



## CHAPTER ccvi.

An Act to enable Her Majesty's Postmaster-General to acquire Lands in London Bristol Ilford Sheffield and Southampton for the Public Service and for other purposes. A.D. 1900.  
[6th August 1900.]

**W**HEREAS further accommodation for the purposes of the public service is required by the Postmaster-General in London Bristol Ilford Sheffield and Southampton and it is expedient that he be empowered to acquire certain lands and buildings in those places for the purposes aforesaid and to erect buildings on any lands so acquired :

And whereas the objects aforesaid cannot be effected without the authority of Parliament :

And whereas plans showing the respective lands to be acquired by the Postmaster-General for the purposes of the public service under the authority of this Act with books of reference containing the names of the owners or reputed owners lessees or reputed lessees and of the occupiers of the lands which may be taken compulsorily under this Act have been deposited with the respective clerks of the peace for the city and county of London and for the city and county of Bristol and for the counties of Gloucester and Essex the West Riding of the county of York and the county of Hants which plans and books of reference are in this Act respectively referred to as "the deposited plans" and "the deposited books of reference" :

Be it therefore 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 :—

A.D. 1900.

Incorporation of  
8 & 9 Vict.  
c. 18  
23 & 24 Vict.  
c. 106 and  
32 & 33 Vict.  
c. 18 &c.

1. The Lands Clauses Acts are subject to the provisions of this Act incorporated with this Act with the following exceptions and modifications viz. :—

(a.) The provisions relating to the sale of superfluous land and access to the special Act and section one hundred and thirty-three of the Lands Clauses Consolidation Act 1845 (relating to land tax and poor rate) shall not be incorporated with this Act :

(b.) In the construction of this Act and the Lands Clauses Acts this Act shall be deemed to be the special Act and the Postmaster-General shall be deemed to be the promoter of the undertaking :

(c.) The bond required by section eighty-five of the Lands Clauses Consolidation Act 1845 shall be under the corporate seal of the Postmaster-General and shall be sufficient without the addition of the sureties in the said section mentioned :

(d.) All claims for compensation made upon the Postmaster-General under this Act or any Act incorporated herewith shall if the person claiming has no greater interest in the land in respect of which compensation is claimed than as tenant from year to year or as a leaseholder for any term of which not more than eighteen months remain unexpired at the time at which the claim is made be determined in manner provided by section one hundred and twenty-one of the Lands Clauses Consolidation Act 1845.

Power to  
acquire  
lands.

2. Subject to the provisions of this Act it shall be lawful for the Postmaster-General to purchase and acquire for the purposes of this Act all or any of the lands shown on the deposited plans and described in the deposited books of reference.

Any lands acquired by the Postmaster-General for the purposes of the public service under the authority of this Act shall be vested in and be held by him in his corporate capacity on behalf of Her Majesty Her heirs and successors for the service of the Post Office.

Correction of  
errors &c.

3. If any omission mis-statement or erroneous description is found to have been made of any lands or of any owners lessees or occupiers of any lands shown or intended to be shown on the deposited plans or described in the deposited books of reference the Postmaster-General may apply to two justices for the correction

thereof after giving ten days notice to the owners lessees or occupiers of the lands affected by the proposed correction and if it appears to the justices that such omission mis-statement or erroneous description arose from mistake they shall so certify stating the particulars thereof and their certificate shall be deposited as if the same had originally formed part of the deposited plans or deposited books of reference (as the case may be) and shall be kept therewith and shall be deemed to be part thereof and thereupon the deposited plans or deposited books of reference (as the case requires) shall be deemed to be corrected according to the certificate and the Postmaster-General may enter on purchase take hold and use the lands to which the certificate relates accordingly.

A.D. 1900.

4. It shall be lawful for the Postmaster-General and for his surveyors officers and workmen at all reasonable times in the daytime to enter into and upon any of the lands shown on the deposited plans and described in the deposited books of reference for the purpose of surveying or valuing such lands on giving for the first time twenty-four hours and afterwards from time to time twelve hours previous notice in writing to the owners or occupiers thereof.

Power to  
Postmaster-  
General to  
enter lands  
for the  
purpose of  
surveying.

5.—(1.) It shall be lawful for the Postmaster-General to pull down and remove all or any buildings erected on any lands shown on the deposited plans which are purchased by him and on the lands so purchased to construct buildings and works for the service of the Post Office and to make such approaches and widening and alterations of thoroughfares and do all such other things as in his opinion are necessary or expedient for the execution of any of the purposes of this Act.

Power to  
erect build-  
ings and  
form roads.

(2.) The Postmaster-General (with the consent of the Treasury) and any local authority may enter into contracts and agreements with reference to the formation diversion or alteration of streets and highways within the towns and places to which this Act refers and with reference to a sale lease or exchange of land therein and may make money payments in respect thereof.

