

## MERCHANT SEAMEN.--REGISTRY.

## ACT No. XXVII. OF 1850.

[Passed on the 21st June, 1850.]

1, 2, 3. *General Registry Office at Calcutta, Madras, Bombay, &c. to be established, (2) with a Registrar, Assistants, Clerks, &c. and (3) Registrar to give a Security Bond for performance of his duties.*

4, 5. *Requires Seamen on board British vessels to apply to be Registered and thereupon to answer questions prescribed and (5) Registrar bound to Register such as shall answer the questions.*

6, 7. *Registrar to give the Seaman a Register ticket, for fee, in form prescribed; and (7) in case of loss, the Registrar bound to give a new one, on loss being accounted for, &c.*

8. *Ticket to be taken from Seaman and delivered to gaoler, when Seaman is sentenced to imprisonment, and returned to Registrar when sentenced to transportation.*

9. *Registrar to cancel tickets which come again into his possession, and advertise particulars of cancelled tickets, &c.*

10. *Masters of Ships not to engage any unregistered Seaman, &c. and shall take the ticket on engaging Seaman and keep it till end of engagement. Master offending against rule liable to penalty.*

11. *Seaman falsely answering question of Registrar liable to penalty.*

12. *Every person wilfully altering, &c. any ticket liable to penalty.*

13. *Persons possessed of tickets of deceased Seamen to send them to Registrar.*

14. *Seaman using ticket not his own, &c. to forfeit wages, &c.*

15. *Penalties may be recovered in a summary way.*

16. *Fees how to be applied and a tonnage fee to be levied.*

*Schedules A. and B.*

An Act for the registry of Merchant Seamen.

Whereas it is expedient to form a register of Merchant Seamen, It is enacted as follows:

I. A General Register Office for Merchant Seamen shall be established, at each of the ports of Calcutta, Madras and Bombay, and at such other ports as the Governor General of India in Council shall hereafter deem necessary.

II. For every such Office there shall be a Registrar, with such Assistants, Clerks and Servants, at such salaries and allowances, and subject to such regulations, as shall be, from time to time, directed, with the approval of the Governor General of India in Council, by the Governor, or Governor in Council, of the Presidency or place where the office is established.

III. Each Registrar, before entering on the duties of his Office, shall, with two Sureties, execute a joint and several bond to the East India Company, according to such form as shall be, from time to time, approved by the Governor General of India in Council, conditional for the faithful performance of his duty, and for the due application and account of all monies that shall come to him, as such Registrar, under such amount of penalty as shall be, from time to time, fixed by the Governor, or Governor in Council, of the Presidency or place.

IV. Every person not having a Register Ticket from any port in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, who intends to serve, (otherwise than as Master or Surgeon), on board of any vessel navigated from a port within the territories under the Government of the East India Company, and registered as a British Vessel under the Statutes of Parliament and Acts of the Governor General of India in Council, in force, for the time being, for the registry of British Vessels, shall be bound to appear at one of the said Register Offices, for the purpose of procuring himself to be registered, and shall be bound to answer truly, to the best of his ability and knowledge, the several questions set forth in the Schedule (A.) annexed to this Act, and such other questions as shall be, from time to time, directed by the Governor General of India in Council, and until so registered shall not be allowed, after the First day of August 1850 to serve in any capacity, (other than Master or Surgeon), on board of any such registered Vessel.

V. The Registrar shall be bound to register every Seaman, who shall appear at his office for that purpose, and truly answer the said questions to the best of his ability and knowledge.

VI. The Registrar shall give to every Seaman whom he shall register a Register Ticket, containing as accurate a description as may be, of such Seaman, in such form as shall be, from time to time, approved by the Governor General of India in Council; for which he shall be entitled to take such Fee, not exceeding One Rupee, as shall be, from time to time, allowed by the Governor or Governor in Council; and shall keep recorded in his office a duplicate of every such Register Ticket. The Registrar shall ascertain to the best of his ability, and specify on the Register Ticket, the class or rating of Seafaring persons to which

each registered Seaman appears to him to belong; and from time to time, shall note on any Ticket produced to him for that purpose any superior rating to which the holder of the Ticket appears at that time to be entitled.

VII. Whenever any Seaman shall lose his Register Ticket, he shall apply personally to one of the said Registrars, and shall be bound to answer truly, to the best of his ability and knowledge, all questions which the Registrar, or one of his Assistants shall put to him, touching the time and manner of the loss; and if, it shall appear that no fraud has been committed or intended, the Registrar shall furnish another Ticket to him, upon payment of such Fee, not exceeding Five Rupees, beside the common Fee for the issue of a Register Ticket, as the Registrar shall think fit, under the instructions to be issued to him by the Governor or Governor in Council, having regard to the time and manner of the loss of the former Ticket.

