

**CHAPTER cxxi.**

An Act for rendering valid certain Letters Patent granted A.D. 1880.
to William Shepherd Williamson, of Congleton in the
County of Chester, for the Invention of Improvements in
Blast Furnaces. [2nd August 1880.]

WHEREAS by Letters Patent under the Great Seal of Great Britain, bearing date the seventeenth day of May one thousand eight hundred and seventy-seven, in the fortieth year of the reign of Her present Majesty Queen Victoria, Her Majesty did give and grant unto William Shepherd Williamson, of Congleton in the county of Chester, his executors, administrators, and assigns, her special license, full power, sole privilege, and authority that he the said William Shepherd Williamson, his executors, administrators, and assigns, and every of them, by himself and themselves or by his and their deputy or deputies, servants, or agents, or such others as he the said William Shepherd Williamson, his executors, administrators, or assigns, should at any time agree with, and no other, from time to time and at all times thereafter, during the term of fourteen years from the date of the said Letters Patent, should and lawfully might make, use, exercise, and vend within the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, the Channel Islands, and Isle of Man, an invention therein mentioned for "Improvements in Blast Furnaces," and in which Letters Patent is contained a proviso making void the said Letters Patent if the said William Shepherd Williamson, his executors and administrators, should not by an instrument in writing under his or their or one of their hands and seals particularly describe the nature of the said invention, and in what manner the same is to be performed, and cause such instrument to be filed in the Great Seal Patent Office within six calendar months next and immediately after the date of the said Letters Patent, and also if the said William Shepherd Williamson, his executors, administrators, or assigns, should not pay the stamp duty of fifty pounds and produce the said Letters Patent, stamped with a

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proper stamp to that amount, at the office of the Commissioners of Patents for Inventions before the expiration of three years from the date of the said Letters Patent, which term expired on the seventeenth day of May one thousand eight hundred and eighty :

And whereas a specification was duly filed by the said William Shepherd Williamson in the Great Seal Patent Office within the time limited by the said Letters Patent, whereby the said William Shepherd Williamson did particularly describe and ascertain the nature of the said invention, and in what manner the same was to be performed :

And whereas the said duty of fifty pounds became due on the seventeenth day of May one thousand eight hundred and eighty, but under the circumstances herein-after mentioned the same was inadvertently omitted to be paid :

• And whereas the said William Shepherd Williamson has devoted much time and attention to, and incurred great expense in, perfecting his said invention, and he will be deprived of all advantage to accrue to him under the said Letters Patent unless the parliamentary powers herein-after contained are graciously granted to him :

And whereas the said William Shepherd Williamson fully intended to pay the said duty of fifty pounds, and being himself in ill-health, and at that time attending to a partnership business which necessitated his personal attention and absence from his own private place of business, which is situated at or near Stoke-upon-Trent, instructed a confidential clerk, who had been with him many years, to attend to the payment of such duty, and on the thirteenth day of May one thousand eight hundred and eighty handed such clerk a cheque for five hundred pounds for that and other expenses, but his clerk, being much occupied, omitted to communicate with his Patent agent till Saturday afternoon, the fifteenth day of May one thousand eight hundred and eighty, but owing to Saturday afternoon being universally observed as a holiday in Manchester the said Patent agent did not receive the money to pay the duty and the directions to do so until Monday the seventeenth day of May one thousand eight hundred and eighty, which day being Whit-Monday, and observed as a bank holiday in both Manchester and London, he was unable to remit the money and send the sealed copy of the said Letters Patent so as to be in London on that day in time for the duty to be paid within the specified time. The said money and Letters Patent were sent to London by Monday night's post, and were tendered for payment of duty and impressment of the stamp on Tuesday, the eighteenth day of May one thousand eight hundred and eighty, when the officers stated they were unable to accept the duty and stamp the Letters. The said William Shep-

herd Williamson was only made aware of this omission on the said Tuesday, the eighteenth day of May one thousand eight hundred and eighty: A.D. 1880.

And whereas, on discovering that the duty had not been paid, the said William Shepherd Williamson without loss of time gave the requisite instructions for an application to Parliament for power to pay the said stamp duty and to render valid the said Letters Patent, and he humbly trusts that as the present difficulty and threatened loss arose from an accident, and not from a wilful disobedience to the law of the United Kingdom of Great Britain, he may have the relief now humbly asked for :

And whereas it is expedient that the said Letters Patent should be rendered valid in manner herein-after mentioned ; but the purposes aforesaid 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 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. Within one month after the passing of this Act it shall be lawful for the said William Shepherd Williamson, his successors, or assigns, to pay the said stamp duty of fifty pounds, and for the said Letters Patent (a true copy of which is set forth in the Schedule to this Act), or a duplicate thereof, to be stamped with proper stamps showing the payment of the said stamp duty, and to be produced at the office of the said Commissioners of Patents, and for the said Commissioners of Patents or their clerk to stamp the said Letters Patent, or a duplicate thereof, specifying the date of such production, and to endorse on the said Letters Patent, or duplicate thereof, a certificate of the production of the same duly stamped, and to endorse a like certificate upon the warrant for such Letters Patent filed in the said office. Power to Commissioners of Patents to stamp Letters Patent.

