

MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONERS, CALCUTTA ACT 1848

ACT No. II. of 1848

(Rep., Act 12 of 1852)

[26<sup>th</sup> February, 1848.]

*Passed by the Right Hon'ble the Governor General of India in Council, On the 26<sup>th</sup> February, 1848*

*An Act to confer certain powers and privileges on the Commissions the Improvement of the Town of Calcutta, and to provide for the execution of certain public works by them.*

WHEREAS by Act No. XVI. of 1847, it was amongst others enacted, that the whole proceeds of the rates and taxes therein and after paying all establishments and incidental expenses should, together with such monies as the Government of Bengal, with the sanction of Governor General in Council, might direct to be paid over to the Commissioners for the Improvement of the Town of Calcutta therein a law be applied by them to the following purposes, viz.

Formation of Tanks and Aqueducts for the conveyance of all parts of the Town.

Opening of Streets and Squares in crowded parts of the Town by Filling up Stagnant Pools of Water and removing obstructions the free circulation of air.

Lighting and Watering the Roads and Streets.

Cleansing and repairing the same and the drains of the said Town.

And improving and embellishing the said Town generally.

And whereas for the effectual accomplishment of the purposes aforesaid it is expedient that the said Commissioners should be empowered to appoint a Clerk and a Surveyor and other necessary Officers, and that the said Commissioners and their said Clerk, and their said Surveyor and other officers should exercise powers interfering with the rights and property of individuals:

I. It is therefore hereby enacted. That the said Commissioners shall, subject to confirmation or disallowance by the Governor of Bengal, nominate and appoint fit and proper persons to be their Surveyor and clerk and other necessary Officers, who shall receive such salaries as to the Governor of Bengal shall seem meet.

II. And it is hereby enacted, that for the purpose of constructing one or more Aqueducts for bringing pure and wholesome water to the Town of Calcutta from any place without the local limits of the juridical on of Her Majesty's Supreme Court of Judicature, it shall be lawful, whenever a plan for an Aqueduct shall have been approved by the Governor of Bengal, for every Commissioner, and for the Surveyor and Clerk to the Commissioners with such Assistants as they may require, to exercise in the construction of such Aqueduct, throughout the line of entry through which such Aqueduct is to run, all the powers which by this Act it is lawful for them to exercise within the said Local limits, and which may be necessary for the construction of such Aqueduct without being subject to any action or molestation whatever for so doing And it shall also be lawful for any Magistrate of any district through which the said Aqueduct is to run, in furtherance of the construction of such Aqueduct, to do such acts, and he is hereby required to do such acts as it is by this Act lawful for a Magistrate of the Town of Calcutta to do, and as he is by this Act required to do in furtherance of any work to be executed by the said Commissioners within the said local limits.

III. And it is hereby enacted, that it shall be lawful for the said Commissioners instead to executing any of the works which by this Act they are authorized to executing any of the works which by this Act they are authorized to execute, by themselves, their Servants and Assistants, to execute the same by contract with any individual or Company who may be willing to undertake the same, and in that enjoy all the powers and privileges which by this Act it is lawful for the said Commissioners to exercise and enjoy in the execution of any such work.

IV. And it is enacted, that if in carrying into execution any of powers or authorities of this Act any house, building or other hereditament shall be damaged or otherwise prejudicially affected. The said Commissioners shall make good such damage and pay to the Owner and Occupier of such house, building or other hereditament such amount of compensation for such injury as shall be agreed upon between such Owner and Occupier, and the said Commissioners, and if such Owner or Occupier, and the said Commissioners cannot agree as to the amount of such compensation and the proportions thereof to be paid to such Owner and Occupier respectively then the amount of such compensation, and also the proportions which the persons claiming the same are entitled to shall be settled and recovered by arbitration or the verdict of a Jury to be summoned and returned in the manner provided in Act No. XXII. Of 1847, entitled and Act to enable the Commissioners who may be appointed under Act No. XVI. of 1847, to purchase real or personal property for the Improvement of the Town of Calcutta.

V. And it is enacted, that if any person at any time shall obstruct or molest the said Commissioners or any Clerk, or Surveyor or other Officer, or any workman, or other person employed by them, or any person or Company with whom they may have contracted under the provisions of this Act, or any person employed by them in the performance and execution of their or his duty, or anything which they are respectively required or authorized to do by virtue, or in consequence of this Act, every such person so offending shall for every such offence on conviction before a Magistrate, forfeit and pay any sum not exceeding Fifty Rupees.

VI. And it is enacted, that every Commissioner and the Surveyor, and Clerk to the Commissioners, with such Assistants as they may require, shall for the purposes of this Act, have full power and authority at all reasonable hours in the day time to enter, or to direct his subordinate Officers to enter into and upon any land or tenement, and in and upon the land on which any house, building or other erection is built or building, or intended to be built, and into and upon any buildings or any part thereof without being liable to any action at Law or Suit in Equity, or any other legal proceedings or molestation whatsoever for or on account of such entry, or of anything done or to be done in any part thereof in pursuance of this Act. Provided that none of the persons abovementioned shall enter upon any lands or tenements which may be occupied at the time unless with the consent of the Occupier thereof, without previously giving the said Occupier reasonable notice of his or their intention to do so.

VII. And it is enacted, the management and control over all and every of the streets, public ways and public thoroughfares of every kind and description within the said Town of Calcutta existing at the time of the passing of this Act, and of all parts of the said Town which shall hereafter become streets, public ways or public thoroughfares of any kind or description, and the pavements and other material therein, and all erections and buildings, materials, implements or other things provided for the said streets, public ways and public thoroughfares by or under the authority of the Government of Bengal, or by the Magistrates of Calcutta, or by the said Commissioners, shall be the property of, and are hereby vested in the said Commissioners as Trustees.