VIII. Whenever any registered Seaman shall be committed to prison, or to any house of correction, the Court or Justice of the Peace shall cause his Register Ticket to be delivered to the keeper of such prison or house of correction, who shall keep it during the term of the Seaman's imprisonment, and at the end of the imprisonment give it to him again; and, whenever any registered Seaman shall be sentenced to death or transportation, the person having him in custody shall send his Register Ticket to the office of the Registrar by whom it was issued.

IX. The Registrar shall cancel every Register Ticket, which shall come again into his possession; and from time to time, shall make out lists, shewing the number and name upon every Ticket, cancelled during the twelve months then last past, and of every Ticket, which shall have been represented to him to have been lost, and in respect of which he shall have issued another Ticket during the same twelve months; and shall cause such lists to be published in the *Gazette*, in the English and vernacular language of the port, and shall also send them to the Collector of Customs and principal Officer of Police at such Towns or ports as shall be directed by the Governor or Governor in Council, to be by them respectively exhibited in some conspicuous part of the Custom House and Police Office; and copies of such lists shall be sent to the Master Attendant at every such

port, and shall be delivered to any Master or Owner of a registered Vessel on application, and on payment of a Fee of One Rupee.

X. The Master of any such Vessel shall not at any port in the said Territories, after the said First day of August, engage or employ, for the purpose of going to sea in his Vessel, any unregistered Seaman, or any Seaman having a cancelled Register Ticket; and shall cause to be delivered to him the Register Ticket of every Seaman, whom he shall so engage at any such port, after the said First day of August, before putting to sea, which Ticket the Master shall keep safely (unless in the cases herein mentioned) until the end of the service of such Seaman with him, and shall then give it back to the Seaman to whom it belongs: and every Master of a Vessel, who shall wilfully offend against this enactment, shall be liable to a penalty, not exceeding One Hundred Rupees, for each Seaman so unlawfully engaged or employed.

XI. Every person applying for a Register Ticket, who shall wilfully give a false answer to any question, which the Registrar or his Assistant is entitled to ask of him, or wilfully make any false statement before the Registrar or his Assistant as to the loss of any Register Ticket, shall be liable to a penalty, not exceeding Fifty Rupees.

XII. Every person, who shall wilfully alter, deface or destroy any Register Ticket, or counterfeit any such Register Ticket, or transfer or Traffic in any such Ticket, issued or purporting to be issued under this Act, shall be liable to a penalty, not exceeding One Hundred Rupees.

XIII. Every person, who shall become possessed of any Register Ticket, other than that lawfully issued to him, (except Masters of Vessels and others directed to keep any such Tickets by this Act), either by the death of the Seaman to whom it belonged or otherwise, shall forthwith send it to the Registrar of the port whence it was issued, and in default of so doing, shall be liable to a penalty, not exceeding One Hundred Rupees.

XIV. Every Seaman, tendering to the Master or Owner of any Vessel a cancelled Register Ticket, or any Ticket not lawfully issued to him, shall forfeit to the Owner all wages accruing to him during the service for which he shall have agreed.

XV. All penalties, directed by this Act, may be imposed on summary conviction before a Magistrate or Justice of the Peace, and may be recovered with costs, as if they were imposed by a Magistrate under Act II. 1839.

XVI. The Fees received by the Registrar shall be applied towards defraying the expenses of this Act; beside which, a yearly duty of One Anna per ton shall be levied for the same purpose on all Vessels of the burden of one hundred and fifty tons and upwards, navigated to or from the ports within the Territories under the Government of the East India Company; and the production of a certificate of payment at one port of Registry shall free the same Vessel at all others during the current year, to be reckoned from the First day of January to the last day of December.

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#### SCHEDULE A.

1. What is your name and surname?
2. What is your father's name, and usual dwelling place?
3. Have you been registered before?
4. Where were you born?
5. When were you born?
6. When did you first go to sea?
7. In what capacity did you first go?
8. In what capacity have you since served?
9. Have you served in the Royal or Indian Navy? or in the Marine of the East India Company?
10. If you have, how long? and in what Ships? and in what capacity?
11. Have you been in Foreign Service?
12. If you have, how long? and in what capacity? and under what Flag?
13. How have you been generally employed at sea?
14. Where do you usually live when unemployed?

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#### SCHEDULE B.

Names and numbers of the Register Tickets of the Crew  
(including Apprentices) now serving on board the  
of the Port of \_\_\_\_\_ of the burden of \_\_\_\_\_ Tons,

on taking departure from the Port of \_\_\_\_\_ in the  
East Indies, bound on a voyage to \_\_\_\_\_

Number and date of Ship's Register.	Name.	Capacity.	Number of Re- gister Ticket.

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 18 .

Master.