

No. XXVI.

An Act to alter the constitution of and mode of appointing the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, to empower such Committee to appoint Sectional Committees, and for other purposes hereinafter set forth. [5th June, 1889.]

PUBLIC WORKS ACT
AMENDMENT.

WHEREAS, by the "Public Works Act of 1888," it is enacted Preamble. that the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works shall be appointed on some day not later than the seventh day after the commencement of each Session of every Parliament, and shall, subject to certain conditions, hold office for the Session for which they were appointed, and during the interval between the prorogation of Parliament and the next ensuing Session thereof; and it is by the said Act further enacted that any seven Members of the Committee, of whom the Chairman or Vice-Chairman shall be one, shall form a quorum competent to exercise all powers and authorities, and to incur all

Public Works Act Amendment.

all obligations conferred or imposed by the said Act upon such Committee. And whereas it is by the said Act provided that the said Committee may sit at such times and places as may seem most convenient for the proper and speedy despatch of business, and that such Committee shall sit in open Court. And whereas it is considered that the period within which the said Committee is required to be appointed should be extended; that the said Committee should hold office during the continuance of Parliament; that it would conduce to the better despatch of business if the quorum of the said Committee were altered, and if in the absence of the Chairman or Vice-Chairman the Members of the Committee were empowered to appoint a temporary Chairman; and if the Members thereof were empowered to appoint Sectional Committees. And whereas for the said and other purposes it is desirable that the said Act should be amended as hereinafter provided;— Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of New South Wales in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

Short title.

1. This Act may be cited as the "Public Works Act Amendment Act of 1889."

Amendment of sec. 3 of "Public Works Act of 1888."

2. The third section of the "Public Works Act of 1888" is hereby amended in respect to the enactment therein contained that every joint Committee as therein described shall be appointed within seven days after the commencement of each Session of every Parliament; and after the passing of this Act such Committee shall be appointed as soon as practicable after the commencement of the first Session of every Parliament.

Committee to hold office for duration of Parliament.

3. Notwithstanding anything in the "Public Works Act of 1888," the Members of every Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works shall hold office for the duration of the Parliament for the time being, but shall cease to hold office so soon as such Parliament shall expire by dissolution, or effluxion of time; and shall hold office unless otherwise provided by this Act, under and subject to the provisions of the said Public Works Act.

Quorum reconstructed.

4. The quorum of every such Committee shall, after the passing of this Act, be five; and it shall not be necessary that the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Committee shall be one of such quorum. Provided that when the Committee meet for the consideration of their Report to the Legislative Assembly the quorum shall not be less than seven. Provided also that such quorums shall not consist exclusively of Members of the Legislative Assembly or of the Legislative Council.

Provision for absence of Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

5. At any meeting of the Committee at which a quorum shall be present, the Members in attendance, may, in the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, appoint one of their number then present to be temporary Chairman, and such temporary Chairman shall have, during the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, all the powers given by the "Public Works Act of 1888," or by this Act, to the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Committee.

Division—Casting vote.

6. All questions which shall arise in any Committee or Sectional Committee shall be decided by a majority of votes of the Members present, and when the votes shall be equal the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote. Provided that in all cases of divisions the names of the persons voting shall be stated on the minutes and in the Report.

Sectional Committees may be appointed.

7. Sectional Committees of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, for all purposes of the "Public Works Act of 1888," may be constituted by the appointment of any three or more Members of such Committee at any meeting of the said Committee at which a quorum as prescribed by this Act shall be present. The
Members

Potts' Hill Storage Reservoir.

Members so to be appointed shall be designated a Sectional Committee, and every Sectional Committee shall have, and may exercise, for the purpose of carrying out any business or inquiry delegated to them by the Committee either at or after the time of their appointment, all the powers conferred on the Committee by the said Public Works Act, and shall sit in open Court. The Chairman or temporary Chairman of such Sectional Committee (who shall be appointed by the said Sectional Committee) shall be the person to exercise the powers conferred by the said Public Works Act on, or in the name of, the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Committee.

8. The powers and provisions respectively conferred by and contained in the seventh, tenth, and eleventh sections of the "Public Works Act of 1888," shall be exercisable by and applicable to every Sectional Committee appointed as aforesaid. Application of ss. 7, 10 and 11 of "Public Works Act of 1888."

9. Every such Sectional Committee shall make its report as soon as practicable to the Committee, of and in respect to all matters delegated to it by such Committee; and such report with any evidence taken by such Sectional Committee shall be dealt with by the Committee in all respects, so far as possible, as reports of Select Committees are dealt with by the Legislative Assembly. Reports of Sectional Committee.

10. Not more than two Sectional Committees shall be appointed or shall sit at the same time; but the Committee may sit at any time notwithstanding that any such Sectional Committee or Committees may be sitting at the same time. Limit of number of Sectional Committees, &c.

11. Where any Public Work shall before the passing of this Act have been referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, or shall hereafter be referred to any such Committee, and such Committee shall have lapsed or ceased to have legal existence, before such public work has been reported on by such Committee the evidence taken before such Committee and before any Sectional Committee shall, nevertheless, be considered by any subsequent Committee to whom the same Public Work may be referred for report pursuant to the said "Public Works Act of 1888," as hereby amended, as if such evidence had been given before and for the information and guidance of such subsequent Committee. As to evidence, &c., taken before and reports made by previous Committees.