

Public Health (Water) Act, 1878.

[41 & 42 VICT. CH. 25.]

A.D. 1878.

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS.

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SCHEDULE.



CHAPTER 25.

An Act to amend the Public Health Act, 1875, so far as A.D. 1878.
relates to the supply of Water. [4th July 1878.]

WHEREAS it is expedient to amend the provisions of the 38 & 39 Vict.
c. 55.
Public Health Act, 1875 :

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 :

1. This Act may be cited as the Public Health (Water) Act, Short title,
and con-
struction.
1878, and shall be construed as one with the Public Health Act, 1875.

2. This Act shall come into operation on the twenty-fifth day Commence-
ment of Act.
of March one thousand eight hundred and seventy-nine, which day is in this Act referred to as the commencement of this Act.

3. It shall be the duty of every rural sanitary authority, regard Duty of rural
authority to
provide or
require pro-
vision of
sufficient
water supply,
and pro-
cedure for
enforcing
such require-
ment.
being had to the provisions in this Act contained, to see that every occupied dwelling-house within their district has within a reasonable distance an available supply of wholesome water sufficient for the consumption and use for domestic purposes of the inmates of the house.

Where it appears to a rural sanitary authority, on the report of their inspector of nuisances, or their medical officer of health, that any occupied dwelling-house within their district has not such supply within a reasonable distance, and the authority are of opinion that such supply can be provided at a reasonable cost not exceeding a capital sum the interest on which at the rate of five per centum per annum would amount to twopence per week, or at such other cost not exceeding a capital sum the interest on which at the rate of five per centum per annum would amount to threepence per week as the Local Government Board may on the application of the local authority determine under all the circumstances of the case to be

A.D. 1878. — reasonable, and that the expense of providing the supply ought to be paid by the owner or defrayed as private improvement expenses, proceedings may be taken as follows :

- (1.) The authority may serve on the owner of the house a notice requiring him, within a time specified in the notice and not exceeding six months from the date of the service thereof, to provide such supply, and to do all such works as may be necessary for that purpose.
- (2.) If at the expiration of the time so specified the notice is not complied with, the authority may serve on the owner a second notice, informing him that if the requirements of the first notice are not complied with within one month from the date of the service of the second notice, the authority will themselves provide such supply, and that the expense of providing the supply will in that case be payable by the owner or as a private improvement expense.
- (3.) If at the expiration of one month from the date of the service of the second notice the requirements of the first notice are not complied with, the authority may, subject as in this Act is mentioned, themselves provide the supply, and for that purpose they may enter upon the premises and execute all such works as appear to them necessary for obtaining a supply of water for the house, and for the purposes of such entry sections 102 and 103 of the Public Health Act, 1875, shall apply until the works are completed, in the same manner as if an order of a court of summary jurisdiction had been made for the abatement of a nuisance on the premises, and that order had not been complied with.
- (4.) Any expenses incurred by the authority in providing such supply and doing such works may, when the supply has been provided, be recovered in a summary manner from the owner of the house, or may, at the option of the authority, be declared, by their order, to be private improvement expenses.
- (5.) Where the owners of two or more houses have failed to comply with the requirements of the notices served on them under this section, and the authority might, under this Act, execute the necessary works for providing a water supply for each house, the authority may, if it appears to them desirable, and no greater expense would be occasioned thereby, execute works for the joint supply of water to those houses, and apportion the expenses as they deem just.

38 & 39 Vict.
c. 55.

The authority may, on cause being shown to their satisfaction why the requirements of a notice served by them under this section should not be complied with, withdraw the notice or modify the requirements thereof. A.D. 1878.

Provided that nothing in this section contained shall be deemed to relieve the authority from the duty imposed upon them by the Public Health Act, 1875, of providing their district or any contributory place or part of a contributory place therein with a supply of water in cases where danger arises to the health of the inhabitants from the insufficiency or unwholesomeness of the existing supply, and a general scheme of supply is required, and such supply can be got at a reasonable cost. 38 & 39 Vict. c. 55.

4. Where an owner of a house has been required by the notice of a rural sanitary authority to provide a supply of water for his house, and objects to such requirement on any of the following grounds; that is to say, Appeal by owner against requirement to provide watersupply.

