

Hiring, and Engaging of Seamen for Merchant Vessels—which said Persons shall be called Licensed Shipping Agents: and all such Conditions and Regulations shall, so soon as the same shall be approved by His said Excellency in Council, take effect according to the tenor thereof; and the same shall from Time to Time, when approved, be notified by insertion in the *Hongkong Government Gazette*.

Fees on Licenses.

II. Every Licensed Shipping Agent shall, on receiving his License, pay the sum of Two hundred Dollars, and the same sum on every Renewal thereof at the end of the year during which he may have held the same.

No License to be granted to Innkeepers, &c.

III. No License shall be granted under this Ordinance unto any Person keeping or being employed or interested in any Tavern, Inn, or Seamen's Lodging or Boarding House.

Offices and Clerks of Shipping Agents.

IV. Every Licensed Shipping Agent shall have and maintain an Office within a convenient distance from the Harbour Master's Office for the better despatch of the business thereof, and likewise a place for the Daily attendance or resort of Seamen desiring employment on Shipboard; and the said Agent shall also provide and engage a fit and sufficient Person as Clerk in his said Office, who shall be qualified to transact the business of the said Office with Indian or Malay Seamen resorting thither for information and employment.

Report of Arrivals and Departures.

V. A Marine Report shall be duly and regularly kept by every Licensed Shipping Agent of all Arrivals and Departures of Vessels at and from this Port.

Shipments to be effected by a Licensed Shipping Agent, or the Owner, &c.

VI. All Shipments of Seamen for any Vessels in this Port shall be effected by the means or under the authority of a Licensed Shipping Agent, or of the Owner, Master, or Mate for the voyage of the said Vessel, and passed through the Harbour Master's Office.

Shipping of Seamen and Fees payable therefor.

VII. Any Licensed Shipping Agent, on receiving from a Seaman the legal Discharge of the said Seaman, (but not otherwise,) is authorised to hire and engage him for whatever voyage the said Agent and he may think fit, and to ship him accordingly through the Harbour Master's Office, and to charge the Owner or Master for the voyage of the Vessel on board of which he shall have so shipped him a Fee not exceeding one Dollar for every such Seaman; which Fee shall be exclusive of the Fee of One Dollar payable at the Harbour Master's Office for every such Seaman to the use of []

Mode of signing and entering into Articles.

VIII. Every Seaman, hired or engaged under this Ordinance, shall, for the purpose of being shipped, be first taken by the Licensed Shipping Agent, Owner, Master, or Mate, so hiring or engaging him, or by some Person actually and *bona fide* being in the regular and ordinary employment of such Agent, Owner, Master, or Mate, to the Harbour Master's Office, and shall, except in the case next hereinafter specified, be then and there entered upon the Articles of the Vessel for which he is so hired or engaged as aforesaid. But, in case the said Vessel shall be under the Flag, or be owned by the Subject of a Foreign State, represented at this Port by a Consular Officer, the said Harbour Master shall, instead of so entering the said Seaman, make out and deliver unto him a Certificate under the said Harbour Master's hand, addressed to the said Consular Officer, and stating that the said Seaman is at liberty to sign the said Articles, and also for what Voyage, at what rate of Wages, and with what Advance thereof (if any) the said Seaman desires or intends to be so hired or engaged. And, upon production of the said Certificate by the said Seaman unto the said Consular Officer, it shall be lawful for the said Consular Officer to enter him accordingly upon the Articles of the said Vessel.

Abrogation of the Three Months Wages' Custom.

IX. The Rule Custom or Usage of paying unto Seamen engaged to serve in the China Seas an advance of Three Months' Wages, is hereby abrogated; and from henceforward one Month's Wages and no more shall be advanced to every Seaman so engaged at the commencement of his said engagement.

Shipping Agents to obey the orders of the Harbour Master.

X. Every Licensed Shipping Agent shall be obedient to the aforesaid Conditions and Regulations, and also to the Rules and Regulations of the Harbour Master's Office, and to the Orders of the Harbor Master in and about the carrying into effect the Provisions of this Ordinance.

Unlawful employment of Agents and receiving of Seamen.

XI. It shall be unlawful for any Person to employ an unlicensed Person in or about the Procuring, Supplying, Hiring, Engaging, or Shipping, of Seamen for employment on board of any Vessel whatever, or knowingly to accept, receive, or harbour any Seaman procured, supplied, hired, engaged, or shipped, in order to such employment or for the purposes thereof contrary to the provisions of this Ordinance.

Scale of Penalties.

XII. Persons convicted before a stipendiary Magistrate, or any Two Justices, of offences against this Ordinance, shall forfeit to the Crown the Penalties following, (which shall be enforced and levied in the same way as Money Penalties imposed under Ordinance No. Ten of 1844 are now enforced and levied) that is to say:—For every offence against Section Six or Section Eleven of this Ordinance, a Sum not exceeding one hundred Dollars, nor less than twenty Dollars; and for every offence against Section Ten of this Ordinance (being a First offence) a Sum not exceeding five Dollars, nor less than one Dollar, or (being a Second offence) a Sum not exceeding ten Dollars, nor less than two Dollars, or (being a Third offence) a Sum not exceeding twenty Dollars, nor less than five Dollars.

Forfeiture of Licenses.

XIII. In case of a Third offence against Section Ten of this Ordinance, the Offender shall also forfeit his License: And in such case, and also where, for any breach of Condition to that effect, a License may have been forfeited, the party so forfeiting shall lose all right and title whatsoever to the Monies he shall have paid for the same.

Repeal of provisions in Ordinance No. 6 of 1852.

XIV. So much of Ordinance No. Six of 1852, as is inconsistent with this Ordinance is hereby repealed.

Extent of operation.

XV. This Ordinance extends to all Vessels, British or Foreign, not being Vessels belonging to Her Majesty or any foreign Government.

No. 83.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

The following Return of Notes in Circulation and Specie in Reserve at the Bank of the Oriental Bank Corporation in Hongkong, is published for general information.

By Order,

W. T. MERCER,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Victoria, Hongkong, 30th July, 1856.

Account of the average Amount of Notes in Circulation at the Bank of the Oriental Bank Corporation in Hongkong, for the Month ending 30th June 1856, rendered in accordance with the Terms of Her Majesty's Royal Charter of Incorporation.

NOTES ISSUED,.....\$183,693,
exclusive of the Notes of the Oriental Bank still outstanding.

Wm. LAMOND,
Acting Sub-Manager.

Oriental Bank Corporation, Hongkong, 1st July, 1856.

I inspected this day the Books and Treasure of the Oriental Bank Corporation, and hereby certify that I found the necessary Amount of Specie as required by the Charter.

H. REINHARD,
A Member of the Colonial Treasury Commission.

Victoria, Hongkong, 30th July, 1856.