

THE INDIAN MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT,
1880.

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ACT No. VII OF 1880.

PASSED BY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF INDIA IN COUNCIL.

(Received the assent of the Governor General on the 11th March, 1880.)

An Act to amend the law relating to Merchant Shipping, and for other purposes.

WHEREAS it is expedient to prevent the departure of certain ships from British India; Preamble.

and whereas it is also expedient to provide for the relief of distressed seamen and apprentices at ports in British India, and for the recovery of wages due to, and expenses incurred in respect of, such seamen and apprentices in cases to which section 211 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1854, and section 16 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1855, do not apply of their own force;

and whereas it is also expedient to provide in other respects hereinafter appearing for the regulation and control of merchant shipping; It is hereby enacted as follows:—

CHAPTER I.

PRELIMINARY.

1. This Act may be called "The Indian Merchant Shipping Act, 1880." Short title.

and it shall come into force on the first day of June, 1880. Commencement.

2. In this Act, unless there is something repugnant in the subject or context,— Interpretation-clause.

"ship" includes every description of vessel used in navigation, not propelled by oars: "ship:"

"master"

“master :” “master” means any person (except a Pilot or Harbour-master) having for the time being the charge or control of a ship :

“port.” “port” in any provision of this Act includes also any part of a river or channel leading to a port which for the purposes of such provision the Local Government may, from time to time, by notification in the official Gazette, declare to be included in such port.

CHAPTER II.

UNSEAWORTHY AND UNSAFE SHIPS.

Saving clause. 3. Nothing in this chapter contained shall apply—
(a) to any ship belonging to, or hired by, Her Majesty or the Secretary of State for India in Council;

(b) to any ship of less than one hundred and fifty tons register employed solely in fishing or in plying coastwise between ports situate in India and Ceylon ;

(c) to any pleasure yacht.

Interpretation-clause. “British Indian ship.” 4. In this chapter, “British Indian ship” means a ship registered under Act No. XIX of 1838, Act No. X of 1841, or Act No. XI of 1850, or under any other law passed by the Governor General in Council and for the time being in force for the registration of ships in India ; and

“British ship” includes a British Indian ship :

“British ship :” “manner prescribed :” “manner prescribed” means such manner as the Local Government, with the previous sanction of the Governor General in Council, may, from time to time, by rules published in the official Gazette, prescribe :

“Unseaworthy.” A ship is “unseaworthy” within the meaning of this chapter when the materials of which she is made, her construction, the qualifications of the master, the number and description of the crew, the weight, description and stowage of cargo, the tackle, sails, rigging, stores, ballast and other equipment generally are not such as to render her in every respect fit for the proposed voyage or service :

A ship is "unsafe" within the meaning of this chapter when by reason of the defective condition of her hull, equipments or machinery, or by reason of overloading or improper loading, she is unfit to proceed to sea without serious danger to human life, having regard to the nature of the service for which she is intended. "Unsafe."

Sending or taking Unseaworthy Ship to Sea.

5. Every person who sends or attempts to send a British Indian ship to sea in such unseaworthy state that the life of any person is likely to be thereby endangered, shall, unless he proves that he used all reasonable means to insure her being sent to sea in a seaworthy state, or that her going to sea in such unseaworthy state was under the circumstances reasonable and justifiable, be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees, or with both. Every person sending unseaworthy ship to sea liable to penalty.

Every master of a British Indian ship who knowingly takes such ship to sea in such unseaworthy state that the life of any person is likely to be thereby endangered shall, unless he proves that her going to sea in such unseaworthy state was under the circumstances reasonable and justifiable, be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees, or with both. Master taking unseaworthy ship to sea liable to penalty.

For the purpose of giving such proof, every person charged under this section may give evidence in the same manner as any other witness.

No prosecution under this section shall be instituted except by, or with the consent of, the Local Government. Prosecution to be by, or with consent of, Local Government.

Implied Condition of Seaworthiness in Contract of Service.

6. In every contract of service, express or implied, between the owner of a British ship and the master or crew with Obligation of owner to crew with

respect to seaworthiness.

or any seaman thereof, and in every instrument of apprenticeship whereby any person is bound to serve as an apprentice on board any such ship, there shall be implied, notwithstanding any agreement to the contrary, an obligation on the owner that such owner and the master, and every agent charged with the loading of such ship or the preparing thereof for sea, or the sending thereof to sea, shall use all reasonable means to secure the seaworthiness of such ship for the voyage at the time when such voyage commences, and to keep her in a seaworthy state for the voyage during the same :

Proviso.

Provided that nothing in this section shall subject such owner to any liability by reason of such ship being sent to sea in an unseaworthy state where, owing to special circumstances, the so sending her to sea is reasonable and justifiable.

Detention of Unsafe Ships by the Local Government.