VIII. And it is enacted, that it shall be lawful for the said Commissioners with the consent and approbation of the Government of Bengal to pave and water such of the streets, public ways and public thoroughfares existing in the said Town at the time of the passing of this Act, or at any future as they shall think fit.

IX. And it is enacted, that the said Commissioners shall keep in sufficient repair every street, public way and public thoroughfare existing in the said Town at the time of passing this Act, or at any future time, and shall be liable to be indicted for not sufficiently repairing the same.

X. And it is enacted, that if any person shall displace, take up or make any alteration in the pavements, flags or other materials of any foot or carriage way in any street within the said Town without the consent in writing of the said Commissioners, or of their said Surveyor, or shall cause any obstruction to, or make any encroachment upon any street in the said Town, any such person so offending shall for every such offence on conviction before a Magistrate forfeit and pay a sum not exceeding Fifty Rupees.

XI. And whereas it is essential to the health and convenience of the inhabitants that straight and spacious streets and thoroughfares should be continued where they have been begun, and should be opened at convenient and suitable distances where such do not at present exist so as to perforate the mass of buildings within the said Town in straight lines as nearly as may be from South to North, and from East to West, crossing each other at right angles, and from South East to North West and from South West to North East, crossing the straight lines abovementioned diagonally with large open spaces forming squares or circles at convenient and suitable distances from whence the said streets may conveniently diverge in lines without interruption to the river and to the open country without the said Town so far as the completion of such plan may be practicable and where not entirely practicable upon a plan as nearly approaching to such plan as may be: And whereas it is also expedient and necessary that the narrow lanes and gullies which compose the greater part of the said Town inhabited by the Native inhabitants should be converted into such straight and spacious streets and thoroughfares formed as abovementioned due regard being had to the compensation of Owners of houses, buildings and grounds, which may be required to be vested in the said Commissioners for any such purposes as aforesaid:

It is enacted, that as soon as may be after the passing of this Act the said Commissioners shall cause plans to be made by their said local Surveyor and by other competent Surveyors, showing the direction and breadth of such streets and thoroughfares, and a the situations and dimensions of such open spaces to form squares or circles as aforesaid, which in their opinion shall be the most suitable for carrying into said Town, the convenience of communication within the same, and the economy with which the said improvements may be carried into execution together with estimates of the expense of the necessary works and estimates of the necessary works and estimates of the probable value of the houses, buildings and grounds, which it will be necessary for the said Commissioners to purchase for these purposes, and the said Commissioners shall select from the plans which shall be so furnished to them the one which they, or a majority of them, shall consider the best and most eligible, and shall transmit to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, the said plan and the resolution of the Commissioners thereupon for the consideration of the said Governor of Bengal, and upon the said Governor signifying through the said Secretary by writing, signed by the said Secretary, his approval of such plan, the said Commissioners shall proceed with all convenient speed to carry the same into execution so far as the funds at their disposal, and the circumstances under which the works are to be carried into execution will allow, in conjunction with the other improvements contemplated by this Act, and in case the said Governor shall signify his disapproval of the plan so submitted to him, the said Commissioners shall cause another plan to be drawn by the same or any other competent Surveyor, which plan shall in like manner be submitted by the said Commissioners to the said Governor, and so from time to time until such plan shall be finally approved of by the said Governor, and as soon as may be after such final approval of the said Governor shall be intimated to the said Commissioners as aforesaid, the said Commissioners shall proceed to carry the said plan so approved into execution with all such convenient speed as aforesaid.

XII. And it is enacted, that the said plan having been so submitted to and having been approved by the said governor as aforesaid, the said Commissioners shall proceed in conformity, with the provisions of Act No. XXII. Of 1847, with the purchase of such houses, buildings and grounds as it may be necessary to purchase for the execution of such plan, and shall upon such purchase being completed give orders to their said local Surveyor to proceed with the said works without further reference to the said Governor.

XIII. And whereas it is essentially necessary to the celebrity of the said Town to make provision for the effectual sewerage and drainage of the same:

It is enacted, that as soon as conveniently may be after the passing of this Act the said Commissioners shall cause their said Surveyor to make a careful survey of the whole of the said Town, and in an accurate and distinct report to be framed by him to state what in his opinion are the defects of such sewerage, works and drains as shall at that time exist therein, and what alterations of the same, and what new main and other sewers and drains are necessary and proper for the effectual draining and clearing of the whole of the said Town, and what reservoirs, engines, sluices, penstocks and other works are required for properly flushing and cleansing out such sewers and drains, and at and from what places respectively they ought to terminate.

XIV. And whereas it is of the most essential importance that all the inhabitants of the said Town should be supplied with good and wholesome water for drinking and for domestic purposes to the utmost extent that the local and other circumstances of the said Town will permit, and especially that the poorer inhabitants thereof should be so supplied with water ; and whereas supplies of water are also required for the efficient and wholesome cleansing and watering of the streets, and cleansing the main and other sewers and drains which may be constructed or maintained under the provisions of this Act:

It is enacted, that the said Commissioners shall at the same time cause their said Surveyor to report upon the existing supplies of water in the said Town, the sufficiency or insufficiency of such supply for all the several purposes aforesaid, and the healthful or palatable quality as water for drinking of every description of water so supplied, or which the said Surveyor shall recommend in future to be supplied, and with a view to test the accuracy of his report upon this latter subject the said Commissioners shall cause such water or waters to be analysed and reported on by competent Chemists and Medical men, and the said Surveyor shall also state in his report from what point on the River Hooghly, North of Calcutta, water in sufficient quantity can be conveyed into the Town for the domestic purposes of the said inhabitants, and for the efficient and wholesome cleansing and watering of the said streets, and cleansing the main and other sewers and drains which shall or may be constructed and maintained under the provisions of this Act, and shall state whether in his opinion one supply of water from one place can be commanded adequate to all these several purposes, and from what distance and at what probable expense, and what reservoirs, engines, sluices, canals, aqueducts, pipes and other works, and of what respective dimensions are required for the adequate and abundant supply of such water for all such purposes as aforesaid.

