## ELDER'S TRUSTEE AND EXECUTOR COMPANY, LIMITED, ACT.

An Act to confer powers upon Elder's Trustee and George V. Executor Company, Limited. [Assented to, 24th December, 1920.]

WHEREAS in this State it is often difficult to Preamble. procure proper persons to undertake the onerous and responsible duties of trustee, executor, or administrator: And whereas the deaths, resignations, and absence from the State of executors, trustees, and others filling similar offices are often attended with great disadvantage and loss to the estates with the administration of which they are entrusted: And whereas it is desirable for the purpose of obtaining regularity and security in the administration of trust estates that permanent corporations should be empowered to fill the offices of trustee, executor, administrator, receiver, agent, and other like offices: And whereas a certain company styled "Elder's Trustee and Executor Company, Limited" (hereinafter referred to as the said company), and formed and registered under the provisions of the Companies Acts in force in the State of South Australia, has been duly registered in the State of New South Wales under the provisions of the Companies (Amendment) Act, 1906-1907, with a capital of five hundred thousand pounds, divisible into five hundred thousand shares of one pound each, for the purpose of undertaking the duties of such offices as aforesaid for a commission: And whereas the said company has from time to time been engaged and is now engaged in the administration of estates comprising assets in this State and in the State

George V. of South Australia and in other states: And whereas it is expedient that the necessary powers should be conferred upon the said company (hereinafter called the company), in order to enable it to act as executor, administrator, administrator with the will annexed, trustee, receiver, committee of the estates of persons of unsound mind, guardian of the estates of infants, agent under power of attorney or otherwise, liquidator trustee in bankruptcy or of any assignment under the law relating to bankruptey, and to perform and discharge all the duties of such offices and to receive remuneration therefor, and to confer upon the company all such privileges and powers as are necessary or expedient for the purposes aferesaid: Be it therefore enacted by the King'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:--

Company may act as executor and obtain probate. 1. Whenever the company has been or shall be named, either alone or jointly with any other corporation or any person, as executor in the last will and testament, or in the codicil to the last will and testament, of any testator, it shall be lawful for the company to act as executor, and to apply for and obtain probate of the will of the testator, and to perform and to discharge all other the acts and duties of an executor as fully and effectually as any other executor.

Persons entitled to obtain letters of administration C.T.A. may authorise the company to do so.

2. It shall be lawful for any person or persons entitled to obtain letters of administration with the will of any testator annexed of the estate of such testator to authorise the company, either alone or jointly with any other corporation or any person, to apply for and to obtain letters of administration with the will annexed, which may be granted to the company upon its own application when so authorised.

Persons entitled to probate may authorise company to obtain administration with will annexed.

3. Any person or persons named expressly or by implication as executors or executor who would be entitled to obtain probate of the will of any testator without reserving leave to any other person to apply for probate may instead of themselves or himself applying for probate authorise the said company to apply to the Supreme Court for administration with the will annexed,

and

and administration with the will annexed may be granted George V. to the said company upon its own application when so authorised unless the testator shall by his will have expressed his desire that the office of executor should not be delegated, or that the said company should not act in the trust of his will.

4. It shall be lawful for any person or persons Persons entitled to obtain letters of administration of the estate entitled to obtain letters of any intestate to authorise the company to apply for of adminissuch letters of administration, either alone or jointly authorise the with any other corporation, or any person or persons so company to entitled to obtain such letters of administration, and do so. administration of the estate of the intestate may be granted to the company, either alone or jointly as aforesaid, upon its own application when so authorised.

5. It shall be lawful for the company, where the company on the being granted administration of any estate with or without the will letters of administration annexed has been granted to it, either alone or jointly may perform all with any other corporation or any person, to do and helong to the office of administrator, not of the administrator, or administrator with the will incorporation. annexed, as the case may be, notwithstanding its incorporation.

6. In all cases in which the company is empowered Court to act under this Act to apply for probate or for letters of manager, &c., administration, an affidavit made by the manager, on application assistant manager, acting manager, or secretary, or by for probate or administrasuch other officer of the company as may from time to tion. time be appointed by the board of directors for that purpose shall be received, instead of any affidavit required by any Charter, Act of Parliament or rule of court to be made by persons making application for probate or letters of administration.

7. All the capital, both paid and unpaid, of which Assets of paid-up capital twenty thousand pounds shall be invested company to be liable for in the purchase of debentures or inscribed stock in such proper adof the public funds of the State as the directors of the ministration of estates and company may select, in the name of the Treasurer of the no bond to State in trust for the company, but transferable only administer to with the joint consent of the said Treasurer and the when £20,0000 of maid in company, or upon the order of the Supreme Court or a of paid-up company, or upon the order of the Supreme Court or a capital is judge thereof, and all other assets of the company, shall invested in be liable for the proper administration of all estates of securities.

