



CHAPTER xli

An Act to constitute the Clifton Suspension Bridge Trust to incorporate the Trustees of the Trust and to make provision for the vesting in the Trustees of the property of the existing Trustees and for the constitution and proceedings of the Trustees to transfer to the Trustees the undertaking of the Clifton Suspension Bridge Company and to provide for the winding up and dissolution of that company to confer powers on the Trustees in relation to the said bridge and to the charging of tolls to make provision regarding the finances of the said trust to repeal the Acts relating to the Trustees and to the company and for other purposes.

[1st August 1952.]

WHEREAS by an Act passed in the eleventh year of the reign of King George IV intituled "An Act for building a bridge over the river Avon from Clifton in the county of Gloucester to the opposite side of the river in the county of Somerset and for making convenient roads and approaches to communicate therewith" (hereinafter in this Act referred to as "the Act of 1830") the funds therein specified were vested in certain named trustees and their successors to be elected as provided for in the Act (hereinafter referred to as "the Trustees") for the purpose of constructing maintaining and keeping in repair a bridge (hereinafter in this Act referred to as "the bridge") partly of stone and partly of iron or other materials in the nature of a chain or suspension bridge over the river Avon from Clifton in the county of Gloucester now in the city and county of Bristol to the opposite side of the river in the county of Somerset and of the approaches thereto:

And whereas the Act of 1830 provided for (inter alia)—

- (1) the election and qualification of subsequent Trustees not exceeding in the whole thirty-five and not being less than twenty-five in number ;
- (2) the acquisition of the land necessary for the construction of the bridge and of the approaches thereto ;
- (3) the construction maintenance and keeping in repair of the bridge and of the approaches thereto ;
- (4) the charging of tolls not exceeding the respective amounts set out in the Act until all the moneys borrowed and raised under the Act had been paid off :

And whereas despite the extension by subsequent Acts of the period limited by the Act of 1830 for the construction of the bridge and of the approaches thereto the Trustees were unable to raise sufficient funds to complete the construction of the bridge and their powers under the Act of 1830 lapsed :

And whereas by the Clifton Suspension Bridge Act 1861 (hereinafter in this Act referred to as "the Act of 1861") a company was incorporated by the name of "Clifton Suspension Bridge Company" (hereinafter in this Act referred to as "the company") and it was provided that—

- (1) upon the company paying the consideration therein specified the Trustees were to convey to the company in fee simple the estate and interest of the Trustees in the lands and buildings on both sides of the river acquired under the Acts hereinbefore recited ;
- (2) the company was to complete the construction of the bridge and approaches thereto within the period prescribed by the Act ;
- (3) tolls not exceeding those specified in the Act were to be charged by the company ;
- (4) certain annual payments were to be made by the company to the Trustees to be used by them after paying certain expenses in purchasing all the mortgages or shares of the company issued under the Act ;
- (5) as from the date when the mortgages and shares of the company had been purchased by the Trustees in accordance with the provisions of the Act the powers granted to the company (except those of maintaining and supporting the bridges and approaches thereto and of collecting tolls) should cease and determine and the company should be dissolved and their said powers transferred to the Trustees ;
- (6) after the said transfer to the Trustees an accumulation fund should be formed by the Trustees for the purpose ultimately of freeing the bridge from tolls :

And whereas the construction of the bridge and of the approaches thereto was completed by the company and further powers were conferred on the company by the Clifton Suspension Bridge Act 1888 :

And whereas out of the tolls collected by the company from persons using the bridge the payments required by the Act of 1861 to be made to the Trustees have been duly made and with the funds so provided the Trustees have purchased the whole of the company's issued share and loan capital with the exception of the shares held by the directors and auditors of the company as the qualification required for holding their respective offices and of those held by the secretary ;

And whereas since the funds in the hands of the Trustees are sufficient to purchase the said shares the revesting of the bridge in the Trustees is due to take place :

And whereas it is expedient that the Trustees should be incorporated that provision should be made for the appointment of two additional Trustees one by the council of the administrative county of Somerset (hereinafter in this Act referred to as " the county council ") and the other by the lord mayor aldermen and burgesses of the city of Bristol (hereinafter in this Act referred to as " the corporation ") and that provision should be made for the constitution and proceedings of the Trustees as in this Act provided :

And whereas it is also expedient that the undertaking of the company should be transferred to the Trustees and that the company should be wound up and dissolved :

And whereas it is also expedient that the provisions of the Act of 1861 relating to the charging of tolls (as amended by the Clifton Suspension Bridge Act 1888) should be revised and that the maximum tolls which the Trustees are authorised to charge should be increased as in this Act provided :

And whereas the necessity of making provision for the contingency that the bridge may ultimately have to be replaced makes it expedient to provide for continuing the powers to charge tolls for an unlimited period :

And whereas it is expedient that such other provisions should be made as are in this Act contained and that the Acts hereinbefore recited should be repealed :

And whereas the objects of this Act cannot be attained without the authority of Parliament :

May it therefore please Your Majesty that it may be enacted and be it enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty by and

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*Clifton Suspension Bridge
Act, 1952*

15 & 16 GEO. 6
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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 (that is to say):—