XV. And for carrying into effect the purposes aforesaid it is enacted, that all sewers and drains, together with all buildings and other works, material and things therewith connected, and all canals, aqueducts, tanks and wells provided for or lawfully applied to public use, and which are not the property of any private person or persons, together with all buildings, engines, works, materials and things therewith connected existing in the said Town at the time of the passing of this Act, or which hereafter shall at any time be constructed and made therein whether constructed at the cost of the said Commissioners or otherwise, and the entire management and control over the same, subject to the provisions hereinafter contained, shall be the property of, and are hereby vested in the said Commissioners as such Trustees as aforesaid.

XVI. And it is enacted, that the said Commissioners shall cause to be constructed and made such and so many sewers and drains, and such and so many reservoirs, canals, aqueducts, engines and other works, and to be laid such and so many water pipes as shall in the opinion of the said Commissioners be necessary and proper as shall in the effectual draining and cleansing of the whole of the Town aforesaid, and for the properly flushing and cleansing out such sewers in and under or across all or any of the streets and ways whether dedicated to the public use or not, roads and other places within the said Town, and if needful through and across all underground cellars and vaults which they may find under any of the said streets, ways, roads or places, doing as little damage as may be, and also to cause such and so many rings and openings to be made or left in the sides of the said sewers as will be sufficient for the making or branching any drain or drains from any or all of the houses built, and which may probably be built adjoining or near thereto into any of the said sewers as the said Commissioners shall think fit necessary and expedient for that purpose; and in case it shall be found necessary for completing and of the aforesaid works to build, carry or continue the same in, into or through any enclosed lands or other place not being a public way, it shall be lawful for the said Commissioners to build, carry or continue the same in, into or through the said lands or other

places accordingly, and the said Commissioners may and shall cause such sewers to communication with and empty themselves into any public river, stream, canal or water-course, or to cause the refuse from such sewers to be conveyed by an appropriate channel to the most convenient site for its deposit, collection and sale, and its application as manure for agricultural purposes or otherwise as they shall deem most expedient, but so that the same shall in no case become a public nuisance or annoyance to the neighborhood, and all such sewers, water-courses, canals, reservoirs and other work and premises shall be the property of and are hereby vested in the said Commissioners, and shall be at all times under the care, control and management of the said Commissioners and of their Surveyor and Officers.

XVII. And it is enacted, that the said Commissioners shall have authority from time to time as they shall see fit, and they are hereby required to widen, deepen, embank, alter, arch over, amend, clean and scour out all or any of the sewers within the said Town as may be necessary, and also to cleanse and drain off into any sewers or otherwise abate all stagnant pools, ditches, tanks and other receptacles of foul water and filth existing within the said Town, whether the same be the private property of and person or persons or otherwise, and further in cases in which any of the existing or future sewers vested in the said commissioners shall from any cause whatever appear to the said Commissioners to have become useless or unnecessary, it shall be lawful for the said Commissioners if they shall think fit so to do to take up, stop, fill in and discontinue such old sewers in such manner that the same shall not be or become a nuisance or annoyance to the neighbourhood.

XVIII. And it is enacted, that before beginning to dig or lay the foundations of any new house within the said Town, or to re-build any house therein, and also before making any drain for the purpose of draining water directly or indirectly from any land or tenement into any sewer under the jurisdiction of the said Commissioners, fourteen clear 'days' notice in writing shall be given to the Clerk to the said Commissioners by delivering the same to him, or leaving it at his office by the person intending to build or re-build such house, or to make such drain, and every such foundation shall be laid at such level as said Surveyor of the said Commissioners shall direct, and every such branch drain shall be made in such direction, manner and form, and of such materials and workmanship as the said Surveyor shall order, and the making of every such drain shall be under the survey and control of the said Commissioners; and in default of such notice, or if such building or drain shall be begun or made without or in any respect contrary to any order of the said Commissioners to cause such building to be demolished, and to cause such drain to be relaid, amended or remade as the case may require, and to cause the expenses thereof to be levied and repaid to them from and by the Owner thereof in the manner hereinafter provided.

XIX. And it is enacted, that it shall be lawful for any person at his own expense to make or branch any drain into any of the sewers vested in the said Commissioners, or authorized to be made by virtue of this Act, or otherwise acquired by the said Commissioners, such drain being made of such a size and in such a manner of communication in all respects as the said Surveyor of the said Commissioners shall direct or appoint, and for that purpose to take up and remove so much of the pavement and other materials of any street, as may be required unless the said Commissioners shall consent and agree which they are hereby authorized to do to form so much and such portion of such drain as shall lead from the point of communication in such sewer to the extremity of such street, and in case any person shall make or branch any drain into any of the said sewers so vested in the said Commissioners, or authorized to be made under and by virtue of this Act of a larger size, or in a different manner and form of communication than shall be directed or appointed by the said Surveyor, every person so offending shall for every such offence forfeit and pay on conviction before a Magistrate a sum not exceeding Fifty Rupees.

XX. And whereas it would tend to insure a greater efficiency and economy in the execution of works if the same were executed by persons under the immediate direction and control of the Surveyor of the said Commissioners, it is enacted that it shall be lawful for the said Commissioners to contract and agree with the Owners of any houses or other tenements within the said Town, that any drains required to be made by such Owners shall be constructed and made by the Surveyor of the said Commissioners, and the cost price of making such drains (as certified by the said Surveyor of the said Commissioners) shall be repaid by such Owners to the said Commissioners, and in default of such payment the same may be recovered in the manner hereinafter provided.

