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TUESDAY, AUGUST 24, 1886.

AT the Court at *Osborne House, Isle of Wight*, the 16th day of *August*, 1886.

PRESENT,

The QUEEN's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

WHEREAS there was this day read at the Board a Report of the Right Honourable the Lords of a Committee of Council, dated the sixth of July, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-six, in the words following, viz. :—

“ Your Majesty having been pleased by Your Order in Council of the twenty-sixth June, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-six, to refer unto this Committee the humble petition of the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the borough of Bolton, in the county of Lancaster, in Council assembled, the thirteenth day of May, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-five, setting forth :—

“ That by an Act of Parliament passed in the thirty-second year of the reign of Your Majesty (thirty-one and thirty-two Vict. c. one hundred and thirty), known by the short title of ‘ The Salford Hundred Court of Record Act, 1868,’ a Court of Record was constituted to be called ‘ The Court of Record for the Hundred of Salford, in the county of Lancaster.’

“ That the said Hundred of Salford, as in the said Act defined, includes the whole of the Municipal Borough of Bolton, and the said Court has and exercises its jurisdiction within that borough.

“ That by the said Act the said Court has authority, to try—

- “ 1. Personal actions, if the cause of action arose within the Hundred, and the debt or damages sought to be recovered do not exceed fifty pounds.
- “ 2. Certain actions of ejectment between landlord and tenant.
3. “ Any action whatsoever (except for libel, slander, or seduction, when the damages claimed exceed fifty pounds), provided a consent to the jurisdiction of the Court be signed by the parties, and filed as in the Act mentioned.

“ That by the preamble of the Statute made and passed in the session of Parliament holden in the ninth and tenth years of Your Majesty's reign, chap. ninety-five (‘ The County Court Act, 1846’) it is declared that it is expedient that one rule and manner of proceeding for the recovery of small debts and demands should prevail throughout England, and under the said Act the County Court of Lancashire, holden at Bolton,

has been established, and has jurisdiction throughout the whole of the borough of Bolton.

“ That the said County Court has cognizance of all actions in respect of which the Salford Hundred Court has jurisdiction within the said borough.

“ That it is provided by an Act passed in the fifteenth and sixteenth years of the reign of Your Majesty, ‘ The County Court Act, 1852,’ that, upon the petition of the Council of any city or borough within the limits of which a Court of Local Jurisdiction other than a County Court is established, or into the limits of which the jurisdiction of such Court of Local Jurisdiction shall extend, shall petition Your Majesty in Council that the jurisdiction of such Court of Local Jurisdiction may be excluded in any cause whereof the County Court hath cognizance, Your Majesty may by Order in Council declare such exclusion of the jurisdiction of such Court of Local Jurisdiction throughout the whole or any part of the district assigned to such County Court.

“ That the procedure of the said Hundred Court is dilatory, complicated and expensive, as compared with the procedure of the County Court, which is prompt, simple, inexpensive, and effective.

“ That the office of the Registrar of the Salford Hundred Court is at the Townhall, in the city of Manchester, and the sittings of the Court are held in that city, which is distant ten miles from the borough of Bolton.

“ That by reason of the technical nature of the procedure of the said Hundred Court, and the distance from the borough of the place where the office of the said Court is situate, and its sittings held, the inhabitants of Bolton, when sued in such Court, are obliged to employ professional assistance, and are otherwise put to great expense and inconvenience in insignificant actions, and the process of the said Court in such actions becomes oppressive, particularly to Defendants of the operative classes.

“ That upon Judgment obtained in a County Court for a sum not exceeding twenty pounds the Judge of the Court may order the payment thereof by instalments, but upon Judgment obtained in the Salford Hundred Court the plaintiff is at liberty to have execution issued forthwith for the whole amount recovered, whereby the process of the latter Court is productive in many cases of great hardship and distress.

“ That in the opinion of your petitioners it is highly desirable in the interests of the poorer classes that the jurisdiction of the Salford Hundred Court within the limits of the borough of