Provisional detention by Local Government.

7. The Local Government, if it has reason to believe, on complaint or otherwise, that a British ship in any port to which it may from time to time specially extend this section, is unsafe, may provisionally order the detention of such ship for the purpose of being surveyed.

Service of grounds on master.

A written statement of the grounds of such detention shall be forthwith served on the master of such ship.

Power to appoint surveyor.

8. When the Local Government provisionally orders the detention of a ship, it shall forthwith appoint some competent person to survey such ship and report thereon, and, on receiving his report, may either order the ship to be released or, if in its opinion the ship is unsafe, may order her to be finally detained.

Order of final detention.

An order of final detention under this section may be either absolute or until the performance of such conditions with respect to the execution of repairs or alterations, or the unloading or reloading of cargo, as the Local Government thinks necessary for the protection of human life; and the Local Government may,

may, from time to time, vary or add to any such order :

Provided that, before an order for final detention is made, a copy of the report shall be served upon the master of the ship, and within seven days after such service the owner or master may appeal against such report, in the manner prescribed, to the Court of Survey (hereinafter mentioned) for the port where the ship is detained.

Service of report on master and appeal to Court of Survey.

9. Where a ship has been provisionally detained and a person has been appointed under section eight to survey such ship, the owner or master of the ship, at any time before such person makes such survey, may require that he shall take with him as assessor such person as such owner or master may select, being a person named in the list of assessors prepared under section fifteen, or, if there is no such list, or if it is impracticable to procure the attendance of any person named in such list, a person of nautical, engineering or other special skill and experience ; and

Option to owner or master of appointing assessor to accompany surveyor.

in such case, if the surveyor and assessor agree that the ship should be detained or released, the Local Government shall cause the ship to be detained or released accordingly, and the owner or master shall have no appeal ;

Procedure where surveyor and assessor agree ;

but if the surveyor and assessor differ in their report, the Local Government may act as if the requisition had not been made, and the owner or master shall have such appeal touching the report of the surveyor as is hereinbefore provided.

where they differ.

10. Notwithstanding anything contained in section eight the Local Government may at any time, when a ship has been provisionally detained, instead of following the procedure hereinbefore provided, refer the matter to the Court of Survey for the port where the ship is detained.

Power to refer to Court of Survey.

Detaining-officers.

11. For the better execution of this chapter, the Local Government may, from time to time, appoint

Detaining-officers.

a

a sufficient number of fit persons as its officers, and may suspend or remove any of them.

Their powers generally.

Every officer so appointed (hereinafter referred to as a detaining-officer) shall have, for the purpose of his duties under this chapter, the following powers, (that is to say):—

(a) he may go on board any British ship and may inspect the same or any part thereof, or any of the machinery, equipments and cargo on board thereof, and may require the unloading or removal of any cargo, ballast or tackle, not unnecessarily detaining or delaying her from discharging, unloading or proceeding on any voyage;

(b) he may, by summons under his hand, require the attendance of all such persons as he thinks fit to call before him, may examine such persons, and may, by a like summons, require returns in writing to any enquiries he thinks fit to make;

(c) he may require and enforce the production of all books, papers or documents which he considers important; and

(d) he may administer oaths, or may, in lieu of administering an oath, require every person examined by him to make and subscribe a declaration of the truth of the statements made by him in his examination.

Their power to order provisional detention and survey.

12. Every detaining-officer shall, in addition to the powers hereinbefore conferred, have the same power as the Local Government has under sections seven and eight, respectively, of provisionally ordering the detention of a ship for the purpose of being surveyed, and of appointing a person to survey her; and if he thinks that a ship so detained by him is not unsafe, may order her to be released.

Detaining-officer to report to Local Government.

Every such officer shall forthwith report to the Local Government any order made by him for the detention or release of a ship.

Of

Of the Court of Survey and of Appeals and References thereto.

13. A Court of Survey for a port shall consist of a Judge sitting with two assessors. Constitution of Court of Survey.

14. The Judge shall be a District Judge, Judge of a Court of Small Causes, Presidency Magistrate, Magistrate of the first class or other fit person appointed in this behalf by the Local Government either generally or for any specified case. The Judge.

15. The assessors shall be persons of nautical, engineering or other special skill and experience. The assessors.

One of them shall be appointed by the Local Government either generally or in each case, and the other shall be summoned by the Judge, in the manner prescribed, out of a list of persons from time to time prepared for the purpose and published by the Local Government in the official Gazette, or, if there is no such list or if it is impracticable to procure the attendance of any person named in such list, shall be appointed by the Judge.

16. The Judge shall, on receiving notice of an appeal or a reference from the Local Government, immediately summon the assessors, in the manner prescribed, to meet forthwith. Judge to summon assessors.

