assignee or Assignees, his, her, or their Executors, Administrators, or Assigns, to the said Principal Sum and all Interest due and becoming due thereon; and such Assignee or Assignees, and every other Assignee or Assignees, shall and may in like Manner, by Indorsement or otherwise, assign and make over such Mortgages and Securities so assigned as aforesaid, and so *toties quoties* as Occasion shall require.

XI. And



XI. And be it further enacted, That all the additional Rates or Assessments to be made by virtue of this Act shall be charged and chargeable with the Payment of the Principal Monies to be borrowed by the said Commissioners as aforesaid, and with the Interest of such Monies from Time to Time, and shall vest in the Creditors upon Default of Payment of such Principal Monies and Interest, until the same and every Part thereof shall be fully satisfied and paid, together with the Costs and Charges occasioned by the Nonpayment thereof; and the said Creditors, their Executors, Administrators, or Assigns respectively, shall have the same Powers, Rights, and Privileges of recovering the said Rates or Assessments, for or in respect of such Principal Monies and Interest, in case of Default in Payment thereof, as the said Commissioners and their Collectors and Receivers could have had in case such Principal Monies and Interest had been regularly paid.

Rates to be charged with the Payment of the Principal Monies, and vested in the Creditors.

XII. And be it further enacted, That all the Penalties and Forfeitures imposed by this Act and the said recited Act, so far as the same relate to the draining, preserving, and otherwise improving the Lands and Grounds within the said Fourth District, (the Manner of levying and recovering whereof is not otherwise particularly directed,) may, in case of Nonpayment thereof, be recovered in a summary Way by the Order and Adjudication of any One Justice of the Peace for the said *Isle of Ely* or County of *Cambridge*, on Complaint to him for that Purpose exhibited by the Oath or Affirmation of any Person or Persons, or on the Confession of the Party offending (which Oath or Affirmation such Justice is hereby authorized to administer); and in default of Payment of such Penalties or Forfeitures, the same shall be levied by Distress and Sale of the Offender's Goods and Chattels, by Warrant under the Hand and Seal of such Justice, rendering the Overplus (if any), upon Demand, to the Party or Parties whose Goods and Chattels shall be so distrained, (the reasonable Charges of such Distress and Sale being first deducted); and One Moiety of the Penalties and Forfeitures when recovered shall be paid to the Informer, and the other Moiety thereof shall be paid to the Treasurer of the said Commissioners, and applied to the Purposes of this Act; and in case such Penalties and Forfeitures shall not be forthwith paid, it shall be lawful for such Justice, and he is hereby authorized and required, to order the Offender or Offenders so convicted to be detained and kept in safe Custody until Return can conveniently be made to such Warrant of Distress, unless the Offender or Offenders shall give sufficient Security, to the Satisfaction of such Justice, for his, her, or their Appearance before such Justice, or before some other Justice of the Peace for the said *Isle of Ely* or County of *Cambridge*, on such Day or Days as shall be appointed for the Return of such Warrant of Distress, (such Day or Days not being more than Seven Days from the taking of any such Security,) and which Security the said Justice is hereby empowered to take by way of Recognizance or otherwise; but if upon the Return of such Warrant it shall appear that no sufficient Distress can be had whereupon to levy the said Penalty or Penalties and such Costs as aforesaid, and the same shall not be forthwith paid, or in case it shall appear to the Satisfaction of any such Justice, upon the Confession of the Offender or Offenders, or otherwise,

Recovery and Application of Penalties



otherwise, that he, she, or they hath or have not sufficient Goods and Chattels whereupon such Penalties, Forfeitures, Costs, and Expences can be levied if a Warrant of Distress were issued, such Justice shall not be required to issue such Warrant of Distress; and thereupon it shall be lawful for such Justice, and he is hereby authorized and required, by Warrant under his Hand and Seal, to commit such Offender or Offenders to the Common Gaol or House of Correction for the County or Place where such Offence shall be committed, there to remain for any Time not exceeding Three Calendar Months, unless such Penalty or Forfeiture shall be sooner paid and satisfied, and all Costs and Charges attending such Proceedings as aforesaid, to be ascertained by such Justice, or shall otherwise be discharged by due Course of Law.

Limitation  
of Actions  
under Act  
30 G. 2.  
repealed.

XIII. And whereas, by the said Act of the Thirtieth Year of King George the Second, it is enacted, that if any Action, Suit, or Information should be commenced or prosecuted against any Person or Persons for any thing done or to be done in pursuance of that Act, every such Action or Suit should be commenced within Six Calendar Months next after the Fact be committed, and not afterwards, and should be laid or brought in the Court of Pleas of the said *Isle of Ely* or in the County of *Cambridge*, and not elsewhere, and the Defendant or Defendants in such Action or Suit should or might plead the General Issue, and, if in Replevin, might justify and avow, by virtue of that Act, as Persons acting by Authority of Commissioners of Sewers are enabled to do, and give that Act and the special Matter in Evidence, without specially pleading the same, otherwise than as aforesaid, at any Trial to be had thereupon, and that the Fact alleged to have been done was done in pursuance and by Authority of that Act; and if the same should appear to have been so done, or if any such Action or Suit should be brought after the Time before limited for bringing the same, or should be brought in any other County or Place than as aforesaid, then the Jury should find for the Defendant or Defendants, Avowant or Avowants; or if the Plaintiff or Plaintiffs should become nonsuit, or forbear Prosecution, or discontinue his, her, or their Suit or Suits, or if any Verdict should pass against him, her, or them, upon a Demurrer or otherwise, then or in any of the said Cases the Defendant or Defendants, Avowant or Avowants, should recover Treble Costs, for which he, she, or they should have the like Remedy as where Costs by Law are awarded; be it therefore further enacted, That the said Clause, and every Matter and Thing therein contained, shall be and the same is hereby repealed.

