

ACT No. VI. OF 1852.

*Passed by the Governor General of India in Council, on the
30th January 1852.*

An Act for defraying the Cost of a Light-House on Pedra Branca.

WHEREAS it has been deemed expedient, for the safety and guidance of Ships navigating the China Seas, to build a Light-House on the Island Rock called Pedra Branca, situated at the Eastern entrance of the Straits of Singapore; And whereas certain sums of money were subscribed by private individuals for that purpose, but the same were insufficient to defray the expense of building such Light-House; And whereas the East India Company agreed to build such Light-House, and to advance certain sums of money to complete the same, on condition that the said sums of money were repaid to them by the levy of a toll on Ships and other square-rigged Vessels entering the harbour of Singapore; And whereas the said Light-House has been built by the East India Company, and it is desirable that the expense of building the same, and of maintaining a Light thereon, should be defrayed out of the monies arising from such toll; And whereas it may hereafter be deemed expedient to establish other Lights or beacons in the Straits of Malacca, or elsewhere near thereto, It is enacted as follows:

I. The Light-House on Pedra Branca aforesaid shall be called "The Horsburgh Light-House," and the said Light-House, and the appurtenances thereunto belonging or occupied for the purposes thereof, and all the fixtures,

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tures, apparatus, and furniture belonging thereto, shall become the property of, and absolutely vest in, the East India Company and their successors.

II. From the first day of March 1852, every Ship, being of the burden of fifty tons and upwards, which shall arrive at, or enter the harbour or roadstead of Singapore, from any part of the world, shall pay a toll of three cents of a dollar per ton for every ton of her registered burden or tonnage; Provided always that no Ship shall pay such toll more than once in every six calendar months.

III. All Ships of War belonging to Her Britannic Majesty, or any Foreign Government or State, and all armed Ships belonging to the East India Company, shall be exempt from the payment of such toll.

IV. The management and controul of the said "Horsburgh Light-House," and of the keeper thereof, and of everything relating thereto, is hereby vested in the Governor of the Straits Settlements.

V. The said Governor may appoint any person he may think fit, to be a Collector of the tolls, payable under this Act.

VI. Out of the funds raised by such tolls, an efficient Light shall be constantly kept up and exhibited during the night-time in and from the said Light-House, and the surplus monies arising from such tolls, after deducting the expense of maintaining such Light as aforesaid, shall, from time to time, be paid over to the said East India Company, in liquidation of the monies they have advanced towards the erection and completion of the said Light-House, and the apparatus and furniture thereof.

VII. The toll to be levied under this Act shall become due and payable immediately on the arrival of every Ship liable thereto within the
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harbour or roadstead of Singapore; and, immediately on the arrival of any such Ship within the said harbour or roadstead, the Collector appointed under this Act shall demand, or cause to be demanded, from the Master or other person in command of such Ship, payment of the toll of three cents of a dollar per ton for every ton of the registered burden or tonnage of such Ship, and if the same be not paid within two days after such demand made as aforesaid, or if, at any time after the arrival of such Ship as aforesaid, the said Collector shall have cause to suspect, or believe, that such Ship will immediately leave the said harbour or roadstead without paying such toll, it shall be lawful for any Justice of the Peace, upon an affidavit to that effect being made before him on oath by such Collector (which oath the said Justice is hereby authorized to administer), to issue his Warrant under his hand, directed to any Peace Officer of Singapore aforesaid, to enter on board such Ship and to seize and carry away any of the Goods, Merchandize, Guns, Tackle, Apparel or Furniture of or belonging to or on board such Ship, and to keep the same for the space of three days then next, unless the said toll shall be in the mean time paid; and in case the amount of the toll due by such Ship shall not before the expiration of such three days have been paid, then the said Collector may cause the said Goods, Merchandize, Guns, Tackle, Apparel or Furniture so seized to be sold, and out of the proceeds of such sale shall pay the amount of the said toll to which such Ship shall be liable, together with the reasonable charges of the seizure, detention, and sale, rendering to the Master or Owner, or other person having the command of such Ship, the overplus (if any) on demand.

VIII. The Officer of Government whose duty it shall be to grant a Port-clearance for any Ship clearing out of or leaving the port of Singapore aforesaid, shall refuse to grant such Port-clearance to any Ship until the Owner, Agent, Master or other person in command of such Ship shall produce a certificate from the Collector appointed under this Act that
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such Ship has paid the amount of toll to which she is liable under this Act.

IX. Notwithstanding anything in this Act contained, the said Collector appointed under this Act, may sue for and recover the amount of any tolls payable to him under this Act, by action of debt or suit in Equity in any of Her Majesty's Courts in India, against the Owner, or Master; or other person who, at the time of default made in the payment of such toll, owned or had the command of any Ship liable thereto.

X. In order to ascertain the exact burden or tonnage of any Ship liable to pay the toll leviable under this Act, the Collector appointed under this Act may apply to any Justice of the Peace to require, and such Justice of the Peace shall thereupon summon and require the Owner, Master, or other person in command of such Ship, or any person having possession of the same, to produce the register of such Ship for the inspection of such Justice, and upon the refusal or neglect of any such Owner, Master, or person to produce such register, it shall be lawful for such Justice to adjudge such Owner, Master, or person to pay a fine not exceeding one hundred dollars, and in default of payment, to be imprisoned in Her Majesty's Gaol for any period not exceeding two calendar months.

XI. When and so soon as the monies to be advanced by the said East India Company towards the erection and completion of the said Light-House shall have been fully repaid and liquidated in manner herein provided for, it shall be competent for the Governor of the Straits Settlements to build, or cause to be built, one or more other Lights or beacons for the safety and guidance of Ships in such part or parts of the Straits of Malacca, or near thereto, as shall be deemed expedient, and the cost thereof, and of maintaining the same, and of keeping up and exhibiting a Light

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or Lights therefrom, shall be defrayed out of the surplus monies arising from the toll payable under this Act, after defraying the current expenses of maintaining the "Horsburgh Light-House" aforesaid.

XII. Nothing in this Act contained shall be construed to authorize the levy of a toll upon any Ship passing through the Straits of Singapore and not entering the said harbour or roadstead of Singapore aforesaid.

XIII. The word "Ship" throughout this Act mentioned, shall be held to mean and include a Schooner, Cutter, Brig, Brigantine, Barque, Junk, Steam-Boat, and every other Vessel, as well as a Ship; and words importing the singular number only shall include the plural number, and words importing the plural number only shall include also the singular number, and words importing the masculine gender shall extend to females, unless there be something in the subject or context repugnant to such construction.