

Merchant Shipping Act, 1854.

PART I.

THE BOARD OF TRADE:—ITS GENERAL FUNCTIONS.

Board of Trade to be Department to superintend Merchant Shipping. VI. The Board of Trade shall be the Department to undertake the general Superintendence of Matters relating to Merchant Ships and Seamen, and shall be authorized to carry into execution the Provisions of this Act, and of all other Acts relating to Merchant Ships and Seamen in force for the Time being, other than such Acts as relate to the Revenue.

Certificates and Documents purporting to be sealed or signed in a given Manner to be received in Evidence. VII. All Documents whatever purporting to be issued or written by or under the Direction of the Board of Trade, and purporting either to be sealed with the Seal of such Board, or to be signed by One of the Secretaries or Assistant Secretaries to such Board, shall be received in Evidence, and shall be deemed to be issued or written by or under the Direction of the said Board, without further Proof, unless the contrary be shown; and all Documents purporting to be Certificates issued by the Board of Trade in pursuance of this Act, and to be sealed with the Seal of such Board, or to be signed by One of the Officers of the Marine Department of such Board, shall be received in Evidence, and shall be deemed to be such Certificates, without further Proof, unless the contrary be shown.

Board of Trade to issue Forms of Instruments. VIII. The Board of Trade may from Time to Time prepare and sanction Forms of the various Books, Instruments, and Papers, required by this Act other than those required by the Second Part thereof, and may from Time to Time make such Alterations therein as it deems requisite; and shall, before finally issuing or altering any such Form, give such public Notice thereof as it deems necessary in order to prevent Inconvenience; and shall cause every such Form to be sealed with such Seal as aforesaid, or marked with some other distinguishing Mark, and to be supplied at the Custom Houses and Shipping Offices of the United Kingdom free of Charge, or at such moderate Prices as it may from Time to Time fix, or may license any Persons to print and sell the same; and every such Book, Instrument, and Paper as aforesaid shall be made in the Form issued by the Board of Trade, and sanctioned by it as the proper Form for the Time being; and no such Book, Instrument, or Paper as aforesaid, unless made in such Form, shall be admissible in Evidence in any Civil Proceeding on the Part of any Owner or Master of any Ship; and every such Book, Instrument, or Paper, if made in a Form purporting to be a proper Form, and to be sealed or marked as aforesaid, shall be taken to be made in the Form hereby required, unless the contrary is proved.

Certain forms and Instruments to be exempt from Stamp Duty. IX. All Instruments used in carrying into effect the Second Part of this Act, if not already exempted from Stamp Duty, and all Instruments which by the Third, Fourth, Sixth, or Seventh Parts of