



CHAPTER xlvi.

An Act to authorise the closing of the church of the French Protestant Episcopal Church of the Savoy situate in Shaftesbury Avenue in the metropolitan borough of Holborn and the sale of the building and site thereof and to provide for the application of the proceeds of sale and for other purposes. A.D. 1925.
[31st July 1925.]

WHEREAS the French Protestant Episcopal Church of the Savoy had its origin in a congregation of Huguenot refugees who were permitted by King Charles II. in or about the year sixteen hundred and sixty-one to occupy for purposes of public worship in the French language a portion of the Hospital of the Savoy on condition that they should use the Book of Common Prayer and submit to the jurisdiction of the Bishop of London :

And whereas the present church of the French Protestant Episcopal Church of the Savoy in Shaftesbury Avenue in the metropolitan borough of Holborn was erected in or about the year eighteen hundred and forty-five :

And whereas the said church was duly consecrated for the performance of divine worship according to the liturgy and usages of the Church of England on the twenty-third day of December eighteen hundred and forty-five :

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— And whereas certain commissioners were on the twenty-third day of May nineteen hundred and seven appointed by the Lord Bishop of London by commission under his episcopal seal to enquire into (amongst others) the question whether it was desirable to retain the said church :

And whereas the said commissioners reported to the said Lord Bishop on the eighteenth day of November nineteen hundred and seven in answer to the said enquiry in the negative on the ground that members of the Church of England desiring to attend a service in the French language were practically non-existent and that consequently the congregation had dwindled to almost nothing and consisted of the girls from the Westminster French Protestant School who formed the choir and a few occasional visitors generally students who attended to improve their knowledge of French and who never became regular attendants :

And whereas few if any of the persons who now attend the services held in the said church are of French descent and in consequence the purpose for which the funds were provided cannot be fulfilled and the Westminster French Protestant School is now closed :

And whereas the endowments of the said church consist of an annuity of forty pounds seven shillings payable under letters patent dated the fifth day of July sixteen hundred and seventy-five in trust to be divided amongst the preaching ministers of the said church a church fund comprising an annual sum of seventy-four pounds arising from funds in the hands of the Official Trustees of Charitable Funds and a sum of four hundred and eighty-six pounds Burma railway stock representing a legacy bequeathed to the church by the late W. M. Beaufort producing a total annual income of one hundred and seventy-two pounds or thereabouts :

And whereas the said church and the site thereof are now vested in William Grellier and Arthur Hervé Browning upon trust to be devoted for the purposes of the French Protestant Church of the Savoy for ever :

And whereas it is expedient that the site and fabric of the said church be sold and the proceeds of such sale and the endowments of the said church appropriated for other purposes :

And whereas the Lord Bishop of London has consented to the sale of the said church : A.D. 1925.

And whereas the objects of this Act cannot be attained 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 French Protestant Episcopal Church of the Savoy Act 1925. Short title.

2. In this Act unless the context otherwise requires— Interpretation.

“ The Bishop ” means the Lord Bishop of London for the time being ;

“ The church ” means the premises known as the French Protestant Episcopal Church of the Savoy and situate in Shaftesbury Avenue in the metropolitan borough of Holborn ;

“ The church fund ” means the church fund referred to in the preamble to this Act ;

“ The Trustees ” means William Grellier and Arthur Hervé Browning and the survivor of them or other the person or persons in whom the site of the church shall for the time being be vested and shall include any person or persons who after the sale of the church shall be appointed Trustees in succession to the said William Grellier and Arthur Hervé Browning or either of them ;

“ The Commissioners ” means the Board of Charity Commissioners for England and Wales ;

“ The Official Trustees ” means the Official Trustees of Charitable Funds ;

“ The appointed date ” means the date fixed by the Bishop under this Act for the closing and disuse for divine service of the church.

3. The church shall be closed on and disused for divine service from and after the appointed date. Closing of Church.

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Power of
sale.

4.—(1) From and after the appointed date the church and the site thereof and the ornaments fittings and furniture thereof (other than plate) and any rights attached or belonging thereto shall be respectively vested in the Trustees on trust to deal with the same in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

(2) As soon as conveniently may be after the appointed date the Trustees may and shall sell the church and site thereof either alone or in conjunction with adjoining property (but subject to the restrictions and conditions contained in an indenture of conveyance thereof dated the fifteenth day of November eighteen hundred and forty-four) and the ornaments fittings and furniture thereof other than plate either together or in lots and in such manner and at such times and on such terms and conditions as they shall think fit freed and discharged from all ecclesiastical and other trusts uses purposes obligations and disabilities whatsoever (other than the restrictions and conditions contained in the said conveyance of the fifteenth day of November eighteen hundred and forty-four) and from the Act or consequence of the consecration of the church and site and may and shall execute and do all assurances acts and things necessary or proper for effecting the purposes aforesaid.

(3) Every assurance of land executed by the Trustees under this section shall be registered in the episcopal registry of the diocese of London and shall be effectual without the consent of any other person.

Disposal of
church
plate.

5. The Trustees shall remove from the church after the appointed date and before the sale thereof the plate of the church and shall deliver the same to and thereupon the same shall vest in the directors for the time being of the French Hospital situate in Victoria Park Road in the metropolitan borough of Hackney upon trust to use or allow the use of the same in the chapel of such hospital.

Endow-
ments.

6. On and from the appointed date the annuity of forty pounds seven shillings referred to in the preamble of this Act shall absolutely cease and determine and the church fund shall be held upon trust for the purposes declared in the section of this Act the marginal note whereof is "Application of moneys."

7. The Trustees shall apply the church fund and the proceeds of sale of any land or other property under this Act as follows :—

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—
Application
of moneys.

(1) They shall pay thereout the costs and expenses preliminary to and of and incidental to the preparing and applying for obtaining and passing of this Act and the expenses of sale of the land and property aforesaid :

(2) They shall pay or transfer the residue thereof so far as not already vested in them to the Official Trustees.

8. The Official Trustees shall invest any sums paid or transferred to them in pursuance of the last preceding section in or upon investments authorised by law for the investment of trust funds and the Trustees shall apply the income thereof and of any securities already vested in the Official Trustees or transferred to them under the provisions of this Act :—

Application
of income.

(1) In payment of an annual sum of one hundred and fifty pounds to the pastor for the time being of the French Huguenot Church of the crypt of Canterbury Cathedral to be applied by the said pastor as to one hundred pounds thereof as stipend for the said pastor and as to fifty pounds thereof towards defraying expenses in connection with such church :

(2) In payment of an annual sum of one hundred and fifty pounds to the Trustees for the time being of the French Protestant Church or Chapel of St. Julien or God's House at Southampton to be applied by such Trustees in their discretion as to not less than fifty pounds as stipend for the pastor for the time being of such church or chapel and the residue of such annual sum towards defraying expenses in connection with the said church or chapel :

(3) So long as a Church of England service shall be regularly held in the chapel of the French Hospital situate in Victoria Park Road in the metropolitan borough of Hackney in payment of an annual sum of one hundred pounds to the governors and directors for the time being of

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the said hospital to be applied by them as stipend for the chaplain for the time being of the said hospital :

- (4) As to any residue thereof after providing for the proper costs and expenses of management of the trust in accordance with and for the purposes of any scheme established by the Board of Education and for the time being in force with regard to the application of the endowments of the Westminster French Protestant School.

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