Limitation of  
Actions.

XIV. And be it further enacted, That no Action, Suit, or Information shall be brought, commenced, or prosecuted against any Person or Persons for any thing done or to be done under this Act or the said recited Acts, so far as the same relate to the draining, preserving, and otherwise improving the Lands and Grounds within the said Fourth District, unless Twenty-one Days previous Notice in Writing shall be given by the Person or Persons, intending to commence and prosecute such Action, Suit, or Information, to the Clerk or Treasurer for the Time being to the said Commissioners, nor unless such Action, Suit, or Information shall be brought and commenced within

Six



Six Calendar Months next after the Fact committed, or in case there shall be a Continuation of Damages, then within Six Calendar Months next after the doing or committing such Damage shall have ceased, and not afterwards; and shall be laid and brought in the County or Place where the Matter in dispute or Cause of Action shall arise, and not elsewhere; and the Defendant or Defendants in such Action, Suit, or Information, shall and may plead the General Issue, and give this Act and the special Matter in Evidence at any Trial to be had thereupon, and that the same was done in pursuance and by the Authority of this Act or the said recited Acts; and if it shall appear to have been so done, or if any such Action, Suit, or Information shall have been brought or commenced before or after the respective Times so limited for bringing or commencing the same, or in any County or Place than as aforesaid, then and in every such Case the Jury shall find for the Defendant or Defendants; and upon such Verdict, or if the Plaintiff or Plaintiffs shall become nonsuited, or suffer a Discontinuance of his, her, or their Action, Suit, or Information, after the Defendant or Defendants shall have appeared, or if a Verdict shall pass against the said Plaintiff or Plaintiffs, Defendant or Defendants, or if, upon Demurrer or otherwise, Judgment shall be given against the Plaintiff or Plaintiffs, Defendant or Defendants, then the Plaintiff or Plaintiffs, Defendant or Defendants, as the Case may be, shall have Treble Costs, and shall have such Remedy for recovering the same as any Plaintiff or Defendant hath for recovering Costs of Suit in any other Case by Law.

XV. And be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the Husband, Guardian, Trustee, or Committee of any Owner or Proprietor of any Part or Parts of the Lands or Grounds within the said Fourth District, liable to the said Taxes for Drainage, being under Disability or Incapacity by reason of Coverture, Minority, Lunacy, Residence beyond the Sea, or otherwise, and to and for any Owner or Proprietor being Tenant in Tail or for Life or Lives, or for Years determinable on a Life or Lives, or on any other Contingency, respectively to charge the Lands or Grounds on or in respect of which such additional Rates shall have been levied or raised by virtue of this Act, with such Sum or Sums of Money as the said Commissioners or any Seven of them shall award and determine to have been levied or raised as the Proportion of the said Rates or Taxes in respect of such Lands or Grounds so to be assessed with such additional Rates as aforesaid, and to grant, mortgage, demise, assign, or surrender such Lands or Grounds so to be charged to the Person or Persons who shall lend, advance, or pay the Sum or Sums to be charged thereon, or to such other Person or Persons as he, she, or they shall direct or appoint, and his, her, or their Executors, Administrators, and Assigns, for any Term or greater Estate, so as every such Grant, Mortgage, Demise, Assignment, or Surrender be made with a Proviso or Condition to cease and be void, or with an express Trust to be surrendered, re-conveyed, or re-assigned, when the Money to be thereby secured, with Interest thereon, shall have been fully paid and satisfied, and so that no Person afterwards becoming entitled to such Lands or Grounds shall be liable to pay any greater Arrear of Interest than for Six Calendar Months preceding

Tenants for Life, &c. may charge their Estates.

[*Local.*]

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the Time when his or her Title to the Possession thereof shall have commenced.

Saving the  
Rights of the  
Bedford  
Level Cor-  
poration.

XVI. And be it further enacted, That nothing in this Act contained shall extend or be construed to extend to empower the said Commissioners or any of them, or any Person or Persons whomsoever, to have, use, or exercise any Power or Authority over or to be intermeddled with any of the Sewers, Drains, or Works already made by or belonging to, or hereafter to be made by or belonging to the Governor, Bailiffs, and Commonalty of the Company of Conservators of the Great Level of the Fens called the *Bedford Level*, or to invalidate, lessen, diminish, alter, or take away any of the Rights, Powers, and Authorities vested in the said Governor, Bailiffs, and Commonalty, or in the Governor, Bailiffs, and Conservators of the said Great Level; but that all Rights, Powers, and Authorities which by virtue of an Act made in the Fifteenth Year of the Reign of King *Charles the Second*, intituled *An Act for settling the Drainage of the Great Level of the Fens called the Bedford Level*, or of any other Act or Statute whatsoever, or otherwise, are now vested in the said Governor, Bailiffs, and Commonalty, or in the said Governor, Bailiffs, and Conservators, shall for ever hereafter remain and continue, and be in the said Governor, Bailiffs, and Commonalty, and in the said Governor, Bailiffs, and Conservators, and every of them, as fully and amply, to all Intents and Purposes, as if this Act had not been passed.

Public Act.

XVII. And be it further enacted, That this Act shall be deemed and taken to be a Public Act, and shall be judicially taken notice of as such by all Judges, Justices, and other Persons, without being specially pleaded.

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