17. Every such appeal and reference shall be heard in open Court. Case to be heard in open Court.

18. The Judge and each assessor shall, for the purposes of this chapter, have the same powers as are by section eleven conferred on a detaining-officer. Powers of Judge and assessors.

19. The Judge may appoint any competent person to survey the ship and report thereon to the Court. Judge may appoint surveyor.

20. The owner and master of the ship and any person appointed by the owner or master, and also any person appointed by the Local Government, may attend at any inspection or survey made in exercise or pursuance of the powers conferred by section eighteen or section nineteen. Owner or master may attend at survey.

21. The

Power of Judge to detain or release ship.

21. The Judge shall have the same power as the Local Government has to order the ship to be released or finally detained; but, unless one of the assessors concurs in an order for the detention of the ship, the ship shall be released.

Report to Local Government by Court.

22. The Judge shall report the proceedings of the Court in each case to the Local Government in the manner prescribed, and each assessor shall either sign such report or report to the Local Government the reasons for his dissent.

Power of Local Government to make rules with respect to Court of Survey.

23. The Local Government may, with the previous sanction of the Governor General in Council, from time to time make rules to carry into effect the provisions of this chapter with respect to a Court of Survey, and in particular with respect to—

- (a) the procedure before the Court;
- (b) the requiring, on an appeal, of security for costs and damages;
- (c) the amount and application of fees; and
- (d) the ascertainment, in case of dispute, of the proper amount of costs under this chapter.

Such rules shall be published in the official Gazette, and shall thereupon have the force of law.

Scientific Referees.

Power to appoint referee to hear appeal.

24. If the Local Government is of opinion that an appeal under this chapter involves a question of construction or design, or of scientific difficulty or important principle, it may refer the matter to such one or more out of a list of scientific referees, to be from time to time prepared by the Local Government, as may appear to possess the special qualifications necessary for the particular case, and may be selected by agreement between the Port-officer and the appellant, or, in default of any such agreement, by the Local Government; and thereupon the appeal shall be determined by the referee or referees instead of by the Court of Survey.

Option to appellant to

25. The Local Government, if the appellant in any such appeal so requires and gives security to its satisfaction

satisfaction to pay the costs of and incidental to the reference, shall refer such appeal to a referee or referees selected as aforesaid. require referee to be appointed.

26. The referee or referees to whom an appeal is referred under section twenty-four or section twenty-five shall have the same powers as a Judge of the Court of Survey. Referee to have powers of Court of Survey.

Costs of Detention and Damages incidental thereto.

27. If it appears that there was not reasonable and probable cause, by reason of the condition of the ship or the act or default of the owner, for the provisional detention of a ship, the Government shall be liable to pay to the owner of the ship his costs of and incidental to the detention and survey of the ship, and also compensation for any loss or damage sustained by him by reason of the detention or survey. Liability of Government for costs and damages when ship wrongly detained.

28. If a ship is finally detained under this chapter, or if it appears that a ship provisionally detained was at the time of such detention unsafe, the owner of the ship shall be liable to pay to Government its costs of and incidental to the detention and survey of the ship; and such costs shall, without prejudice to any other remedy, be recoverable as salvage is recoverable. Liability of shipowner for costs when ship rightly detained.

29. For the purposes of this chapter the costs of and incidental to any proceeding before a Court of Survey, and a reasonable amount in respect of the remuneration of the surveyor or officer of the Local Government, shall be deemed to be part of the costs of the detention and survey of the ship. What included in costs of detention and survey.

30. When a complaint is made to the Local Government or a detaining-officer that a British ship is unsafe, it shall be in the discretion of such Government or officer (as the case may be) to require the complainant to give security to the satisfaction of such Government or officer for the costs and compensation which such complainant may become liable to pay as hereinafter mentioned: Power to require from complainant security for costs, &c.

Provided that, where the complaint is made by one-fourth, being not less than three, of the seamen belonging Proviso as to complaint by

one-fourth
of crew.

belonging to the ship, and is not in the opinion of such Government or officer frivolous or vexatious, such security shall not be required; and such Government or officer shall, if the complaint is made in sufficient time before the sailing of the ship, take proper steps to ascertain whether the ship ought to be detained under this chapter.

Costs, &c.,
payable by
Government
recoverable
from com-
plainant.

31. Where a ship is detained in consequence of any complaint, and the circumstances are such that the Government is liable under this chapter to pay to the owner of the ship any costs or compensation, the complainant shall be liable to pay to the Government all such costs and compensation as the Government incurs, or is liable to pay, in respect of the detention and survey of the ship.

Grain-cargoes.

Stowage of
cargo of
grain, &c.

32. No cargo of which more than one-third consists of any kind of grain, corn, rice, paddy, pulse, seeds, nuts or nut-kernels (hereinafter referred to as grain-cargo) shall be carried on board any British Indian ship unless the same be contained in bags, sacks or barrels, or secured from shifting by boards or bulkheads or otherwise.