2. The said Letters Patent so stamped as aforesaid shall be considered, deemed, and taken to be and to have been as good, valid, and effectual to all intents and purposes as if the said stamp duty of fifty pounds had been paid and the said Letters Patent stamped with a proper stamp duty to that amount, and had been produced by the said William Shepherd Williamson at the office of the Commissioners of Patents for Inventions before the expiration of three years from the date of the said Letters Patent, as in the said Letters Patent provided. Letters Patent confirmed.

3. Provided always, that no action shall be commenced or prosecuted nor any damage recovered for or in respect of any Saving rights.

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SCHEDULE referred to in the foregoing Act.

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VICTORIA, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith, to all to whom these presents shall come, greeting: Whereas William Shepherd Williamson, of Congleton in the county of Chester, iron manufacturer, hath by his petition humbly represented unto Us that he is in possession of an invention for improvements in blast furnaces, which the petitioner believes will be of great public utility, that he is the first and true inventor thereof, and that the same is not in use by any other person or persons to the best of his knowledge and belief: The petitioner therefore most humbly prayed that We would be graciously pleased to grant unto him, his executors, administrators, and assigns, Our Royal Letters Patent for the sole use, benefit, and advantage of his said invention within Our United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, the Channel Islands, and Isle of Man, for the term of fourteen years, pursuant to the statute in that case made and provided, and We, being willing to give encouragement to all arts and inventions which may be for the public good, are graciously pleased to condescend to the petitioner's request: Know ye, therefore, that We, of Our especial grace, certain knowledge, and mere motion, have given and granted, and by these presents, for Us, Our heirs and successors, do give and grant, unto the said William Shepherd Williamson, his executors, administrators, and assigns, Our especial license, full power, sole privilege, and authority that he the said William Shepherd Williamson, his executors, administrators, and assigns, and every of them, by himself and themselves or by his and their deputy or deputies, servants or agents, or such others as he the said William Shepherd Williamson, his executors, administrators, or assigns, shall at any time agree with, and no others, from time to time and at all times hereafter, during the term of years herein expressed, shall and lawfully may make, use, exercise, and vend his said invention within Our United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, the Channel Islands, and Isle of Man, in such manner as to him the said William Shepherd Williamson, his executors, administrators, and assigns, or any of them, shall in his or their discretion seem meet; and that he the said William Shepherd Williamson, his executors, administrators, and assigns, shall and lawfully may have and enjoy the whole profit, benefit, commodity, and advantage from time to time coming, growing, accruing, and arising by reason of the said invention for and during the term of years herein mentioned, to have, hold, exercise, and enjoy the said licenses, powers, privileges, and advantages herein-before granted or mentioned to be granted unto the said William Shepherd Williamson, his executors, administrators, and assigns, for and during and unto the full end and term of fourteen years from the day of the date of these presents next and immediately ensuing, according to the statute in