6.—(1.) The Postmaster-General may divert alter and stop up any street roadway or passage within the limits of any of the lands shown on the deposited plans so soon as such lands are acquired by him And in particular so soon as the Postmaster-General has purchased or acquired the lands situate in the parishes of Saint Mary Whitechapel and Saint Saviour Southwark in the

Diversion  
&c. of  
streets and  
extinction of  
rights of  
laying pipes  
and other  
easements.

A.D. 1900. — county of London respectively which are shown on the deposited plans relating to those parishes respectively and are described in the deposited books of reference thereto he may divert and alter or stop up and close the public passages known as Raven Place Whitechapel and Paviours Place Southwark respectively.

(2.) Nevertheless nothing in this Act shall authorise the Postmaster-General to stop up or close the public passage or footway between Lombard Street and King William Street known as Post Office Court in the City of London.

(3.) All rights of way rights of laying down or continuing pipes sewers or drains on through or under any of the lands shown on the deposited plans and all other public or private rights or easements in over or relating to such lands or any part thereof shall as from the date of the acquisition by the Postmaster-General of such lands respectively be extinguished and all the soil of those ways and the property in such pipes sewers or drains shall be vested in the Postmaster-General in such capacity and for such purpose as aforesaid.

8 & 9 Vict.  
c. 18;  
23 & 24 Vict.  
c. 106; and  
32 & 33 Vict.  
c. 18.

(4.) Any person may recover from the Postmaster-General such compensation (if any) as he may be entitled to under the provisions of the Lands Clauses Acts for any private rights or private property of which he may be deprived in pursuance of this section the amount of such compensation to be determined in manner provided by the Lands Clauses Acts or the Postmaster-General may at his discretion grant rights and easements in lieu of any rights or easements extinguished under this Act and in substitution for money payments or other considerations and if any person is dissatisfied with the exercise of such power he may proceed in the manner prescribed by the Lands Clauses Acts in relation to the injurious affecting of lands.

For protec-  
tion of Cor-  
poration of  
City of  
London.

7. When any of the works to be executed by virtue of this Act shall pass over under or by the side of so as to damage or interfere with any sewer drain watercourse defence or works under the jurisdiction of the Corporation of the City of London or with any sewers or works to be made or executed by the said Corporation such works so to be executed by the Postmaster-General in pursuance of this Act shall be so carried out under the following conditions:—

(1.) Before commencing such works the Postmaster-General shall give the engineer or surveyor of the said Corporation twenty-eight days notice in writing of his intention to commence such

works and with such notice shall be left a plan and section showing the course and inclination of such proposed works : A.D. 1900.

- (2.) In case the Corporation shall require any alteration to be made therein they shall give before the expiration of the said twenty-eight days written notice of such requirement to the Postmaster-General and the Postmaster-General shall subject to the provisions herein-after stated with respect to arbitration comply therewith :
- (3.) The alterations so required by the said Corporation shall be executed by or under the superintendence and control of the engineer or surveyor or other officer of the said Corporation :
- (4.) All reasonable costs charges and expenses which the Corporation may be put to or incur in the execution of such alterations shall be paid to the said Corporation by the Postmaster-General :
- (5.) In case of disputes between the Postmaster-General and the said Corporation either as to the alterations required by such Corporation or as to the costs charges and expenses of such alterations or any other matter or thing relating thereto the same shall be settled by an arbitrator to be agreed upon by the Postmaster-General and the said Corporation or failing such agreement by an arbitrator to be appointed by the Board of Trade :
- (6.) Any works whether altered or substituted or any defence connected with such works whether altered or substituted shall be as fully and completely under the jurisdiction and control of the said Corporation as any sewers or works now are :
- (7.) This section shall apply to any sewers drains watercourses defences or works under the jurisdiction of any local authority and for the purposes of such application shall be read as though such local authority were named in the section in place of the Corporation of the City of London.

8. The Postmaster-General shall not break up or disturb any street or place other than a street or place which he is authorised by this Act to stop up or the pavement thereof under the control or direction of the Corporation of the City of London unless at least twenty-eight days previous notice in writing of his intention so to do specifying the street place or pavement intended to be broken up or disturbed be given to the engineer or surveyor of such Corporation or left for him at his office or at the office of such Corporation and the Postmaster-General shall attend to the

For the protection of the streets of the city of London.