Penalty for
improper
stowage of
such cargo.

If the owner or master of any ship, or any agent of such owner who is charged with the loading of such ship or the sending her to sea, knowingly allows any grain-cargo or part of a grain-cargo to be shipped therein for carriage contrary to the provisions of this section, he shall be punished with fine which may extend to three thousand rupees.

Deck and Load-lines.

Marking of
deck-lines.

33. Every British Indian ship shall be permanently and conspicuously marked with lines of not less than twelve inches in length and one inch in breadth painted longitudinally on each side amidships or as near thereto as is practicable, and indicating the position of each deck which is above water.

The upper edge of each of these lines shall be level with the upper side of the deck-plank next the water-way

way at the place of marking. The lines shall be white or yellow on a dark ground, or black on a light ground.

34. The master of every British ship not being a coasting-vessel within the meaning of the Sea Customs Act, 1878, shall, before his ship is entered outwards from any port in British India upon any voyage, or if that is not practicable, as soon after as may be, mark outside upon each of her sides amidship, or as near thereto as is practicable, in white or yellow on a dark ground, or in black on a light ground, a circular disc twelve inches in diameter, with a horizontal line eighteen inches in length drawn through its centre.

Marking of load-lines.

The centre of such disc shall indicate the maximum load-line in salt-water to which it is intended to load such ship for that voyage.

35. The person applying for entry of any such ship outwards shall insert, in the form of application made to the Customs-collector, a statement in writing of the distances in feet and inches between the centre of such disc and the upper edge of each of the lines indicating the position of the ship's deck which is above such centre: and if default is made in delivering this statement, the Customs-collector may refuse to enter the ship outwards.

Statement in application to Customs-officer for entry outwards.

36. A copy of this statement shall be entered in the agreement with the crew before it is signed by any member of the crew; and no shipping-master shall proceed with the engagement of the crew till this entry is made.

Copy of statement to be entered in agreement with the crew and in the log-book.

The master shall enter a copy of this statement in the official log-book (if any).

37. When a ship has been marked as by section thirty-four required, she shall be kept so marked until she next returns to a port of discharge in British India or arrives at a port in the United Kingdom.

Ship to be kept marked.

38. The master of every British ship which is a coasting-vessel within the meaning of the Sea Customs Act, 1878, shall, before proceeding to sea from any port, mark outside upon each of her sides amidship,

Marking of load-lines in case of coasting-vessels.

ship, or as near thereto as is practicable, in white or yellow on a dark ground, or in black on a light ground, a circular disc twelve inches in diameter, with a horizontal line eighteen inches in length drawn through its centre.

The centre of this disc shall indicate the maximum load-line in salt-water to which it is intended to load the ship, until notice is given of an alteration.

Annual statement as to position of load-line.

39. He shall also once in every twelve months, immediately before the ship proceeds to sea, send or deliver to the Collector, or other principal officer of Customs of such port as the Local Government may, from time to time, appoint on this behalf, a statement in writing of the distance in feet and inches between the centre of the disc and the upper edge of each of the lines indicating the position of the ship's decks which is above that centre.

The master, before the ship proceeds to sea after any renewal or alteration of the disc, shall send or deliver to the Collector or other principal officer of Customs aforesaid notice in writing of such renewal or alteration, together with such statement in writing as before mentioned of the distance between the centre of the disc and the upper edge of each of the deck-lines.

If default is made in sending or delivering any notice or statement required by this section to be sent or delivered, the master shall be punished with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees.

Ship to be kept marked.

40. When a ship has been marked as required by section thirty-eight, she shall be kept so marked until notice is given of an alteration.

Penalty for neglecting to mark, or submerging load-line.

41. Any master of a ship who neglects to cause his ship to be marked as by this chapter required, or to keep her so marked, or who allows the ship to be so loaded that when in perfectly smooth salt-water the centre of the disc is submerged,

and any person who conceals, removes, alters, defaces or obliterates, or suffers any person under his control to conceal, remove, alter, deface or obliterate, any

any of the said marks, except in the event of the particulars thereby denoted being lawfully altered, or except for the purpose of escaping capture by an enemy,

shall be punished for each such offence with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees.

42. If any of the marks required by this chapter is in any respects inaccurate so as to be likely to mislead, the master of the ship shall be punished with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees. Penalty on master for having misleading marks.

43. The provisions of this chapter as to load-lines shall not apply to ships coming from ports in the United Kingdom and marked with such lines in accordance with the provisions of the laws for the time being there in force. Saving of ships marked in the United Kingdom.

Supplemental Provisions.

44. The Local Government may at any time, if satisfied that a ship detained under this chapter is not unsafe, order her to be released either upon or without any conditions. Release of ship at any time by Local Government.

