

Merchant Shipping Act Amendment.

23. It shall be lawful for any Master or Owner of a Ship or his Agent to enter into Agreements with Lascars or Natives of the Territories of the *East India* Company, binding them to proceed to any Port or Ports in the United Kingdom, either as Seamen or as Passengers, and there to enter into a further Agreement to serve as Seamen in any Ship which may happen to be there, and to be bound to any Port in the Territories of the *East India* Company ; provided, that every such original Agreement shall be made in such Form, and shall contain such Provisions, and shall be executed in such Manner, and under such Conditions for securing the Return of such Lascars or Natives to their own Country, and for other Purposes, as the Governor General of *India* in Council, or the Governors of the respective Presidencies in which the original Agreement is made, in Council may direct ; and if any Lascar or other Person who has bound himself by any such original Agreement is, on arriving in the United Kingdom, required to enter into a further Agreement to serve as a Seaman in any Ship bound to any Port in the Territories of the *East India* Company, and if it is certified by some Officer appointed for that Purpose by the *East India* Company that such further Agreement is a proper Agreement in all respects for such Lascar or other Person to enter into, and is in accordance with the original Agreement, and that the Ship to which such further Agreement relates is in all respects a proper Ship for such Lascar or other Person to serve in, and that there is not, in the Opinion of such Officer, any Objection to the full Performance of the said original Agreement, such Lascar or other Person shall be deemed to be engaged under such further Agreement, and to serve as a Seaman in the Ship to which it relates, and shall thereupon be deemed to be for all Purposes One of the Crew of the Ship ; and for every Lascar or other Person in respect of whom such Certificate is applied for, the Person applying for the same shall pay to such Officer as aforesaid such Fee as the *East India* Company may appoint, not exceeding Ten Shillings.

Contracts may be made with Natives in India, under certain Conditions, binding them to go to the United Kingdom, and then to serve in other Ships back to India or elsewhere.

24. Nothing herein contained shall be deemed to repeal or affect any Provisions contained in the Twenty-fifth, Twenty-sixth, Twenty-seventh, Twenty-eighth, Twenty-ninth, Thirtieth, Thirty-first, or Thirty-fourth Sections of the Act of the Fourth Year of King *George* the Fourth, Chapter Eighty, or in the Sixteenth Section of the Act of the Eighteenth Year of Her present Majesty, Chapter One hundred and twenty.

Saving of former Enactments.
4 Geo. 4, c. 80, ss. 25 to 34.
17 & 18 Vict. c. 120, s. 16.