A.D. 1900.

directions of such engineer or surveyor with a view to secure a free passage of traffic in such streets and places and to prevent needless injury to the street and shall not open more of such streets or places at one time than such engineer or surveyor shall in writing authorise and when the Postmaster-General shall break up or disturb any such street place or pavement he shall so soon as the works affecting it are completed and at the furthest within three months or such extended period as may be agreed upon between the Postmaster-General and such Corporation from the day on which those works were begun restore the street place or pavement to as good a condition as it was in when it was broken up or disturbed under the superintendence and to the reasonable satisfaction of the engineer or surveyor of the Corporation and the Postmaster-General shall save harmless and keep indemnified the said Corporation and their successors against any expenses consequent on any such works Provided always that in the event of difference arising between the Postmaster-General and the Corporation as to any matter or thing in this clause contained the same shall be determined by an arbitrator to be mutually agreed upon or failing such agreement by an arbitrator to be named by the Board of Trade This section shall apply to any streets or places under the control or direction of any local authority and for the purposes of such application shall be read as though such local authority were named in the section in place of the Corporation of the City of London.

Time for compulsory purchase.

9. The limit of time for the compulsory purchase of lands under this Act shall be three years.

Owner of certain property may be required to sell part only of lands and buildings.

10. And whereas a portion only of the property situate in the parish of Saint Mary Whitechapel and numbered 5 on the deposited plan relating to lands in that parish will be sufficient for the purposes of the Postmaster-General and the Postmaster-General alleges that such portion or some other portion less than the whole can be severed from the remainder of the said property without material detriment thereto Therefore notwithstanding section ninety-two of the Lands Clauses Consolidation Act 1845 the owners of and all other persons interested in the said property whereof part only is required for the purposes of this Act may if such portion can in the opinion of the jury arbitrators or other authority to whom the question of disputed compensation shall be submitted be severed from the remainder of such property without material detriment thereto be required to sell and convey to the

Postmaster-General the portion only of the premises so required without the Postmaster-General being obliged or compellable to purchase the whole or any greater portion thereof the Postmaster-General paying for the portion required by him and making compensation for any damage sustained by the owners thereof and other parties interested therein by severance or otherwise. A.D. 1900.

11. If the Postmaster-General should at any time hereafter desire to abandon the land numbered one on the deposited plan relating to the Southampton new post office he shall in the first instance offer the same for sale to the London and South Western Railway Company (herein-after called the South Western Company) and the following provisions shall thereupon apply:— For the protection of the London and South Western Railway Company.

(a.) If the South Western Company are desirous of purchasing such land then within six weeks after such offer of sale they shall signify in writing their desire in that behalf to the Postmaster-General:

(b.) If they decline such offer or if for six weeks they neglect to signify their desire to purchase such land the right of purchase conferred by this Act shall cease and a declaration in writing made before a justice of the peace by a secretary to the Post Office stating that such offer was made and was refused or not accepted for six weeks from the time of making the same shall be in all courts sufficient evidence of the facts therein stated:

(c.) If the South Western Company be desirous of purchasing the land and the Company and the Postmaster-General do not agree as to the price thereof then such price shall be ascertained by arbitration in accordance with the provisions of the Arbitration Act 1889 or any statutory re-enactment or modification thereof:

(d.) Upon any such sale the South Western Company shall not require any proof of the title of the Postmaster-General to the said land.

12.—(1.) Any land tax assessed on the first day of January one thousand nine hundred on any part of any of the lands shown on the deposited plans and described in the deposited books of reference shall as from the date of the purchase or acquisition by the Postmaster-General of the lands on which it is assessed be deemed to have been redeemed at the price and in accordance with the conditions provided by the Finance Act 1896 and the Land Tax Acts therein defined and from and after such date no sum shall be assessed or charged in respect of land tax on any part of such lands. Land tax.  
59 & 60 Vict.  
c. 28.

A.D. 1900.

(2.) The Commissioners of Inland Revenue shall grant a certificate of exoneration from assessment to land tax of any lands purchased or acquired by the Postmaster-General under this Act and that certificate shall be registered by the officer appointed for the registry of contracts for the redemption of land tax.

Sanction of Treasury required to purchase under this Act.

**13.—**(1.) No purchase shall be made by the Postmaster-General under the authority of this Act without the sanction of the Treasury.

(2.) Any such sanction may be given either generally or in respect of any particular purchase contract or agreement and a vendor to or purchaser from or person contracting with the Postmaster-General shall not be bound or entitled to inquire whether such sanction has been given.

Act to be carried out by means of moneys provided by Parliament.

**14.** All moneys payable by the Postmaster-General with respect to the purchase and acquisition of lands under this Act and all costs charges and expenses incurred by the Postmaster-General in or connected with the carrying into effect of the provisions of this Act shall be paid out of moneys provided by Parliament.

Definition of local authority.

**15.** In this Act—

The expression “local authority” means and includes the vestry of any parish mentioned in Schedule A. of the Metropolis Management Act 1855 the Board of Works of any district mentioned in Schedule B. of the same Act and the council of any county borough or urban district.

Short title.

**16.** This Act may be cited as the Post Office (Sites) Act 1900.

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