45. When under this chapter a ship is authorized or ordered to be detained, any commissioned officer on full pay in the naval or military service of Her Majesty, any commander or first officer of any of Her Majesty's Indian Government ships, or any Port-officer, Harbour-master, Conservator of a port or officer of customs may detain the ship. Who may enforce detention of ship.

46. If any ship after such detention, or after service on the master of any notice of or order for such detention, proceeds to sea before she is released by competent authority, the master of the ship shall be punished with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees. Penalty for proceeding to sea after detention.

47. When a ship so proceeding to sea takes to sea, when on board thereof in the execution of his duty, any person authorized under this chapter to detain or survey such ship, the owner and master of such ship shall each be liable to pay all expenses of, and incidental to, such person being so taken to sea, and shall also

also each be punished with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees.

When any owner or master is convicted of an offence under this section, the convicting Magistrate may enquire into and determine the amount payable on account of expenses by such owner or master under this section, and may direct that the same shall be recovered from him in manner provided for the recovery of fines.

Detained ship not to be released because British registry closed. Powers of person authorized to survey ship.

48. When a ship has been detained under this chapter, she shall not be released by reason of her British or British Indian register being subsequently closed.

49. For the purposes of the survey of a ship under this chapter, any person authorized to make the same may go on board the ship and inspect the same, and every part thereof, and the machinery, equipments and cargo, and may require the unloading or removal of any cargo, ballast or tackle.

Certain persons to be deemed public servants.

50. Every Judge, assessor, officer or surveyor under this chapter shall be deemed to be a public servant within the meaning of the Indian Penal Code.

Service of order, where there is no master or resident-owner, &c.

51. Where any order, notice, statement or document is required for the purpose of any provision of this chapter, to be served on the master of a ship, the same shall be served, where there is no master, on the owner of the ship, if he resides in the port where the ship is detained; or, if there is no owner residing there, on some agent of the owner residing there; or where such owner or agent is unknown or cannot be found, a copy of such order, notice, statement or document shall be affixed to the mast of the ship, and shall thereupon be deemed to be duly served.

Order, &c., how to be served.

52. Any such order, notice, statement or document may be served by delivering a copy thereof personally to the person to be served, or by leaving the same at his last place of abode, or, in the case of a master, by leaving it for him on board the ship with the person being or appearing to be in command or charge of the ship.

53. The

53. The Local Government may, from time to time, by notification in the official Gazette, delegate either absolutely or subject to such conditions or restrictions as it thinks fit, to any body of Commissioners or trustees appointed for managing the affairs of a port all or any of the powers, and require the said body to discharge all or any of the functions, of a Local Government under the foregoing sections of this Act, except the powers conferred by section fourteen, the power of preparing a list of assessors under section fifteen and the power of making rules, and may cancel any such notification.

Delegation of powers to Port Commissioners, &c.

While any such notification remains in force, all costs and damages which would otherwise be recoverable under this Act by or from the Government shall be recoverable in like manner by or from such body; and such body shall, notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in any enactment now in force, credit or pay, as the case may be, the amount of any costs or damages so recovered to or from the funds held by them in trust as such body.

CHAPTER III.

DISTRESSED SEAMEN.

54. This chapter shall be read with, and taken as part of, Act No. I of 1859 (*for the amendment of the law relating to Merchant Seamen*).

Chapter to be taken as part of Act I of 1859.

But nothing in this chapter contained applies to seamen or apprentices to whom the provisions of section 211 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1854, or of section 16 of the Merchant Shipping Act Amendment Act, 1855, apply.

Saving of provisions of Merchant Shipping Acts, 1854 and 1855.

In this chapter "Local authority" means such person as the Local Government may from time to time, subject to the control of the Governor General in Council, appoint by name or in virtue of his office to exercise the powers conferred, and to perform the duties imposed, on the local authority under this chapter.

"Local authority."

Every

Power to suspend or dismiss.

Every person so appointed may be suspended or dismissed by the Local Government which appointed him.

Relief of distressed seamen at Indian ports.

55. The local authority may, subject to the rules hereinafter mentioned, provide for the subsistence—

(a) of all seamen and apprentices, being Native Indian subjects of Her Majesty, who have been shipwrecked, discharged or left behind at any place in British India, whether from any British ship employed in the merchant-service, or from any of Her Majesty's ships, or who have been engaged by any person acting either as principal or agent to serve in any ship belonging to any foreign Power, or to the subject of any foreign State, and who are in distress in any such place; and

(b) of all seamen and apprentices not being Native Indian subjects who have been shipwrecked, discharged or left behind at any place in British India from any British ship registered in British India and who are in distress in any such place,

until such time as such authority is able to provide them with a passage as hereinafter provided.

