

No. , 1897.

A BILL

To amend the Seamen's Laws Consolidation Act of 1864.

BE it enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of New South Wales in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1. (I) Any agreement between the master of a ship registered in New South Wales (not being a ship of less than eighty tons registered tonnage, exclusively engaged in trading or going to places within or on the coast of the said Colony) and any seaman engaged by him in the said Colony, and any mutual release in New South Wales of the claims of the master, owner, and any seaman of any such ship in respect of any past voyage or engagement shall be in the form for the time being in force and approved by the Board of Trade under the Imperial Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, with such modifications as the Colonial Treasurer may think necessary in order that the said form may be consistent with and may provide for the requirements of the law of this Colony. Form of agreement and release.

(II) In the case of any such ship as aforesaid, no running agreement shall extend beyond the period of six months from the first signing of the agreement, or beyond the first arrival of the ship at her final port of destination after the expiration of the said period and the completion of the discharge of cargo consequent on that arrival. Term of agreement in the case of intercolonial ships.

2. (I) Where an agreement has been made under and in accordance with the last preceding section, the mutual release in New South Wales of the claims of the master, owner, and any seaman in respect of the past voyage or engagement may be signed on board the ship on which the seaman has completed his service under the agreement, and attested by any person, not being the master or owner, or may be signed and attested as provided in the Seamen's Laws Consolidation Act of 1864. Signing of release.

(II) Notwithstanding anything contained in section thirty-six of the Seamen's Laws Consolidation Act of 1864 it shall not be necessary for the shipping master to retain the release of the said claims as therein directed. Release need not be retained by shipping master.

But on the termination of any agreement made as aforesaid the agreement and the release shall be deposited by the master or owner with the shipping master to be kept by him in his office.

3. This Act shall be construed as one with the Seamen's Laws Consolidation Act of 1864, and may be cited as the "Seamen's Agreement Act, 1897." Incorporation and short title.