XXI. And whereas the noxious effluvia exhaling from gully holes of sewers and drains has been found to be injurious to health, and it is therefore expedient that some provision should be made in respect thereof to obviate the same, it is enacted, that the said Commissioners and the Owners of any private drains in the Town aforesaid, shall by providing proper traps or other coverings, or by ventilation, or by such other ways and means as shall be practicable for that purpose effectually prevent the effluvia of sewers and drains from exhaling from gully holes, gratings or any other openings whatsoever of drains or sewers in streets or other places, and in case the Owner of and private sewer or drain shall neglect or delay so to do, the Surveyor of the said Commissioners shall give him notice effectually to prevent the effluvia of such sewer or drain from so exhaling, and if the same shall not be effectually done by such Owner within ten days after such notice shall have been given him, the said Surveyor shall forthwith provide and apply proper traps or other coverings, or such other means as aforesaid so as effectually to prevent such effluvia from exhaling and the expense incurred thereby shall be paid by the Owner of such sewer or drain to be recovered in manner hereinafter mentioned.

XXII. And it is hereby enacted, that it shall be lawful for the said Commissioners and their said Surveyor, and they and he are hereby required when any of the streets, public ways or public thoroughfares, vested in them shall be under repair, or where any sewers or drains are making, or shall be under repair to take proper precautions against danger by shoring up and protecting the adjoining houses, and to fix and place, or cause to be fixed and placed such, and so many bars, chains or posts across, or in any of the said streets, public ways or public thoroughfares to prevent the passing and repassing of carriages, carts or other vehicles, cattle or horses during the time of such works and repairs being carried on, as shall be necessary and proper, and the said Commissioners and their said Surveyor shall cause any sewer or drain or other works during the construction or repair thereof by them to be well and sufficiently lighted and attended by fit and proper persons during the night to prevent accidents, and if any person shall take down, alter or remove any of the said bars, chains or posts, or extinguish any light attached to or connected with the said bars, chains or posts without the authority or consent of the Surveyor of the said Commissioners, every such person so offending shall for every such offence forfeit and pay on conviction before a Magistrate any sum not exceeding Fifty Rupees.

XXIII. And it is enacted, that the said Commissioners shall with a due regard to the convenience and the preservation of the health of the inhabitants of the said Town give strict orders to their said Surveyor cause, and their said Surveyor shall duly cause all the streets, ways, thoroughfares and alleys thereof whether dedicated to the use of the public or not, together with the foot pavements or footpaths from time to time to be properly swept and cleansed, and all dust, dirt and filth of every sort which may be found thereon to be collected and removed therefrom and all the soil, ashes, rubbish and filth to be taken and carried away from the houses and premises of the inhabitants of the said Town at convenient hours and times, and times, and shall cause all or any of the privies and cesspools with nth said Town to be cleansed and emptied in a sufficient and proper manner as shall be required, and that the said Surveyor shall from time to time give public notice on what days, at what times in every week the said streets, public ways and public thoroughfares shall be swept and cleansed, and such dirt, dust and night soil, rubbish, filth and ashes carried away, and how and in what manner the same shall be carried away and where the same shall be deposited, and shall give such orders and directions as to the said Surveyor acting under the orders and control of the said Commissioners shall appear proper and necessary, and it shall be lawful for the said Commissioners to purchase or hire any carts, carriages and other machines, and also any horse or cattle for the better executing and performing any of the above duties.

XXIV. And it is enacted, that the dirt, dust, night soil and filth to be so collected from the said streets, thoroughfares, alleys, footways, privies, sewers and cesspools, and all the dust, ashes and rubbish to be collected, taken and carried away from all and every of the houses and elsewhere within the said Town shall be the property of the houses and elsewhere within the said Town shall be the property of the said Commissioners, and are hereby vested in them; and the said Commissioners shall have full power to sell and dispose of the same through their and Clerk or Surveyor for the purpose of this Act as they shall think proper, and the money arising from the sale thereof

shall be applied for the purpose of this Act, and a the person purchasing the same shall have full power and authority to take, carry away and dispose of the same for his own proper use and benefit.

XXV. And it is enacted, that it shall be lawful for the said Commissioners for the purpose of watering the said streets, public thoroughfares in the said Town to sink wells, and lay, erect and place pipes, conduits and pumps in any of the said streets, public ways or public thoroughfares, and to provide any other apparatus proper for that purpose, and to remove and alter the same when and as the said Commissioners shall think proper, and it shall be lawful for the said Commissioners, and they are hereby required to excavate and provide a sufficient number of spacious and convenient tanks or sufficient runs of water through the said Town for the inhabitants to bathe in at suitable and proper times and in suitable and proper places as may best serve to unite the health and comfort of the laboring population with public decency, making due allowance for the habits and customs of the country.

XXVI. And it is enacted, that it shall be lawful for the said Commissioners, and they are hereby required from time to time to make such Bye-laws as they shall think fit for all or any of the purposes following. That is to say, For preventing nuisances in any streets or near thereto and effecting cleanliness therein.

For making regulations for the registering and inspection of slaughter houses and markets, and for keeping the same in a cleanly and proper state, and for removing filth therefrom at least once in every twenty-four hours, and for requiring that they shall be provide with a sufficient supply of water.

For the punishment of persons selling unwholesome meat, fish, vegetables, sweetmeats and grain, for the food of man, and for seizing and condemning the same.

For regulating the duties of scavengers, and for regulating the management of urinals and privies.

For making regulations for cleansing filthy and unwholesome dwelling.

For supplying private houses with water from the public reservoirs.

For making regulations to prevent persons bathing and washing their bodies in tanks and water-courses provided for the domestic uses of the inhabitants of the said Town and to limit the hours of bathing in the tanks and water-courses provided for the purpose of bathing in such manner as shall appear to the said Commissioners necessary to the health, cleanliness and comfort of the laboring population.