- (1.) That the supply is not required; or,
- (2.) That the time limited by the notice for providing the supply is insufficient; or,
- (3.) That it is impracticable to provide the supply at a reasonable cost; or,
- (4.) That the authority ought themselves to provide a supply of water for the district or contributory place in which the house is situate, or to render the existing supply of water wholesome; or,
- (5.) That the whole or part of the expense of providing the supply, or of rendering the existing supply wholesome, ought to be a charge on the district or contributory place;

he may, within twenty-one days after service on him of the second notice, address a memorial to the authority, stating his objections, and in that case it shall not be lawful for the authority to proceed with the execution of the works which they might otherwise execute under this Act until they have been authorised to execute the same by a court of summary jurisdiction or by the Local Government Board in manner herein-after provided.

If the objections stated in the memorial do not include either the fourth or fifth of the above-mentioned grounds, the authority may apply to a court of summary jurisdiction for an order authorising them to proceed with the works, and thereupon the court shall summon the owner, and, if satisfied on hearing the case that the objections are not well founded, shall make an order authorising

A.D. 1878. — the authority to proceed with the works in the event of their not being executed by the owner within a time limited by the order.

If the objections stated in the memorial are or include the fourth and fifth of the above-mentioned grounds, or either of them, the authority shall forward a copy of the memorial to the Local Government Board, who may either cancel the requirement of the authority, or confirm the same, with or without modifications.

If the Local Government Board confirm the requirement they shall issue an order authorising the authority, subject to such modifications, if any, as they prescribe, to execute the works in the event of such works not being executed by the owner within a time limited by the order.

Any such order may, if the Local Government Board think it equitable so to do, apportion the expense of providing the supply between the owner of the house and the authority of the district comprising the contributory place in which the house is situate, or between the owner and any other person or persons.

If the Local Government Board cancel the requirement on the grounds that the authority ought themselves to provide a supply of water for the district or contributory place in which the house is situate, or to render the existing supply wholesome, the memorial shall be deemed to have been a complaint of default made to the Local Government Board against the authority under the 299th section of the Public Health Act, 1875.

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Appeal
against
apportion-
ment of
expenses.

5. Where the expenses of providing a joint supply of water for two or more houses are apportioned under this Act by a rural sanitary authority among the owners of the several houses, notice of such apportionment shall be forthwith given to each of such owners, and if any owner objects to the apportionment as unjust, he may, within twenty-one days after service on him of notice thereof, apply to a justice, and thereupon the justice may summon the authority, and also the other owners, to show cause before a court of summary jurisdiction why the apportionment should not be varied, and the court may either dismiss the application or make such order varying the apportionment as to the court may appear reasonable.

Houses
in rural
districts not
to be erected
or rebuilt
without
sufficient
watersupply.

6. It shall not be lawful in any rural district for the owner of any dwelling-house which may be erected after the date of the commencement of this Act, or of any dwelling-house which after that date may be pulled down to or below the ground floor and rebuilt, to occupy the same, or cause or permit the same to be occupied, unless and until he has obtained from the sanitary authority of the district a certificate that there is provided, within a reasonable distance of

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the house, such an available supply of wholesome water as may appear to such authority, on the report of their inspector of nuisances or of their medical officer of health, to be sufficient for the consumption and use for domestic purposes of the inmates of the house.

If the sanitary authority refuse to grant such certificate, the owner may apply to a court of summary jurisdiction for an order authorising the occupation of the house notwithstanding the refusal of the certificate, and thereupon the court shall summon the authority, and if the court, after hearing the case, is of opinion that the certificate ought to have been granted, the court may make an order authorising the occupation of the house.

Any owner who occupies a house or causes or permits it to be occupied in contravention of this section shall be liable on conviction by a court of summary jurisdiction to a penalty not exceeding ten pounds.

