

the imperfect machinery which has been employed to carry it into operation."

"On this account it has proved a failure, and in most cases, instead of producing any good, has offered encouragement and served as a cloak to desertion. The Law required that all men serving on board of our Merchant Ships must be provided with a register ticket; and as might naturally be supposed, the Law granted great facilities for procuring these tickets; but unfortunately, by granting too great facilities the very object which the Legislature had in view was defeated. Seamen change their names, and under false names, and by making a false statement, can procure a register ticket at any Custom House in the outports, or at the Office of the Registrar-General of Seamen in London."

"To remedy this evil Mr. Gilmour proposes that the clauses of the Act 7 & 8 Vic. chap. 112, respecting register tickets, should be materially altered. It is worthy of careful consideration, emanating, as it does, from a thoroughly sound and practical shipowner. Some such alterations as he proposes are essentially requisite. We are not of those who desire stringent Laws, much less Laws which are crooked, annoying, and vexatious, for such may drive our seamen to seek employment in the Merchant service of other countries, but we must have a Law which, while it protects the good, will punish the bad, and thus make desertion a crime of which our seamen would become ashamed. We would almost recommend that an endorsement of desertion should be made on the register ticket when re-issued to the seaman who had been convicted of that crime."

"The Legislatures of our Colonies should be requested to enact as has recently been done in this country, that all lodging house keepers and shipping