For enforcing upon the inhabitants of the said Town the performance of such acts and the abstinence from such acts as enlightened regard to the health, cleanliness and decency of the said Town ought to induce them to perform and to abstain from due consideration being had for the feelings, manners and customs of the various races of which the said inhabitants consist.

For ascertaining and fixing what pecuniary penalties shall be incurred by persons breaking such Bye-laws. Provided that no such last mentioned penalty shall exceed for any one offence the sum of Fifty Rupees, nor in case of continuing nuisance the sum of Five Rupees for every day during which such nuisance shall be continued and unremedied.

XXVII. And it is enacted, that no Bye-law made under the powers for the purpose herein last contained shall be of any force until the same shall have been laid before the Governor of the Presidency of Fort William in Bengal and his approbation thereof, and that of the Governor General in Council, shall have been certified to the said Commissioners under his hand by the Secretary to the Government of Fort William in Bengal, nor until the expiration of forty days after the same Bye-law shall have been published once in two of the Calcutta News-papers, and a copy of such Bye-law with a declaration thereon, signed by the Clerk to the said Commissioners that the same has been approved by the said Governor and published in two Newspapers as aforesaid with the date of such

publication, shall be received as evidence of such Bye-law, and of the approval and publishing thereof as aforesaid in all Courts of Law and Equity and before all Magistrates,

XXVIII. And it is enacted, that all Bye- laws made in pursuance of this Act shall be printed, and a copy thereof shall be posted up and continue so posted in the Office of the Clerk of the said Commissioners and copies thereof shall be delivered to any person who may apply for the same on payment of such sum as the said Commissioners shall think it not exceeding Four Annas.

XXIX. And it is enacted, that all the provisions hereinafter contained relative to offences against this Act punishable upon summary conviction shall be taken to apply to all offences committed in breach any Bye-law made by the said Commissioners by virtue of this Act.

XXX. And it is enacted, that it shall be lawful for the said Commissioners to direct any prosecution for any public nuisance whatsoever, which shall be permitted or suffered within the said Town, and to order proceedings to be taken for the recovery of any penalties and for the punishment of any persons offending against the provisions of this Act, and to direct and order the expenses of such prosecutions and other proceedings to be paid any borne by and out of the funds placed at the disposal of the said Commissioners under the provisions of this Act.

XXXI. And it is enacted, that it shall be lawful for the said Commissioners to sue and be sued, to prefer any bill of indictment or information, or to take any other proceeding against any person who shall steal, take, or carry away, or willfully deface or injure any property, articles or thing belonging to the said Commissioners, and in every such case it shall be sufficient to state generally the property, article or thing, in respect of which such proceeding shall have been taken, to be the property of the said Commissioners.

XXXII. And it is enacted, that nothing in this Act contained shall be construed to render lawful any act or omission on the part of any person which is or but for this Act would be deemed and adjudged to be a nuisance at Common Law, nor to exempt any person guilty of a nuisance at Common Law from prosecution or action in respect thereof, Provided always, that if any person convicted of an offence under this Act shall have paid the whole amount adjudged to be paid under such conviction, and the costs thereof in every such case he shall be released from all further or other criminal proceedings for the same offence.

XXXIII. And it is enacted, that it shall be lawful for the said Commissioners, and they are hereby empowered with the consent and approbation of the said Governor and subject to the restrictions hereinafter contained, to contract and agree with any person or persons for supplying the said Town or any part thereof with water for the purposes of this Act, and with the like consent to agree with any person having and willing to dispose of the same, for the absolute purchase for any purpose which the said Commissioners shall think necessary for obtaining and protecting such supply of water as aforesaid, of any water-works, streams of water, lands, tenements, easements , hereditaments , fixtures, machinery or other property, or to take a lease thereof for any term of years and subject to such conditions as shall be agreed upon between the parties, or persons contracting to supply the said town or any part thereof, with water, a lease for any term not exceeding twenty-one years, of any water-works, machinery, streams, waters, lands, tenements, easements, rights, privileges and advantages belonging to or acquired by or which may belong to, or be acquired by or be vested in the said Commissioners under any of the powers or authorities in this Act contained so as to enable such person or persons so contracting the more effectually and efficiently to procure and supply water in pursuance of any such contract or agreement, and every such lease so to be granted by the said Commissioners may be made for the purposes of this Act, or any of them as may be agreed upon between the respective parties thereto. Provided always, that no lease or contract made in pursuance of the powers hereinbefore contained shall be valid or effectual for any purpose whatsoever unless the said Governor's approval of the same shall be testified by writing endorsed on such lease or contract under the hand of the Secretary to the Government of Bengal.



XXXIV. And it is enacted, that if it shall be necessary or advantageous for the purpose of carrying into execution any plan or mode of supplying water to the said Town that the said Commissioners should avail themselves of any of the powers in this Act contained which authorize the said Commissioners or their Lessees to take or enter upon lands without the consent of the Owners and Occupiers thereof for the purpose of constructing, improving or enlarging any water-works, then, and in every such case, the said Commissioners shall cause a map or plan to be prepared on a scale of not less than one inch to one hundred feet describing the sources from which any supplies of water are intended to be procured, the situation of the intended water-works and the line and course of any intended aqueducts, conduits, tunnels, pipes or other channels for conveying water to or from the said intended source of supply and the lands through which the same respectively are intended to be carried, together with a book of reference containing the names of the Owners or reputed Owners, Lessees or reputed Lessees and Occupiers respectively of any lands intended to be taken for the purpose of erecting any works thereon, or to be used for the purpose of carrying any tunnels, pipes, channels or water-works through the same, and one copy of such plan and book of reference shall be deposited in the Office of the Clerk to the said Commissioners and shall be open at all reasonable times there to the inspection of all parties interested therein, another copy of such plan and book of reference shall be furnished to the said Commissioners to all parties interested in any lands intended to be taken or used for any of the above purposes, through which it is intended to carry any tunnels, pipes, conduits or other works, or to such of the said parties as shall after diligent enquiry be known to the said Commissioners, and such notice shall also be published in two or more of the Calcutta Newspapers at least once in each of two successive weeks.