7. It shall be the duty of every rural sanitary authority from time to time to take such steps as may be necessary to ascertain the condition of the water supply within their district, and the authority may pay all reasonable costs and expenses incurred by them for the purpose of taking such steps. The authority, or any of their officers, or any person duly authorised in writing for that purpose by the authority, if they or he have or has reasonable ground for believing that any occupied dwelling-house within the district is without a proper supply of wholesome water, sufficient for the consumption and use for domestic purposes of the inmates of such house, shall be admitted into the premises for which such supply is required or from which the water supply may be derived for the purpose of ascertaining whether or not such house has such a supply within a reasonable distance; and for the purposes of any such admission sections 102 and 103 of the Public Health Act, 1875, shall apply in the same manner as if such admission were necessary for the purpose of examining as to the existence of any nuisance on the premises, and the person so authorised as aforesaid were an officer of the rural sanitary authority.

Periodical inspections of water supply.

38 & 39 Vict. c. 55.

8. Where application is made to the Local Government Board by a local authority under section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1875, to determine what is a reasonable cost within the meaning of that section, the Board may, for that purpose, fix, by order, a general scale of charges for the whole or any part of the district of the local authority, and the cost of the supply of water to any house within the area specified in the order shall be deemed to be

Explanation of s. 62. of 38 & 39 Vict. c. 55. as to the meaning of "reasonable cost."

A.D. 1878. determined to be a reasonable cost within the meaning of that section if it does not exceed the cost authorised by such general scale of charges.

Rating for water supply by stand-pipes.

9. Where a rural sanitary authority have provided a stand-pipe or stand-pipes for the supply of water to any portion of their district, they may recover water rates or water rents from the owner or occupier of every dwelling-house within two hundred feet of any such stand-pipe, in the same manner in all respects as if the supply had been given on the premises.

Provided that if any such dwelling-house has, within a reasonable distance, and from other sources, a supply of wholesome water sufficient for the consumption and use of the inmates of the house, no water rate or water rent shall be recoverable from the owner or occupier of the house unless and until the water supplied by the authority by means of such stand-pipes is used by inmates of the house.

Power to require water rates to be levied.
38 & 39 Vict. c. 55.

10. Where a sanitary authority under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1875, as amended by this Act, supply water in any urban district or in any contributory place, and an application is made to them by any ten persons rated to the relief of the poor in such urban district, or by any five persons so rated in such contributory place, to charge water rates or water rents in respect of the water so supplied, it shall be incumbent upon the authority to exercise the powers given to them by the Public Health Act, 1875, and by this Act, of charging water rates or water rents in respect of all water supplied by them in such urban district or in such contributory place.

Powers of urban sanitary authorities in certain cases.

11. The Local Government Board may, if they think fit, by order, invest any urban sanitary authority with all or any of the powers and duties which are by this Act given to a rural sanitary authority, and such investment may be made either unconditionally or subject to any conditions to be specified by the Board as to the time, portion of the district, or manner during at or in which the powers and duties are to be exercised.

Forms in the schedule.

12. The forms contained in the schedule to this Act, or forms to like effect varied as circumstances may require, may be used, and shall be deemed sufficient for all purposes.

Powers of Act cumulative.

13. All powers given by this Act shall be deemed to be in addition to and not in derogation of any other powers conferred by Act of Parliament, law, or custom.

The SCHEDULE.

A.D. 1878.

FORM (A.)

Sect. 12.

Form of Notice requiring Owner to provide a supply of Water for an Occupied House.

To _____ the owner of the house occupied by [*state name of occupier*] and situated at [*give such description as may be sufficient to identify the premises*] within the district of [*describe the local authority*].

Whereas it appears to the above-named [*local authority*] on the report of their [*inspector of nuisances or their medical officer of health, as the case may be*] that the said house has not within a reasonable distance an available supply of wholesome water sufficient for the consumption and use for domestic purposes of the inmates of the house by reason of the existing supply not being [*wholesome or sufficient, or within a reasonable distance, as the case may be*], and that the requisite supply can be provided at a reasonable cost; and whereas the said [*local authority*] are of opinion that such supply ought to be provided at your expense as the owner of the said house, or defrayed as private improvement expenses :

Now, therefore, we, the said [*local authority*], in pursuance of the Public Health (Water) Act, 1878, do hereby require you to provide an available supply of wholesome water sufficient for the consumption and use for domestic purposes of the inmates of the said house within a reasonable distance from such house, and to do all such works as may be necessary for that purpose within [*state the time*] from the date of the service hereof.

Dated this _____ day of _____ 187 .
(Signed)

Clerk to the said [*local authority*].

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