George V. which the company shall act as executor or administrator, and no bond for the due administration of any estate shall be required to be given by or on behalf of the company, except in respect of estates exceeding twenty thousand pounds in value, in which the said court or a judge thereof shall otherwise order, and all interest and income to accrue from time to time from or in respect of all such debentures and inscribed stock shall be paid by the said Treasurer to the company as and when the same shall respectively become payable.

Company may be appointed trustee, receiver, committee, or guardian of estate.

**8.** (1) In all cases where any court of justice or judge thereof or person has power to appoint any person as—

- (a) trustee; or
- (b) receiver; or
- (c) committee or manager of the estate of an insane person, insane patient, or incapable person, within the meaning of the Lunacy Act of 1898; or
- (d) guardian of the estate of an infant, the company may be so appointed
- (2) (a) Subject as hereinafter provided the company may be appointed or may continue to act as sole trustee in all cases notwithstanding that it is provided by the terms of the instrument (if any) creating the trust or of any power or otherwise that there shall be more than one trustee to perform the trust.
- (b) Where the company and one or more individuals are co-trustees, any one or more of such individuals may retire, and the company shall for the purposes of any Act now or hereafter in force relating to the retirement of trustees and the vesting of the trust property be deemed to be equivalent to two trustees.
- (3) The company shall not be appointed in any case in which the instrument creating the trust or power forbids the appointment of the company.
- (4) The company shall not be appointed or be entitled to act as sole trustee in any case in which the instrument creating the trust or power expressly provides that there shall be another trustee in addition to the company or that the company shall not be appointed or act as sole trustee.

- (5) In every case in which the company is George V. appointed or acts in any of the offices in subsection one hereof mentioned all the capital of the company, both paid and unpaid, and all other assets of the company and the directors, manager, and assistant manager thereof and their respective estates shall be liable for the proper discharge of the duties of such office.
- (6) No bond, recognizance, or other security for the proper discharge of such duties shall be required to be given by or on behalf of the company.
- 9. (1) In all cases where before the passing of this Validation of Act the company was appointed new trustee in place of prior appointments of more than one trustee previously filling the office, such company as appointment shall be deemed to have been and to be as sole trustee. valid and effectual as if this Act had then been passed.

- (2) In all cases where before the passing of this Act the company upon the retirement of one or more trustees continues to act as sole trustee, the company shall be deemed to have been and to be entitled to act as sole trustee.
- (3) The trustees in whose place the company was so appointed or upon whose retirement the company continued to act as sole trustee, shall be deemed to have been and to be discharged from the trust.
- 10. (1) The company shall be capable of acquiring Company and holding any property in joint tenancy in the same may hold property manner as if it were an individual.

property as joint tenant.

- (2) Where the company and an individual, or the company and another body corporate, become entitled to any property under circumstances or by virtue of any instrument which, if the company or other body corporate had been an individual, would have created a joint tenancy, they shall be entitled to the property as joint tenants.
- (3) Where the company or other body corporate is a joint tenant of any property, then on its dissolution the property shall devolve on the other joint tenant.
- 11. Where any property is now or hereafter becomes Property vested in the company and an individual, or in the com-vested in company and pany and another body corporate, to the intent that they another as should hold the same jointly in any fiduciary capacity, to be held on

Or joint tenancy.

George V. or as mortgagees, they shall be deemed to be joint tenants thereof, and not tenants in common unless otherwise expressly provided.

Company manager, &c.

12. It shall be lawful for the company to act, either may net under power alone or jointly with any other corporation or any person, of attorney by as attorney, whenever it shall be appointed by deed attorney for any person or any corporation, and all the powers conferred upon the company by any power of attorney may be exercised and carried into execution by the manager, assistant manager, acting manager, or secretary, or by such other officer of the company as may from time to time be appointed by the board of directors for that purpose, or by any two of the directors of the company; but in all cases the capital, both paid and unpaid, and all other assets of the company, shall be liable for the due execution of the powers so conferred upon the company: Provided always that nothing herein contained shall be deemed to authorise any person, company, or corporation to confer any power upon the company which cannot by law be delegated or performed by attorney.

Executor. administratrusts to company.

13. It shall be lawful for any executor, administrator, tor, or trustee by deed to delegate to the company, either alone may delegate or jointly with any other corporation or any person, as his attorney all such trusts and powers as may by law be delegated, and all acts done by the company within the scope of such delegation shall, in favour of any persons dealing with the company without notice of death or revocation of authority by such executor, administrator, or trustee, be valid and effectual notwithstanding such death or revocation.