XXXV. And it is enacted, that as soon as may be after the expiration of one Calendar month from the date of the last publication of such notice the said Surveyor shall give notice by publication in such Newspapers in manner aforesaid that he will within one week from the date of the last of such publications attend upon such lands and point out to such as may meet him there and desire to be informed thereof the line and course of such intended aqueducts, conduits, tunnels and pipes, and the situation of such intended reservoirs, tanks and water-works, and he shall accordingly attend at the time and place named in the said notice, and shall then and there point out the same and all persons who shall deem themselves interested in the matter or likely to be aggrieved there by shall be entitled to be heard by themselves, their Counsel, Attornies or Agents, and to adduce such witnesses as they may think necessary before the said Commissioners, and the said Commissioners shall report the evidence taken before them, and the plans and book of reference and the report of the said Surveyor, together with their opinion thereon to the said Governor and thereupon it shall be lawful for the said Governor to disallow or to authorize the taking of the lands specified in such plan, and required to be taken or used for the purposes aforesaid, or any of them without the consent of the Owners and other persons interested therein, subject in the latter case to such regulations and orders as the said Governor shall think necessary to justice and not inconsistent with the objects of this Act, and when and so soon as the said Governor, if he shall so determine shall signify his approval thereof to be testified under the hand of the said Secretary in manner aforesaid then the said Commissioners shall and may proceed to carry such plan into execution.

XXXVI. And it is enacted, that it shall be lawful for the said Commissioners, subject to the restrictions hereinafter contained, from time to time to make, construct, lay down, maintain, alter or discontinue such water-works, steam engines, water-wheels, reservoirs, cisterns, tanks, aqueducts, cuts, channels, conduits, engines, waste-gates, stop gates, stop-cocks, sluices, banks, bridges, pipes, tunnels, machinery and other works upon the lands hereby authorized to be purchased and taken by the said Commissioners as shall be necessary or proper for obtaining water and applying the same to the inhabitants of the said Town.

XXXVII. Provided always, and it is enacted, that the said Commissioners in erecting and making the said water-works and the said reservoirs, cuts, channels, aqueducts, tunnels or other works upon lands taken under the compulsory powers hereinbefore contained shall not deviate to any greater distance than the limits of the deviation as marked in the said plan, nor into the lands of any person not mentioned in the said book of reference without his previous consent in writing unless the name of such person shall have been omitted by mistake, and the fact that

such omission proceeded from mistake and that such deviation ought to be allowed shall be certified under the hand of such Surveyor.

XXXVIII. Provided always, and it is enacted, that nothing in this Act contained shall authorize or empower the said Commissioners or their Lessees by virtue of the compulsory powers of purchase herein before contained except in the case of any land expressly taken for forming any reservoir or erecting any steam engine or other works thereon to acquire or obtain any greater right or interest in any lands or premises through or within which any of the said pipes, culverts, aqueducts or tunnels are intended or may be required to be laid than a right of laying the said pipes, culverts, aqueducts or tunnels therein, and of entering thereon from time to time when requisite to renew, amend, repair and examine the same.

XXXIX. And it is enacted, that it shall be lawful for the said Commissioners, subject to the restrictions in this Act contained, to enter upon the lands of any corporation or person adjoining to or being within the distance of one hundred yards of the works by this Act authorized to be made or any part thereof, and not being a garden, orchard, plantation or ground planted and set apart as a nursery for trees, for the purpose of depositing upon such lands or any part thereof any soil, gravel, sand, lime brick, stone or other materials, or for any other purposes connected with the formation of the said works without making any previous payment, tender or deposit, that the said Commissioners doing as little damage as may be in the exercise of the several powers hereby granted to them, and making compensation for such temporary occupation or temporary damage of the said lands to the Owners and Occupiers thereof from time to time, and as often as any such temporary occupation shall be taken or any such temporary damage done by the said Commissioners or other Officers, and making compensation to the Owners, also for the permanent injury (if any) to such lands, and in case the parties differ respecting the amount of the compensation or the respective shares of several claimants of compensation, then and in every such case the said dispute disputes respectively shall be settled and adjusted by arbitration or by the verdict of a Jury summoned and assembled in manner provided in Act No. XXII. of 1847.

XL. Provided always, and it is enacted, that before it shall be lawful for the said Commissioners to make any such temporary use as aforesaid of the lands adjoining or lying near to the said works the said Commissioners shall and they are hereby required to give fourteen days notice of such their intention to the Owners and Occupiers of such lands, and to separate and set apart by sufficient fences so much of the land, as shall be required to be used as aforesaid from the other lands adjoining thereto.

XLI. Provided always, and it is enacted, that the said Commissioners before entering any such adjoining lands for the purposes aforesaid, shall, if required by the Owners or Occupiers of such lands agree with such Owners or Occupiers for the payment of a certain and fixed annual rent in respect thereof during the continuance of such temporary occupation, and the amount of such rent in case the parties differ shall be settled by arbitration or by the verdict of a Jury summoned and assembled in manner provided in Act No. XXII. of 1847.

XLII. And it is enacted, that the said Commissioners shall and they are hereby required in forming any reservoir or works hereby authorized to be made, and any tunnels or water-courses therein or leading thereto at their own expense to make and provide a sufficient number of convenient roads, ways, watering-places, wells, water-courses, drains and channels for the irrigation the same in those parts where the present roads, ways, watering-places, wells, water-courses, drains and channels shall and may be taken away or interrupted, injured or rendered inconvenient or useless by reason of the making of the said reservoirs or other works, and in case of any difference arising between the said Commissioners and the Owners of such adjoining lands such difference shall be settled by arbitration or by the verdict of a Jury summoned and assembled in manner provided in Act No. XXII. of 1847.