Distressed seamen to be sent home on board British ship wanting seamen to make up its crew.

56. Subject as aforesaid, the local authority may cause such seamen or apprentices to be put on board some ship belonging to any subject of Her Majesty which is in want of men to make up its complement, and is bound—

(a) in the case of seamen or apprentices who are Native Indian subjects of Her Majesty, to their home or to a port in British India near their home;

(b) in the case of other British seamen or apprentices, to any port in the United Kingdom or the British possession to which they belong (as the case requires); and

(c) in the case of seamen or apprentices not being subjects of Her Majesty, to such place as the local authority, subject to the control of the Governor General in Council, may in each case determine.

In default of such ship, on

57. In default of any such ship, the local authority

ity may, subject as aforesaid, provide such seamen or apprentices with a passage in any ship (whether British or foreign) bound as aforesaid. board of any ship.

58. The local authority shall indorse on the agreement of any British ship on board of which any seaman or apprentice is sent under section fifty-six or section fifty-seven, the name of every person so sent on board thereof, with such particulars concerning the case as the Governor General in Council may from time to time by rule prescribe. Name and other particulars with regard to seamen to be indorsed on agreement of British ship.

59. The master of every British ship bound as aforesaid shall receive and afford a passage and subsistence to all seamen and apprentices whom he is required to take on board his ship under the provisions of section fifty-six or section fifty-seven, not exceeding one for every fifty tons burden, and shall, during the passage, provide every such seaman or apprentice with a proper berth or sleeping-place effectually protected against sea and weather. Master of British ship compelled to convey and give subsistence to such seamen.

60. If the master of any such ship fails or refuses to receive on board his ship, or to give a passage or subsistence to, or to provide for, any such seaman or apprentice contrary to the provisions of section fifty-nine, he shall, for each seaman and apprentice with respect to whom he so fails or refuses, be punished with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees, or, when he is tried at any place beyond the limits of British India, to the equivalent of one thousand rupees in the currency of such place. Penalty for refusing so to do.

61. When any master of a British ship has conveyed a seaman or apprentice in excess of the number (if any) wanted to make up the complement of his crew to any place in accordance with the requisition of a local authority under this chapter, such master shall be entitled to be paid by the Secretary of State for India in Council in respect of the subsistence and passage of such seaman or apprentice such sum per diem as the Governor General in Council from time to time appoints: Conditions under which master may claim payment.

Provided that no payment shall be made under this section

section except on the production of the following documents (that is to say):—

(a) a certificate signed by the local authority by whose direction such seaman or apprentice was received on board, specifying the name of such seaman or apprentice, and the time when he was received on board; and

(b) a declaration in writing by such master made and verified in manner hereinafter provided, and stating—

(1) the number of days during which such seaman or apprentice received subsistence and was provided for as aforesaid on board his ship;

(2) the number of men and boys forming the complement of his crew;

(3) the number of seamen and apprentices employed on board his ship during the time such seaman or apprentice was on board; and

(4) every variation (if any) of such number.

The declaration required by this section shall, in the case of a ship conveying Native Indian subjects of Her Majesty to a port in British India, be made before a shipping-master or such other officer as the Local Government may appoint. In other cases such declaration shall be made and verified in the same manner as declarations made under section 212 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1854.

Wages and expenses incurred in respect of distressed seamen to be charged on ship to which they belong in certain cases.

62. (a). If any seaman or apprentice, being a Native Indian subject of Her Majesty and belonging to any British ship, is discharged or left behind at any place in British India without full compliance on the part of the master with all the provisions in that behalf of the law for the time being in force, and becomes distressed and is relieved under the provisions of this chapter; or

(b) if any such seaman or apprentice, after having been engaged by any person (whether acting as principal or agent) to serve in any ship belonging to any foreign power or to the subject of any foreign power, becomes distressed and is relieved as aforesaid; or

(c) if

(c) if any seaman or apprentice belonging to any British ship registered in British India, and not being a Native Indian subject of Her Majesty, is discharged or left behind at any place in British India without full compliance as aforesaid, and becomes distressed and is relieved as aforesaid,

the wages (if any) due to such seaman or apprentice, and all expenses incurred for his subsistence, necessary clothing, conveyance home, and, in case he should die before reaching home, for his burial, shall be a charge upon the ship, whether British or foreign, to which he so belonged as aforesaid.

63. All such wages and expenses shall be recoverable with costs either from the master of such ship or from the person who is owner thereof for the time being, or in the case of an engagement for service in a foreign ship, from such master or owner, or from the person by whom such engagement was so made, in the same manner as other debts due to the Secretary of State for India in Council, or in the same manner and by the same form and process in which wages due to the seaman or apprentice would be recoverable by him.

Mode of recovering such wages and expenses.