Executors or consent of

14. It shall be lawful for the Supreme Court or any administrators, with the judge thereof sitting in its equity or probate jurisdiction, on the application of any executor or administrator page, may appoint com. acting under any probate or letters of administration pany to discontrol granted either before or after the coming into operation of this Act, to appoint the company, either alone or jointly with any other corporation or any person, to be administrator in his place or stead, and thereupon the company shall have the same powers and authorities as if it had been the original executor or administrator as the case may be; and in every such case all the capital,

both

both paid and unpaid, and all other assets of the com- George V. pany, and the manager, assistant manager, acting manager, and the directors and their respective estates, shall be liable for the due administration of the estates of which the company shall be so appointed administrator.

**15.** (1) In all cases in which the personal attendance Manager, of an executor, administrator, trustee, receiver, committee, assistant manager, actor guardian is required in any court of justice or else-ing manager, where, the company shall be entitled to make such secretary, or other officer attendance in the person of the manager, assistant to attend and manager, acting manager, or secretary, or such other company. officer of the company as may from time to time be appointed by the board of directors for that purpose.

- (2) All declarations and all affidavits, statements of defence, or other statements required by law to be made on oath may be made and sworn on behalf of the company by the manager, assistant manager, acting manager, or secretary.
- (3) In every case where the company obtains probate or letters of administration, or is appointed and acts as trustee, receiver, committee, or guardian, the manager, assistant manager, and directors in their proper persons and estates, shall be individually and collectively responsible for the due administration of the estates entrusted to the company, and shall in their own proper persons be liable by process of attachment, commitment for contempt, or by other process, to all courts having jurisdiction in that behalf in the event of disobedience to the rules, orders, and decrees of such courts made against the company in the same manner and to the same extent as if such manager, assistant manager, and directors had personally obtained probate or letters of administration, and had acted as executor or administrator, trustee, receiver, committee, or guardian, and as if the rule, order, or decree had been made against them personally instead of against the company.
- (4) Notwithstanding such personal responsibility of the said manager, assistant manager, and directors, the capital both paid and unpaid, and all other assets of the company, shall remain liable for any loss which may be occasioned by or which may happen through any breach of trust or duty committed by the company

- George V. company or any of its officers, whether such trust or duty is implied by law or expressly conferred or imposed by the instrument under which the company acts.
  - (5) No person shall be appointed a director or manager of the company unless he is a bona fide resident of either the State of New South Wales or the State of South Australia, and any person being a director or manager of the company who ceases to reside in either of such States shall, upon so ceasing to reside, vacate his office, and such vacancy shall be filled up in the manner provided by the articles of association for filling casual vacancies.

Company to be paid a commission on moneys received.

**16.** The company shall be entitled to receive, in addition to all moneys properly expended by it and chargeable against any estate of which the administration shall be committed to the company, whether as executor, administrator, trustee, receiver, committee, or guardian, a commission at a rate to be fixed from time to time by the board of directors of the company, but not to exceed in any case two pounds ten shillings for every one hundred pounds of the corpus or capital value of any such estate, and five pounds for every one hundred pounds of the annual income of any such estate received by the company, and of all moneys, whether capital or income, received by the company as an attorney acting under power of attorney, and such commission shall be payable out of the moneys in possession of the company representing the estate upon which the same shall be chargeable, and shall be accepted by the company in full satisfaction of any claim to remuneration for acting as such executor, administrator, receiver, trustee, committee, guardian, or attorney, and no other charges beyond such commission and moneys properly expended by the company shall be made or allowed: Provided that if in any estate any judge in equity, or judge in probate, shall be of opinion that the rate of commission charged is excessive such judge may review any such Provided also that the commission commission: charged by the company against any estate shall not exceed the amount of the published scale of charges of the company at the time when the administration of such estate was committed to the company, nor shall this enactment prevent the payment of any commission George V. directed by a testator in his will either in addition to or in lieu of the commission hereinbefore authorised.

17. Whenever the company shall have been Company appointed executor, administrator, trustee, receiver, may be removed from committee, guardian, or attorney, it shall be subject in office by all respects to the same control, and to removal or court. restraint from acting and generally to the jurisdiction of the courts, in the same manner as any other executor, administrator, trustee, receiver, committee, guardian, or attorney.