XLIII. And it is enacted, that when the pavement or soil of any street, public way or public thoroughfare, or any sewer or drain shall be opened or broken up by the said Commissioners or their Officers, or by any other person, they shall with all convenient speed complete the work on account of which the same shall have been broken up and fill in the ground and make good the pavement and soil, and the sewer or drain so opened or broken up and carry

away the rubbish occasioned thereby, and shall in the meantime cause the place where such pavement or soil shall be so opened or broken up to be fenced and guarded and shall set up and maintain upon and against the part of the said pavement or soil so broken up or opened a sufficient light during every night whilst such pavement or soil be continued open or broken up.

XLIV. And it is enacted, that all existing public cisterns, tanks, conduits and other water-works used for the gratuitous supply of water to the inhabitants of the said Town shall be continued, maintained and supplied with water by the said Commissioners, and shall be vested in them and be under their management and control, and it shall be lawful for the said Commissioners to erect and place any number of new cisterns, tanks, pumps, conduits or other water-works for the supply of water to the inhabitants of any street, court, alley, public way or public thoroughfare, or of any number of houses as they shall see fit, or to erect the same in any public situation for the gratuitous use of any persons who may choose to carry water away for their private use but not for sale, and to supply with water any public baths or wash-houses that may be established for the use of the poorer classes.

XLV. And it is enacted, that if the said Commissioners shall neglect or refuse to furnish a sufficient supply of water for domestic purposes as settled and arranged by the said Surveyor to the Owner or Occupier of any dwelling house rated to the rate hereinafter mentioned, it shall be lawful for such Owner or Occupier to deduct from the amount of such rate a sum equal to one-eighth part of the amount payable by him in each quarter for every two days in succession during which such neglect or refusal shall continue after notice in writing shall have been given to the Clerk of the said Commissioners of the want of such supply unless the want of such supply shall arise from great drought or other unavoidable cause or accident.

XLVI. And in order to preserve the water to be supplied by the said Commissioners for the domestic use of the inhabitants of the said Town pure and wholesome, it is enacted, that every person who shall willfully or knowingly commit any of the following offences shall for every such offence forfeit and pay on summary conviction before a Magistrate a sum not exceeding Fifty Rupees.

1. Every person who shall bathe in any reservoir, aqueduct or other water-works belonging to the said Commissioners, and provided by them for the domestic use of the inhabitants of the said Town, or shall wash or cause to be washed therein any wearing apparel, horse, dog or animal.

2. Every person who shall throw, put or cast any gravel, stone, rubbish dirt, filth or other noisome or offensive matter or thing into any such reservoir, aqueduct or other water-works as aforesaid, or shall wash or cleanse therein any wool, leather or skin of any animal, or other foul or offensive matter or thing.

3. Every person who shall cause or permit the water of any sink, sewer or drain, or any other offensive liquid matter or thing belonging to him, or flowing or being in any house or building, or upon any ground occupied by him to run drain or be conveyed into any of the springs, rivulets, reservoirs, aqueducts, pipes or other water-works, belonging to the said Commissioners, or who shall commit or cause any other act whatsoever, whereby the water of the said Commissioners shall be in any degree whatsoever fouled or corrupted.

XLVII. And it is enacted, that it shall be lawful for the said Commissioners, and they are hereby required to provide a sufficient number of lamps for lighting such parts of the said Town as the said Commissioners on the report of their said Surveyor shall consider to require the same, and shall keep the said lamps in fit order for public use, and shall keep and employ a sufficient number of persons to cleanse, prepare and light the same, and shall also from time to time as shall be required, increase or otherwise alter the number of the said lamps, and shall renew such of the said lamps as shall become broken or unfit for use so that all the streets of the said Town which the said Commissioners shall consider necessary shall be well and sufficiently provided with light from such hour in the evening of each day until such hour of the morning of each following day, as the said Commissioners shall consider to be fit and proper and necessary, and the whole of the expense of the erection, repair, maintenance, cleansing and

supplying with oil and wicks, of each and every of the said lamps and of lighting and keeping lighted the same during such hours as aforesaid shall be borne and paid by the said Commissioners.

XLVIII. And it is enacted, that every person who shall wantonly or willfully destroy, injure, deface or disturb any of the said lamps or extinguish any light therein, or abstract or take away from any of the said lamps any oil or other matter or thing therein, or any part thereof with, out the order of the said Commissioners, or their said Surveyor, shall forfeit and pay on conviction before a Magistrate for every such offence any sum not exceeding Fifty Rupees.

XLIX. And it is enacted, that if any party shall have committed any irregularity, trespass or other wrongful proceeding in the execution of this Act, or by virtue of any power or authority hereby given, and if before action brought in respect thereof, such party shall make tender of sufficient amends to the party injured, such last mentioned party shall not recover in any such action when brought, and if no such action by leave of the Court, where such action shall be pending at any time before issue joined to pay into Court such some of money as he shall think fit, and thereupon such proceedings shall be had as in other cases where defendants are allowed to pay money into Court.

L. And it is enacted, that in all cases where any damage, costs or expenses are by this Act directed to be paid, and the method of ascertaining the amount or enforcing the paying thereof is not provided for, such amount in case of dispute, shall be ascertained and determined by arbitration in like manner as is provided for proceeding by arbitration under Act No. XXII. of 1847, and if the parties cannot agree upon two persons as arbitrators or the arbitrators fail to pronounce their award as aforesaid then by any two Magistrates of Calcutta, and if the amount so ascertained be not paid by the said Commissioners or by the other party liable to pay the same, as the case may be, within seven days after demand thereof, the amount may be recovered by action of debt or on the case in Her Majesty's said Supremes Court of Judicature.