64. The Local Government may from time to time, by notification in the official Gazette, authorize, either generally or specially, such persons as it thinks fit to sue for any such wages and expenses and recover the same.

Local Government may authorize persons to recover same.

And every person so authorized shall be entitled to sue and recover accordingly, and shall be deemed to be a person filling a public office within the meaning of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, section 57, clause 7.

Such persons to be deemed persons filling a public office.

65. When any such wages and expenses are due to or in respect of a seaman or apprentice mentioned in section sixty-two, clause (c), they may, instead of being recovered by a person authorized under section sixty-four, be recovered by the Board of Trade in manner provided by the Merchant Shipping Act, 1854, section 213, and when so recovered shall be paid by the

Board of Trade may recover such amount from master or owner in certain cases.

the said Board to the Secretary of State for India in Council.

What shall be evidence of distress and expenses incurred.

66. In all proceedings under this chapter, whether in India or elsewhere, the production of a certificate signed by the local authority by which any seaman or apprentice named therein was relieved, or any expenses were incurred, under this chapter, to the effect that such seaman or apprentice was in distress, and that such expenses were incurred in respect of such seaman or apprentice, shall be sufficient evidence that such seaman or apprentice was relieved, conveyed home or buried (as the case may be) at the expense of the revenues of India.

Power of Governor General in Council to make rules.

67. The Governor General in Council may, from time to time, make rules to determine under what circumstances and subject to what conditions seamen or apprentices may be relieved and provided with passages under this chapter and generally to carry out the provisions of this chapter.

All such rules shall be published in the *Gazette of India*, and shall thereupon have the force of law.

CHAPTER IV.

SHIP SURVEYORS.

Local Government to appoint examiners,

68. The Local Government may, from time to time, appoint competent persons for the purposes of examining the qualifications of persons desirous of practising the profession of a ship surveyor at any port in the territories administered by such Government, and, subject to the control of the Governor General in Council, make rules—

and to make rules as to qualification, &c., of ship surveyors.

(a) for the conduct of such examinations and the qualifications to be required,

(b) for the grant of certificates to qualified persons,

(c) for the fees to be paid for such examinations and certificates,

(d) for

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(d) for holding enquiries into charges of incompetency and misconduct on the part of holders of such certificates, and

(e) for the suspension and cancelment of such certificates.

All such rules shall be published in the official Gazette, and shall thereupon have the force of law.

Publication of rules.

69. No person shall, in any port in which there is a person exercising the profession of a ship surveyor and holding a certificate granted under section sixty-eight, exercise such profession in such port unless he holds a certificate granted under that section :

No person to practise as ship surveyor unless qualified.

Provided that nothing herein contained shall prevent any person employed by Lloyd's Register of British and Foreign Shipping or Bureau Veritas from discharging any of the duties of such employment, or apply to any person specially exempted by the Local Government from the operation of this section.

Surveyors of Lloyd's and Veritas.

70. Any person exercising the profession of a ship surveyor in contravention of the provisions of section sixty-nine shall be punished with fine not exceeding one thousand rupees, and shall be incapable of maintaining any suit for any fee or reward for anything done by him in such exercise of such profession.

Penalty for practising as ship surveyor without certificate.

CHAPTER V.

RECEIVERS OF WRECK.

71. In this chapter "wreck" includes the following when found in the sea or any tidal water or on the shores thereof, that is to say :—

"Wreck" defined.

goods which have been cast into the sea and then sink and remain under water ;

goods which have been cast or fall into the sea and remain floating on the surface ;

goods

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goods which are sunk in the sea, but are attached to a floating object in order that they may be found again;

goods which are thrown away or abandoned, and

a vessel abandoned without hope or intention of recovery.

Repeal of chapter V of Indian Ports Act, 1875.

72. Chapter V of the Indian Ports Act, 1875, and section 5 of Act No. XIII of 1878 (*An Act to provide for the recovery in British India of wages due to, and expenses incurred in respect of, certain seamen and apprentices, and to amend the Indian Merchant Shipping Act, 1875, and the Indian Ports Act, 1875*) are hereby repealed.

But nothing in this chapter shall be deemed to affect section 40 of the Indian Ports Act, 1875, or entitle any person to salvage in respect of any property recovered by creeping or sweeping in contravention of that section.

Appointment of receivers.

73. The Local Government may, from time to time, by notification in the official Gazette, with the previous sanction of the Governor General in Council, appoint such persons as it thinks fit to receive and take possession of wreck and to perform such duties connected therewith as are hereinafter mentioned, within such local limits as it may from time to time prescribe.

Persons so appointed shall be called receivers of wreck.

Rules to be observed by person finding wreck.

74. Any person finding and taking possession of any wreck within any local limits for which a receiver of wreck has been so appointed, shall as soon as practicable—

if he be the owner;

(a) if he be the owner thereof, give the receiver of wreck notice in writing of the finding thereof and of the marks by which such wreck is distinguished;

if he be not the owner.