**18.** It shall be lawful for any trustee, cestui que, Order for trust, executor, legatee, administrator, next of kin, or account on application creditor entitled to or interested in any estate which of trustee shall for the time being be under the management or cestui que, trust, &c. control of the company, after demand in writing made to the manager, assistant manager, or acting manager of the company, for a sufficient account of the property and assets of which such estate shall consist, and of the disposal and expenditure thereof or thereout; and upon non-compliance with such demand within a reasonable time, to apply to any judge in equity or judge in probate of the Supreme Court in a summary manner upon motion after notice to the company for an account, and if the said judge shall be of opinion that no sufficient account has been rendered by the company, the said judge shall order such account to be rendered by the company as to the said judge shall seem just, or if the said judge shall think that under the circumstances the company was not bound to furnish any account or that a sufficient account had been furnished, it shall be lawful for the said judge to dismiss the application, and the said judge shall have power in all cases to make such orders as to costs either against the company or against the applicant, or as to payment of costs out of the estate as to the said judge shall seem right.

19. It shall be lawful for the said judge in equity Judge may or judge in probate, upon the making of any application order audit in any estate under the last preceding clause, to order, in addition to committed to or in substitution for any account to be rendered by the company. company, that a person to be named in such order shall examine the books and accounts of the company in reference

George V. reference to the estate as to which the order is made, and in that case the directors and officers of the company shall deliver to the person named in such order a list of all the books kept by the company, and shall produce to such person at the office of the company at all reasonable times when required all books and accounts, vouchers, papers, and other documents of the company relating to such estate, and shall afford him all necessary information and all other necessary facilities for enabling him to make the said examination, and the said judge shall have the same power over the costs of such examination as is given by the last preceding section over the costs of an application under that section.

Voluntary winding up of company or disposal of shares may be restrained by judge.

**20.** So long as any estate, in respect of which the company is executor, administrator, trustee, committee, or guardian, shall remain in whole or in part unadministered, it shall not be lawful to proceed to wind up the company voluntarily unless with the sanction of the said judge, and it shall be lawful for any person interested in such estate, or who may have any claim in respect thereof, to apply to the said judge in a summary way by motion to restrain any director or any shareholder from disposing of any shares which such director or shareholder may hold in the company, or to restrain the winding up voluntarily of the company, and the said judge shall have power to make such order upon such application as the circumstances of the case shall appear to the said judge to require.

Judge may order winding up of company.

21. If it be proved at any time to the satisfaction of any judge in equity or judge in probate that three-fourths or more of the amount of capital authorised by this Act to be called up has been lost by the company, it shall be lawful for such judge, upon the application of any member, creditor, or cestui que trust of the company, to make an order for the winding up of the company.

Provision as to liability of directors. 22. In the event of the company being wound up, every person who has been a director of the company at any time within the period of two years preceding the commencement of the winding up shall be liable for the balance unpaid on every share which he may have transferred during such two years, in addition to his liability upon any such shares held by him at the commencement

commencement of the winding up in the event of the George V. holder or holders of such shares being unable to pay the said balance per share in full.

23. All moneys which form part of any estate of Meneys which at any time the company shall be executor, remaining unclaimed for administrator, or trustee, and which moneys shall five years to remain unclaimed by the person entitled to the same Treasury. for a period of five years after the time when the same shall have become payable to such person, except where payment has been or shall be restrained by the injunction of some court of competent jurisdiction, shall, together with interest at current rates on fixed deposits in banks, be paid by the company into the State Treasury to be placed to the credit of a fund to be called the testamentary and trust fund, distinguishing the particular estates in respect of which such moneys shall have been paid, and the Treasurer shall from time to time invest such moneys in the purchase of Government debentures or stock to be placed to the credit of the said testamentary and trust fund, distinguishing in the ledger the particular estate in respect of which such moneys shall have been invested; and the interest payable on such debentures or stock shall be placed to the credit of the said fund, and the said Treasurer's said account in the ledger shall be an official and not a nominal account, and in all transfers of the said debentures and stock by the said Treasurer he shall be sostyled without any name, addition, or description, and he shall not sign any such transfers or pay over any of the moneys standing to the credit of the said fund unless an order of any judge in equity or judge in probate directing such transfer and specifying the amount of moneys, debentures, or stock, and the name, description, and addition of the person to whom the proceeds of such sale are to be paid shall be left at the office of the said Treasurer, nor until the purchase money of the debentures or stock to be sold has been received in the Treasury; and the company shall at the end of every six months deliver to the said Treasurer a statement of all such unclaimed moneys which during the preceding six months shall have been in its hands, and distinguishing the several estates in respect of which the same have been received, and setting out the dates and amounts of

George V. the several payments of the same under this section; and if the said moneys or any part thereof have not been paid into the Treasury with a statement of the reason for the delay of such payments, and if default is made in compliance with the foregoing provisions of this section, the company shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding five pounds for every day while such default continues, and every director and manager, assistant manager, or acting manager of the company who knowingly and wilfully authorises or permits such default shall incur the like penalty.

