

Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment.

Provided that no seaman or apprentice charged with desertion, or with quitting his ship without leave, shall have any right to apply for a survey under this section unless previously to his quitting his ship he has complained to the master of the circumstances so alleged in justification.

For the purposes of this section, the court shall require any of the surveyors appointed by the Board of Trade, under the Merchant Shipping Act, 1854, or any person appointed for the purpose by the Board of Trade, or, if such surveyor or person cannot be obtained without unreasonable expense or delay, or is not, in the opinion of the court, competent to deal with the special circumstances of the case, then any other impartial surveyor appointed by the court and having no interest in the ship, her freight, or cargo, to survey the ship, and to answer any question concerning her which the court may think fit to put. Such surveyor or other person shall survey the ship, and make his report in writing to the court, including an answer to every question put to him by the court. The court shall cause such report to be communicated to the parties, and unless it is proved to the satisfaction of the court that the opinions expressed in such report are erroneous, the court shall determine the questions before them in accordance with those opinions.

For the purposes of such survey, a surveyor shall have all the powers of an inspector appointed by the Board of Trade, under the Merchant Shipping Act, 1854.

The costs (if any) of the survey shall be determined by the Board of Trade according to a scale of fees to be fixed by them, and shall be paid in the first instance out of the Mercantile Marine Fund.

If it is proved to the satisfaction of the court that the ship is in a fit condition to proceed to sea, or, as the case may be, that the accommodation is sufficient, the costs of the survey shall be paid by the person or persons upon whose demand, or in consequence of whose allegation, the survey was made, and may be deducted by the master or owner out of the wages due or to become due to such person or persons, and shall be paid over to the Board of Trade.

If it is proved that the ship is not in a fit condition to proceed to sea, or, as the case may be, that the accommodation is insufficient, the cost of the survey shall be paid to the Board of Trade by the master or owner.

Power for
naval courts to
direct survey
of ships.

8. Any naval court may, if they think fit, direct a survey of any ship which is the subject of an investigation held before them, and such survey shall be made in the same way, and the surveyor who