

Sir FREDERICK LIDDELL, K.C.B., K.C. (Counsel to Mr. Speaker) attends the Committee.

The Clauses of the Bill as amended are again read and *agreed to*.

The First Schedule of the Bill is again read.

Clause 52 of the First Schedule is again considered and *agreed to* with amendments (*vide* Appendix).

The First Schedule as amended is *agreed to*.

The Second and Third Schedules as amended are again read and *agreed to*.

The Preamble and Title of the Bill are again read and *agreed to*.

Ordered, That the Lord in the Chair do report the Bill with amendments to the House of Lords, and that Sir Francis Fremantle do report accordingly to the House of Commons.

A Draft Report is laid before the Committee by the Lord in the Chair.

The same is *agreed to* with drafting amendments (*vide* Report).

Ordered, That the Lord in the Chair do make the Report to the House of Lords, and that Sir Francis Fremantle do make the Report to the House of Commons.

Ordered, That the Committee be adjourned.

LIST OF WITNESSES.

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Mr. G. N. C. Swift (County Councils Association)
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Mr. G. N. C. Swift and Mr. H. H. Keen (W. B. Keen and Company) (County Councils' Association)
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Mr. G. D. Helliwell (Parliamentary Agent), and Mr. J. G. Drew (Town Clerk) (Brighton Corporation)
Mr. A. R. Boucher (Solicitor) (Bristol Waterworks Company)...
Mr. L. J. H. Horner (Parliamentary Agent) (Canal Association)
Mr. A. B. Winser (Parliamentary Agent) (Colne Valley Water Company and Rickmansworth Water Company)
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Mr. Hugh Wentworth Pritchard (Parliamentary Agent), Mr. Charles L. des Forges (Town Clerk of Rotherham), Mr. J. K. Swales, M.Inst.C.E. (General Manager and Engineer of the Sheffield Corporation Waterworks) (Association of Municipal Corporations) ...	
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Mr. John J. McIntyre (Solicitor and Parliamentary Agent) (Rural District Councils' Association)	
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Mr. C. B. Marshall (Parliamentary Agent) (Central Landowners' Association)	
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Mr. G. Mansfield	
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Mr. C. B. Marshall (Parliamentary Agent) (Central Landowners' Association)	
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**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE WATER
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Viscount Bridport.	Sir Francis Fremantle.
Lord Darcy (de Knayth).	Mr. James Griffiths.
Lord Teynham.	Mr. Levy.
Lord Derwent.	Mr. Medlicott.
Lord Faringdon.	Major Mills.
Lord Kenilworth.	Mr. Rathbone.

The EARL OF ONSLOW in the Chair.

Sir FREDERICK LIDDELL, K.C.B., K.C. (Counsel to Mr. Speaker), attends the Committee.

Mr. G. R. HILL, C.B. (Parliamentary Counsel Office); Mr. I. F. ARMER, M.C. (Ministry of Health); Mr. C. B. MARSHALL (Parliamentary Agent) (Central Landowners' Association); Mr. G. N. C. SWIFT (County Councils Association); Mr. C. E. C. BROWNE (Parliamentary Agent) (Metropolitan Water Board); Mr. H. E. SWALLOW (Parliamentary Agent) (Urban District Councils Association); Mr. CHARLES L. DES FORGES (Town Clerk of Rotherham), Mr. J. K. SWALES, M.Inst.C.E. (General Manager and Engineer of the Sheffield Corporation Waterworks), and Mr. ARTHUR COLLINS (Financial Adviser to Local Authorities) (Association of Municipal Corporations); Mr. J. F. HASELDINE (British Waterworks Association and Water Companies Association); Sir GEOFFREY COX, C.B.E. (Parliamentary Agent) (Catchment Boards Association); Captain C. W. ELLEN (Federation of British Industries); Mr. T. G. SEAGER BERRY (Parliamentary Agent) and Mr. A. B. E. BLACKBURN (Engineer and Manager) (Sunderland and South Shields Water Company), are called in and examined as follows:—

Sir Francis Fremantle.] My Lord Chairman, I should like, if I might, just to make a declaration, that I am, to a certain extent, an interested party, a member of one of the Water Companies and of the Executive of the British Water Association.

Chairman.

1. I am sure the Committee will feel that that need not be a reason for depriving us of the most valuable service of Sir Francis Fremantle. I think, Mr. Armer, you represent the Ministry of Health, do you not?—(Mr. Armer.) Yes, my Lord.

2. In the first place, I would like you, if you would, just to tell the Committee (several of us have been on these Committees before; many of us have not) what the object of these Bills is, how they are drafted, why they are called Consolidation and Amendment Bills and, especially, how far the amendments go. We have had that always before, and we would like you to give us an explanation of that, because I think it is helpful, in the first instance?—Yes. The procedure adopted by the Drafting Committee was to take the

general enactments relating to water supply in so far as those enactments regulated the carrying on of undertakings; also, to take the amendments which have been made in special Acts, which amendments have become common-form amendments. We have taken those all together and put them into one Bill with such amendments as were necessary to clarify the procedure. Most of the amendments are purely drafting; there are one or two amendments of a more than drafting nature, and I would suggest, my Lord, that when we come to each clause I might indicate how far the amendment is a substantial amendment, or not.

3. Yes; but what I want you to explain to the Committee is why it is you proceed in this way, why you take a consolidation and amendment Bill and not an entire Water Bill dealing with all the points and recommendations that have been made?—Because the provisions in this Bill are mainly either in existing legislation, or in special local Acts.

4. A good deal of it is in private Acts?—Yes. Almost all the Bill has some precedent for it in either general or