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such case made and provided: And to the end that he the said William Shepherd Williamson, his executors, administrators, and assigns, and every of them, may have and enjoy the full benefit and the sole use and exercise of the said invention according to Our gracious intention herein-before declared, We do, by these presents, for Us, Our heirs and successors, require and strictly command all and every person and persons, bodies politic and corporate, and all other Our subjects whatsoever, of what estate, quality, degree, name, or condition soever they be, within Our United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, the Channel Islands, and Isle of Man, that neither they nor any of them, at any time during the continuance of the said term of fourteen years hereby granted, either directly or indirectly, do make, use, or put in practice the said invention, or any part of the same, so attained unto by the said William Shepherd Williamson as aforesaid, nor in anywise counterfeit, imitate, or resemble the same, nor shall make or cause to be made any addition thereunto or subtraction from the same whereby to pretend himself or themselves the inventor or inventors, deviser or devisors thereof, without the consent, license, or agreement of the said William Shepherd Williamson, his executors, administrators, or assigns, in writing under his or their hands and seals, first had and obtained in that behalf, upon such pains and penalties as can or may be justly inflicted on such offenders for their contempt of this Our Royal command, and further to be answerable to the said William Shepherd Williamson, his executors, administrators, and assigns, according to law, for his and their damages thereby occasioned; and moreover we do, by these presents, for Us, Our heirs and successors, will and command all and singular the justices of the peace, mayors, sheriffs, bailiffs, constables, headboroughs, and all other officers and ministers whatsoever of Us, our heirs and successors, for the time being, that they or any of them do not nor shall at any time during the said term hereby granted in anywise molest, trouble, or hinder the said William Shepherd Williamson, his executors, administrators, or assigns, or any of them, or his or their deputies, servants, or agents, in or about the due and lawful use or exercise of the aforesaid invention or anything relating thereto: Provided always, and these Our Letters Patent are and shall be upon this condition, that if at any time during the said term hereby granted it shall be made appear to Us, Our heirs or successors, or any six or more of Our or their Privy Council, that this Our grant is contrary to law or prejudicial or inconvenient to Our subjects in general, or that the said invention is not a new invention as to the public use and exercise thereof within Our United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, the Channel Islands, and Isle of Man, or that the said William Shepherd Williamson is not the first and true inventor thereof within this realm as aforesaid, these Our Letters Patent shall forthwith cease, determine, and be utterly void to all intents and purposes, anything herein-before contained to the contrary thereof in anywise notwithstanding: Provided also, that these Our Letters Patent, or anything herein contained, shall not extend or be construed to extend to give privilege unto the said William Shepherd Williamson, his executors, administrators, or assigns, or any of them, to use or imitate any invention or work whatsoever which hath heretofore been found out or invented by any other of Our subjects whatsoever, and publicly used or exercised within Our United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, the Channel Islands, or Isle of Man, unto whom Our like Letters Patent or

privileges have been already granted for the sole use, exercise, and benefit thereof, it being Our will and pleasure that the said William Shepherd Williamson, his executors, administrators, and assigns, and all and every other person and persons to whom like Letters Patent or privileges have been already granted as aforesaid, shall distinctly use and practise their several inventions by them invented and found out according to the true intent and meaning of the same respective Letters Patent and of these presents: Provided likewise, nevertheless, and these Our Letters Patent are upon this express condition, that if the said William Shepherd Williamson, his executors or administrators, shall not particularly describe and ascertain the nature of the said invention, and in what manner the same is to be performed, by an instrument in writing under his or their or one of their hands and seals, and cause the same to be filed in the Great Seal Patent Office within six calendar months next and immediately after the date of these Our Letters Patent; and also if the said William Shepherd Williamson, his executors, administrators, or assigns, shall not pay the stamp duty of fifty pounds and produce these Our Letters Patent, stamped with a proper stamp to that amount, at the Office of Our Commissioners of Patents for Inventions before the expiration of three years from the date of these Our Letters Patent, pursuant to the provisions of the Act of the sixteenth year of Our reign, chapter 5; and also if the said William Shepherd Williamson, his executors, administrators, or assigns, shall not pay the stamp duty of one hundred pounds and produce these Our Letters Patent, stamped with a proper stamp to that amount, at the said office of Our said Commissioners before the expiration of seven years from the date of these Our Letters Patent, pursuant also to the said Act; and also if the said William Shepherd Williamson, his executors, administrators, or assigns, shall not supply or cause to be supplied for Our service all such articles of the said invention as he or they shall be required to supply by the officers or commissioners administering the department of Our service for the use of which the same shall be required, in such manner, at such times, and at and upon such reasonable prices and terms as shall be settled for that purpose by the said officers or commissioners requiring the same; that then and in any of the said cases these Our Letters Patent, and all liberties and advantages whatsoever hereby granted, shall utterly cease, determine, and become void, anything herein-before contained to the contrary thereof in anywise notwithstanding: Provided that nothing herein contained shall prevent the granting of licenses in such manner and for such considerations as they may by law be granted. And lastly, We do, by these presents, for Us, Our heirs and successors, grant unto the said William Shepherd Williamson, his executors, administrators, and assigns, that these Our Letters Patent, or the filing thereof, shall be in and by all things good, firm, valid, sufficient, and effectual in the law, according to the true intent and meaning thereof, and shall be taken, construed, and adjudged in the most favourable and beneficial sense for the best advantage of the said William Shepherd Williamson, his executors, administrators, and assigns, as well in all Our Courts of Record as elsewhere, and by all and singular the officers and ministers whatsoever of Us, Our heirs and successors, in Our United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, the Channel Islands, and Isle of Man, and amongst all and every the subjects of Us, Our heirs and successors, whatsoever and wheresoever, notwithstanding the not full and certain describing the nature

A.D. 1880. — or quality of the said invention or of the materials thereunto conducing and belonging. In witness whereof We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent this seventeenth day of May one thousand eight hundred and seventy-seven, in the fortieth year of Our reign, and to be sealed as of the said seventeenth day of May one thousand eight hundred and seventy-seven.

By Warrant.

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Printers to the Queen's most Excellent Majesty. 1880.