(b) if he be not the owner of such wreck, deliver the same to the receiver of wreck.

75. Whenever

75. Whenever any wreck is found by the receiver of wreck or has been delivered to him in accordance with the provisions of section seventy-four by any person, not being the owner thereof, the Government or such other person so delivering such wreck, as the case may be, shall be entitled to receive a reasonable sum for salvage, having regard to all the circumstances of the case.

Government or person finding wreck entitled to salvage.

Any dispute arising concerning the amount due under this section shall be determined by a Magistrate, upon application to him for that purpose by either of the disputing parties.

Disputes concerning amount of salvage.

76. The receiver of wreck shall, on taking possession of any wreck, publish a notification, in such manner and at such place as the Local Government may from time to time prescribe in this behalf, containing a description of the same and the time at which and the place where the same was found.

Notice to be given by receiver.

77. If after the publication of such notification the wreck is unclaimed,

Wreck may in certain cases be sold.

or if the person claiming the same fails to pay the amount due for salvage and for charges incurred by the receiver of wreck in respect thereof,

the receiver of wreck may sell such wreck by public auction, if of a perishable nature, forthwith, and if not of a perishable nature, at any period not less than six months after such notification as aforesaid.

78. On the realization of the proceeds of such sale, the amount due for salvage and charges as aforesaid, together with the expenses of the sale, shall be deducted therefrom, and the balance shall be paid to the owner of the wreck, or, if no such person appear and claim the same, shall be held in deposit for payment, without interest, to any person thereafter establishing his right to the same:

Proceeds how applied.

Provided that he makes his claim within one year from the date of the sale.

79. Any person omitting to give notice of the finding of, or to deliver, any wreck to the receiver of wreck

Penalty for failure to

give notice of, or to deliver, wreck to the receiver of wreck.

wreck as required by section seventy-four shall be punished with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees, and in the case of omission to deliver any wreck, shall, in addition to such fine, forfeit all claim to salvage, and pay to the owner of such wreck if the same is claimed, or if the same is unclaimed to the Government, a penalty not exceeding twice the value of such wreck.

CHAPTER VI.

INSPECTION OF SHIPS WITH REGARD TO LIGHT AND FOG-SIGNALS.

Saving clause.

80. Nothing in this chapter contained shall apply to any ship belonging to, or hired by, Her Majesty or the Secretary of State for India in Council or belonging to any foreign Prince or State.

Appointment of inspectors of lights and fog-signals.

81. The Local Government may, from time to time, appoint persons to inspect, in any port, ships to which the regulations for preventing collisions at sea, issued under the provisions of the Merchant Shipping Act Amendment Act, 1862, or any other similar law for the time being in force, may apply, for the purpose of seeing that such ships are properly provided with lights and with the means of making fog-signals, in pursuance of such regulations or law, and may suspend or remove any person so appointed.

Every person so appointed shall in the port for which he is appointed have, for the purposes of such inspection, the powers given to detaining-officers by section eleven.

Notice of deficiency to be given to master or owner by such inspectors.

82. If any such person finds that any ship is not so provided, he shall give to the master or owner notice in writing pointing out the deficiency, and also what is, in his opinion, requisite in order to remedy the same.

Ship not to be cleared by Customs-collector till inspector

83. Every notice so given shall be communicated in such manner as the Local Government may direct to the Customs-collector at any port from which such ship may seek to clear; and no Customs-collector to whom

whom such communication is made shall grant such ship a port-clearance or allow her to proceed to sea without a certificate under the hand of some person appointed as aforesaid, to the effect that the said ship is properly provided with lights and with the means of making fog-signals in pursuance of the said regulations or law.

certifies it is properly provided with lights, &c.

CHAPTER VII.

MISCELLANEOUS.

84. Every offence punishable under chapter II, chapter III or chapter V may be tried in any district or presidency-town in which the offender is found, as well as in any district or presidency-town in which it might be tried under the law relating to criminal procedure for the time being in force.

Offences triable where offender found.

85. AND whereas it is also expedient to provide for the assistance of assessors in certain causes in Courts exercising Admiralty or Vice-Admiralty jurisdiction; it is hereby further enacted as follows:—

Assessors in causes of salvage, &c.

In any Admiralty or Vice-Admiralty cause of salvage, towage or collision, the Court, whether it be exercising its original or its appellate jurisdiction, may if it think fit, and upon request of either party to such cause shall, summon to its assistance, in such manner as the Court may by rule, from time to time, direct, two competent assessors; and such assessors shall attend and assist accordingly.

Every such assessor shall receive such fees for his attendance as the Court by rule prescribes. Such fees shall be paid by such of the parties as the Court in each case may direct.