Persons entitled to monevs in testamentary and trust apply to judge.

**24.** It shall be lawful for any person who shall be entitled to any stock debentures or moneys which shall at any time form part of the said testamentary and trust fund to apply to any judge in equity or judge in probate, upon petition in a summary way, for such order as is in the last-preceding section referred to, and the said judge shall deal with such application as nearly as may be in the same manner as in the case of applications to the said court under the Trustee Act of 1898; and in all cases in which the Treasurer may see fit to appear upon such petition, he shall be entitled to such costs against the applicant or out of the fund as the said judge may direct.

Order for

25. It shall be lawful for the Treasurer after demand application of in writing addressed to the manager, assistant manager, Treasurer. Or acting manager of the or acting manager of the company for a sufficient account of the property and assets of which any or every estate included in or which ought to be or to have been included in the hereinbefore mentioned statement of unclaimed moneys shall consist, and of the disposal and expenditure thereof, of or thereout, to apply to the said judge in a summary way, upon motion after notice to the company, for an account, and if the said judge shall be of opinion that no sufficient account has been rendered by the company, the said judge shall order such account to be rendered by the company as to the said judge shall seem just, or if the said judge shall think that under the circumstances the company was not bound to furnish any account, or that any account furnished by the company was sufficient, it shall be lawful for the said judge to dismiss the application, and the said judge shall have power in all cases to make George V. such order as to costs either against the company or as to payment of costs out of the estate as to the said judge shall seem right.

26. The manager, assistant manager, or acting Returns to be manager of the company shall during the months of made by company to April and October in every year during which the be filed in company carries on business, make before some justice registered office of of the peace a declaration in the form contained in the company and Schedule hereto, or as near thereto as circumstances will its branches. admit, of the receipts, expenditure, and investments of and in all estates and property held by the company in trust up to the thirty-first day of March or thirtieth day of September then last past; such declaration shall within seven days after the making thereof be filed in the office of the Master in Equity, and a copy of such declaration shall be put up in a conspicuous place in the registered office of the company and in every branch office or place where the business of the company is carried on, and shall be given to any member or creditor of the company, or any cestui que trust who applies for the same; and if default is made in compliance with the provisions of this section the company shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding five pounds for every day whilst such default continues, and every manager, assistant manager, or acting manager of the company who knowingly and wilfully authorises or permits such default shall incur the like penalty.

27. Every order made by any judge in equity, or Appeal from judge in probate, or any other judge under this Act, judge. shall be subject to appeal in the same manner and under the same conditions as other orders of the said judges.

28. Nothing in this Act contained shall be deemed Act not to to give to the company any right to oppose the granting other comof similar powers to those conferred upon the company panies from applying for by this Act to any other company or to corporations similar generally, or to claim or to seek compensation in powers to those conconsequence of such powers being conferred upon any ferred by this other company, or upon corporations generally, or in the Act. event of provision being made by Parliament for the management

George V. management of trust estates by a public trustee or department or officer of the Government, or in the event of the repeal of this Act.

Settlors or appoint their solicitors.

29. Where by any settlement, will, codicil, or other testators may testamentary writing, a settlor or testator shall direct that any practising solicitor or solicitors shall conduct the legal business of his or her estate, such solicitor or solicitors shall be entitled to act therein accordingly, but in such case the company shall not be liable for the negligence, misfeasance, nonfeasance, or misconduct of such solicitor or solicitors, and such solicitor or solicitors may be removed by the order of any judge in equity or judge in probate upon the application of the company or of any person interested in the said estate upon cause shown, and then and in such case the said judge may appoint the solicitor or solicitors of the company to conduct such legal business.

Incorporation and powers of company as specifically altered to remain.

- **30.** Except so far as is herein expressly provided, the company shall have and be subject to the same restrictions, liabilities, penalties, privileges, and powers as it has and is subject to under its present incorporation, and this Act shall not otherwise affect the incorporation of the company.
- Recovery of penalties.
- 31. Any penalty imposed by this Act may be recovered in a summary way before two or more justices of the peace.

Short title of

**32.** This Act shall be called and may be cited as "Elder's Trustee and Executor Company, Limited, Act, 1920."

George V.

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## 396 Elder's Trustee and Executor Company, Limited, Act.

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And I make this solemn declaration as to the matters aforesaid, conscientiously believing the same to be true, and by virtue of the provisions of the Oaths Act of 1900.