

Any act done by the Education Department or the said Smethwick School Board or the Council of the said Borough or any Justice since the grant of the Charter shall be deemed to have been lawfully done if the said Department, School Board, Council or Justice might have lawfully done the same if no Charter had been granted or the said School Board had been the School Board for the said Borough.

Savings for Rates, &c.

Notwithstanding the incorporation of the borough and the provisions of this Scheme, all rates, assessments, compositions, charges, mortgages, contracts, leases, conveyances, deeds, documents, acts, matters and things made, entered into or done before the commencement of this Scheme by, to or with reference to the District Council shall be as good, valid and effectual to all intents and purposes whatsoever for, against and with reference to the Corporation, as if the same had been made, entered into or done by, to or with reference to the Corporation instead of the District Council, and may be proceeded on and enforced in the same manner in all respects as if the Corporation instead of the District Council had been party or privy to the same and been named or referred to therein.

Compensation for Existing Officers.

In case any officer of the District Council or of any of the public bodies for whom the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the borough of Smethwick, or the Council of the said borough are respectively substituted, who shall have been employed by the District Council or by any of the said public bodies as the case may be, shall not be employed for a period of two years from the commencement of this Scheme by the Council of the said borough or offered by the said Council for such period a position in their employ of a similar character, and of an equal value to that formerly held by him, such officer unless dismissed from his employment for misconduct shall be entitled to be paid, by way of compensation for the loss of his position, out of the funds of, or under the control of, the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the borough of Smethwick such gratuity or annual allowance as on a full consideration of the circumstances of the case may seem to the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, or any two or more of them to be a reasonable and just compensation for the loss of his position, and the said Lords Commissioners in awarding the said compensation shall be guided by the principles which would be applicable in the case of an award of compensation under the provisions of "The Superannuation Act, 1859," to a person retiring or removed from the public service in consequence of the abolition of his office.

Provided that no special minute within the meaning of the said Act, stating any special grounds for granting such allowance, shall be necessary or be made.

Provided that the term "officer" shall include any persons employed by the District Council whose salaries or emoluments are payable at intervals of not less than one month, and no other persons.

Provided also that the said Lords Commissioners or any two or more of them shall be the sole judges as to the right, title, or claim of any officer to any compensation whatever, and as to the amount thereof, and the said Lords Commissioners or any two or more of them shall be the only judges upon any question which may arise under this clause and further every determination of the said Lords Commissioners upon any such right,

title, claim, amount, or question, shall be absolutely final and conclusive, and every such officer shall have such rights only under this clause as the said Lords Commissioners or any two or more of them consider just and reasonable. Any determination of the said Lords Commissioners or any two or more of them may be evidenced by writing under the hands of any two of them.

The accounts of the District Council and their officers shall be (as soon as conveniently may be) audited by the District Auditor in like manner and subject to the like powers, duties, provisions, and right of appeal as if the Charter had not been granted and the provisions of sections two hundred and forty-seven and two hundred and fifty of "The Public Health Act, 1875," as amended by "The District Auditors Act, 1879," and any regulations duly issued by the Local Government Board with respect to the audit of accounts of Urban District Councils and of their officers shall apply to such audit and the provisions of this Scheme with respect to the District Council shall be construed so as to admit of such exceptions as may be necessary to enable such audit to be duly made, but such exceptions shall be strictly limited in time, extent, character and operation, to the purposes of such audit. Any money certified by the District Auditor at such audit to be due from any person shall be paid by such person to the Borough Treasurer.

India Office, April 14, 1899.

THE Queen has been pleased to approve the appointment of Mr. Lawrence Hugh Jenkins, now a Puisne Judge of the High Court of Judicature at Calcutta, to be Chief Justice of the High Court of Judicature at Bombay, in the place of Sir Louis Addin Kershaw, Knt., deceased.

(F. & H. 6021.)

Board of Trade (Fisheries and Harbour Department), London, April 18, 1899.

THE Board of Trade have received, through the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a Despatch from Her Majesty's Representative at Lisbon, reporting that arrivals from Madagascar are no longer subject to the provisions of the notice set forth on the 14th April, 1897.

(F. & H. 6031.)

Board of Trade (Fisheries and Harbour Department), London, April 18, 1899.

THE Board of Trade have received, through the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the following copy of a Notice respecting quarantine at Lourenço Marques, viz. :—
Translation of Decree No. 112 in the Boletim Officia da Moçambique No. 10 of March 11th, 1899.

Considering that before the publication of the Decree No. 31 of January 17th, 1899, a great number of dhows had already left India for this Province.

Considering how long is the voyage made by such vessels, and that they cannot sail except with the monsoon in their favour, and cannot return to India during the present time.

Considering that on account of the want of proper means of guarding the coast (fiscalisation), the non-admission of dhows and similar sailing vessels might result in their landing at points of the coast where there are no authorities or means of rigorous disinfection.

Acting in conformity with the finding of the Board of Health,