LI. And it is enacted, that the said Commissioners shall publish short particulars of the several offences for which any penalty is imposed by this Act, or by any Bye-laws of the said Commissioners affecting other persons than Officers or Servants of the said Commissioners, and of the amount of every such penalty, and shall cause such particulars to be printed on a board or printed upon paper and pasted thereon in English and Bengallee, and shall cause such board to be hung up or affixed in some conspicuous place in the Office of the Clerk of the said Commissioners, and when any such penalties are of local application shall cause such boards to be affixed in some conspicuous place of the immediate neighborhood to which such penalties are applicable or have reference, and such particulars shall be renewed as often as the same or any part thereof is obliterated or destroyed, and no such penalty shall be recoverable unless such particulars shall have been published and kept published in the manner hereinbefore required, or wantonly and maliciously obliterated destroyed.

LII. And it is enacted, that if any person shall pull down, break or deface any board put up as required by this Act, or shall obliterate any of the letters or figures thereon, he shall forfeit and pay for every such offence a sum not exceeding Fifty Rupees, and shall also defray the expenses attending the restoration of such board.

LIII. And it is enacted, that every penalty or forfeiture imposed by this Act, or by any Bye-law made in pursuance thereof the recovery of which is not otherwise provided for may be recovered by summary proceeding before any Magistrate of Calcuttaa, and on complaint being made to any such Magistrate, he shall issue his summons requiring the party complained against to appear before him at a time and place to be named in such summons, and every such summons shall be served on the party offending either in person or by leaving the same at his usual or last known place of abode, and upon the appearance of the party complained against or in his absence after proof of the due service of such summons, it shall be lawful for such magistrate to proceed to the hearing of the complaint which complaint shall be reduced to writing, and upon proof of the offence either by the confession of the party complained against, or upon the oath or solemn affirmation of one credible witness or more, it shall be lawful for such Magistrate to convict the offender, and upon such conviction to adjudge the offender to pay the penalty or

forfeiture incurred as well as such costs attending the conviction as such Magistrate or Assistant Magistrate shall think fit, which penalty or for feature and costs so adjudged may be levied by distress.

LIV. And it is enacted, that where in this Act or in Act No. XVI. of 1847. Any sum of money whether in the nature of penalty or otherwise is directed to be levied by distress, such sum of money shall be levied by distress and sale of the Goods and Chattels of the party liable to pay the same, and the over plus arising from such Goods and Chattels after satisfying such sum of money and the expenses of the distress and sale shall be returned on demand to the party whose Goods shall have been distrained.

LV. And it is enacted, that no distress levied by virtue of this Act, or in Act No. XVI. of 1847, any sum of money whether in the nature of penalty or otherwise is directed to be deemed unlawful, nor shall any party making the same be deemed a trespasser on account of any defect or want of form in the summons, conviction, warrant of distress or other proceeding relating thereto. nor shall any such party be deemed a trespasser abinitio on account of any irregularity afterwards committed by him, but all persons aggrieved by such defect or irregularity may and shall recover full satisfaction for the special damage in an action on the case in Her Majesty's said Supreme Court.

LVI. And it is enacted, that the Magistrate by whom any such penalty or forfeiture shall be imposed for, award not more than one-half thereof is not otherwise provided for, award not more than one-half thereof to the informer, and shall award the remainder to the said Commissioners to be by them applied to the purposes of this Act as to them shall appear fit, and shall order the same to be paid over to the Clerk of the said Commissioners for that purpose whose receipt shall be a good and sufficient discharge to the person so paying the same.

LVII. And it is enacted, that no person shall be liable to the payment of any penalty or forfeiture imposed by virtue of this Act, for any offence complained of before a Magistrate, unless the complaint respecting such offence shall have been made before such Magistrate within six months next after the commission of such offence.

LVIII. And it is enacted, that if through any act, neglect or default, on account whereof any person shall have incurred any penalty imposed by this Act, any damage to the property of the said Commissioners shall have been committed by such person, he shall be liable to make good such damage as well as to pay such penalty, and the amount of such damages shall in case of dispute be determined by the Magistrate by whom the party incurring such penalty shall have been convicted, and in case such damages shall not be paid on demand the same may be recovered by action of debt or on the case in Her Majesty's said Supreme Court of Judicature.

LIX. And it is enacted, that it shall be lawful for any Magistrate to summon any person to appear before him as a witness in any matter in which such Magistrate shall have jurisdiction under the provisions of this Act at a time and place to be mentioned in such summons, and require from him an oath or solemn affirmation that he will testify the truth in such matter, and if any person so summoned shall without reasonable cause refuse or neglect to appear at the time and place appointed for that purpose, having been paid or tendered a reasonable sum for his expenses if from distance or any other cause he shall be lawfully entitled to claim such expenses, or if any person appearing shall refuse to be examined on his oath or solemn affirmation according to law, or to give evidence before such Magistrate or Assistant Magistrate, every such person shall for every such offence forfeit and pay a sum not exceeding Fifty Rupees.

LX. And it is enacted, that in Act or in Act No. XVI. of 1847. Any No. XXII. of 1847, and in this Act, following words and expressions shall have the several meanings hereby assigned to them, unless there be something in the subject or context repugnant to such construction (that is to say,) words importing the masculine gender only shall include females unless the word male is used. The word "person" shall include corporations whether aggregate or sole. The words "Oath," "Affirmation" and "Solemn" "Affirmation" when used alone shall include oath or affirmation or other declaration lawfully substituted for an oath in such case by any Legislative Act of the Governor General of India in Council, or by any Act of the Parliament of Great Britain extended to India. The word "Street" shall include any square, circus, street, court, alley, footpath, highway, lane road, thoroughfare, public

passage or other public place within the said Town. The words “the said Commissioners” shall mean the Commissioners for the time being appointed under the provisions of Act No. XVI. of 1847.

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