

"Commutation Acts," the said George Archibald Leach did, on the 1st day of January, 1878, make a declaration before the Honourable Mr. Justice Denman, one of the Judges of the High Court of Justice, Common Pleas Division, for the due execution of the duties under the said Act.

GENERAL ORDER of the Local Government Board, altering Regulations as regards Contracts and Tenders.

To the Guardians of the Poor of the several Unions and Separate Parishes named in Schedule B. to this Order ;—

And to all others whom it may concern.

WHEREAS by certain General and other Orders, addressed by the Poor Law Commissioners, the Poor Law Board, and the Local Government respectively to the Guardians of the Poor of each of the Unions and Separate Parishes named in the Schedule B. to this Order, the Guardians are required to enter into Contracts on behalf of the Union or Separate Parish, relating to the maintenance, clothing, lodging, employment, or relief of the Poor, or for any other purpose relating to or connected with the general management of the Poor ; and the said Orders contain the following Regulations, or some of them, or Regulations to the like effect, with respect to such Contracts, and to the Tenders to be submitted to the Guardians prior to their entering into Contracts, and the Bonds to be given by Contractors ;—

"Art. 45. The Guardians shall require tenders to be made in some sealed paper for the supply of all provisions, fuel, clothing, furniture, or other goods or materials, the consumption of which may be estimated, one month with another, to exceed ten pounds per month, and of all provisions, fuel, clothing, furniture, or other goods or materials, the cost of which may be reasonably estimated to exceed fifty pounds in a single sum, and shall purchase the same upon contracts to be entered into after the receipt of such tenders.

"Art. 46. Any work or repairs to be executed in the Workhouse, or the premises connected with the Workhouse, or any fixtures to be put up therein, which may respectively be reasonably estimated to exceed the cost of fifty pounds in one sum, shall be contracted for by the Guardians, on sealed tenders, in the manner prescribed in Articles 45 and 47.

"Art. 47. Notice of the nature and conditions of the contract to be entered into, of the estimated amount of the articles required, of the last day on which tenders will be received, and the day on which the tenders will be opened, shall be given in some newspaper circulating in the Union, not less than ten days previous to the last day on which such tenders are to be received ; and no tender shall be opened by the Clerk, or any Guardian, or other person, prior to the day specified in such notice, or otherwise than at a meeting of the said Guardians.

"Art. 48. When any tender is accepted, the party making the tender shall, in pursuance of these regulations, enter into a contract, in writing, with the Guardians, containing the terms, conditions, and stipulations mutually agreed upon ; and whenever the Guardians deem it advisable, the party contracting shall find one or more surety or sureties, who shall enter into a bond conditioned for the due performance of the contract, or shall otherwise secure the same.

"Art. 49. Provided always, that if from the peculiar nature of any provisions, fuel, clothing, furniture, goods, materials, or fixtures to be sup-

plied, or of any work or repairs to be executed, it shall appear to the Guardians desirable that a specific person or persons be employed to supply or execute the same, without requiring sealed tenders as hereinbefore directed, it shall be lawful for such Guardians, with the consent of the Commissioners first obtained, to enter into a contract with the said person or persons and to require such sureties and securities as are specified in Art. 48.

"Art. 50. Every contract to be hereafter made by any Guardians shall contain a stipulation requiring the contractor to send in his bill or account of the sum due to him for goods or work, on or before some day to be named in the contract.

"Art. 51. The Guardians shall fix some day or days, not being more than twenty-one days after the end of each quarter, for the attendance of contractors and tradesmen, or their authorized agents, and the Clerk shall notify such day to every contractor or tradesman to whom money may be due, or to his agent, or he shall, under the direction of the Guardians, cause the same to be advertised in some newspaper."

And whereas it is expedient that further Regulations in that behalf should be made as hereinafter mentioned :

Now therefore, We, the Local Government Board, in pursuance of the powers given by the Statutes in that behalf, hereby Order as follows, with respect to each of the Unions and Separate Parishes named in the Schedule B. to this Order :—

ARTICLE I.—Tenders for the supply of goods or materials required by the Guardians by advertisement, in pursuance of the Regulations above-recited, shall be made in the Form No. 2, in the Schedule A. to this Order, or in a Form to the like effect ; and a Statement of the estimated amount of the articles required, of the last day on which Tenders will be received, and the day on which the Tenders will be opened, shall be made in the Form No. 1 in the same Schedule, or in a Form to the like effect, and prefixed to the Form of Tender.

ARTICLE II.—Whenever any such Tender is accepted by the Guardians, the fact of such acceptance shall be attested under the Common Seal of the Guardians and the signature of their Clerk, in the Form No. 3 in the said Schedule A., or in a Form to the like effect ; and the acceptance so attested, together with the Tender comprising the "Conditions of Contract," made in accordance with Article I. of this Order, and duly executed, shall constitute the Contract referred to in the Regulations above-recited.

ARTICLE III.—The Bond to be given in pursuance of the Regulations above-recited shall be in the Form No. 4 in the Schedule A. to this Order, or in a Form to the like effect.

ARTICLE IV.—The Forms above referred to shall be provided by the Guardians, and supplied by their Clerk to any person requiring them.

ARTICLE V.—In this Order—

The word "Unions" includes any Union of Parishes incorporated or united for the relief or maintenance of the Poor under any Act of Parliament.

The term "Separate Parishes" includes any Parish or Place which is under a separate Board of Guardians.

The word "Guardians" includes any Governors, Directors, Managers, Acting Guardians, Vestrymen, or other Officers appointed or entitled to act in the distribution or ordering of relief to the Poor Rates under any Act of Parliament.