ANNO SEXTO

GEORGII IV. REGIS.

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C A P. XVIII.

An Act to make further Provision for the Payment of the Crews of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels. [2d *May* 1825.]

WHEREAS by an Act made and passed in the Thirty-first Year of the Reign of His late Majesty King *George* the Second, intituled *An Act for the Encouragement of Seamen* 31 G. 2. c. 10. *employed in the Royal Navy, and for establishing a regular Method for the punctual, frequent, and certain Payment of their Wages; and for enabling them more easily and readily to remit the same for the Support of their Wives and Families; and for preventing Frauds and Abuses attending such Payments;* it is, amongst other Provisions for the due Payment of the Navy, enacted, that whensoever and as soon as any Ship or Vessel of His Majesty, His Heirs or Successors, having been Twelve whole Months or more in Sea Pay, shall be or arrive in any Port of *Great Britain* where any Commissioner of the Navy shall be or reside, the Commissioners of the Navy at their Board shall solicit such Sums of Money as shall be sufficient, and as soon as the same shall be issued, shall cause immediate Payment to be made of all the Wages due upon the Pay Books (therein-before directed to be transmitted to the said Commissioners) to all such Officers and Seamen, their Executors and Administrators, or to their respective Attorney or Attornies duly authorized as therein-after directed, deducting thereout whatever Monies shall have been paid before by way of Advance, or that shall stand against them in the

Books of such Ships or Vessels on account of any Defalcation, leaving always Six Months Wages and no more due to such Officers and Seamen for their Service in such Ship or Vessel unpaid and in arrear: And whereas it has since been found convenient and expedient that His Majesty's Ships and Vessels shall be occasionally paid at Ports and Places where a Commissioner of the Navy shall not be or reside, and it is necessary that a proper and discretionary Authority should be given to the Commissioners for executing the Office of Lord High Admiral of this United Kingdom, to order Payments to be made at any such Ports or Places when found expedient for the Public Service: Be it therefore enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That from and after the passing of this Act, it shall and may be lawful for the said Commissioners for executing the Office of Lord High Admiral aforesaid, as often as they may think convenient and expedient that any of His Majesty's Ships or Vessels shall be paid at a Port where a Commissioner of the Navy shall not be or reside, to signify their Directions in Writing for that Purpose to the principal Officers and Commissioners of the Navy, who shall thereupon take the proper Steps for causing Payments to be made accordingly by the Clerks of the Treasurer of the Navy, in the usual Manner, in the Presence of a Commissioner of the Navy to be sent thither for that Purpose, or other Officer to be appointed as hereinafter mentioned, and of the proper Clerks of the Navy Office.

Admiralty may direct Ships to be paid at Ports where no Commissioner resides.

II. And whereas it may be expedient to pay the Crews of Ships on their Arrival at the Port, or previous to sailing from thence, under Circumstances which will not admit of the Delay which must necessarily occur in sending the Pay Books of such Ship or Vessel to the Navy Office, to be examined previously to Payment being made thereupon, as is required by the said recited Act; be it therefore further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for the Commissioners of His Majesty's Navy, in cases of Urgency, as they shall see necessary, to cause Payment to be made upon such Books without the previous Examination thereof as aforesaid; but it is nevertheless hereby required and directed that the said Books shall, immediately after Payment shall have been so made thereon, be transmitted to the Navy Office, for the Purpose of undergoing the necessary Examination and Adjustment, and in order that any Charges omitted to be made, or any Overpayments that may have occurred thereon, may be set off, or abated and recovered, at the first Opportunity, from the Arrears of Wages or growing Wages of the Men in respect of whom such Omissions or Overpayments may have taken place.

Payments may be made, though Books are not examined.

III. And whereas it may be occasionally inconvenient and inexpedient to the public Service, at Ports where a single Commissioner may be or reside, and incompatible with his other public Duties, that he should superintend and control Payments of Ships and Vessels; and it may be proper that a discretionary Authority should be vested in the said Commissioners for executing the Office of Lord High Admiral aforesaid, to substitute an Officer to superintend and controul the said Payments instead of a Commissioner of the Navy; be

Captains may superintend Payments.

it therefore further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for the Commissioners for executing the Office of Lord High Admiral aforesaid, when and so often as they may deem it expedient, to appoint an Officer of the Navy, of the Rank of Captain or Commander, to superintend and controul the Payment of any of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels; and that all Payments to be made in the Presence of and under the Superintendance and Controul of such Officer, shall be held as Payments made in the Presence of a Commissioner of the Navy, and be passed to the Credit of the Treasurer of the Navy accordingly.

Monthly Payments may be made to certain Officers and Men.

IV. And whereas it has been considered beneficial to His Majesty's Service, that a certain Portion of the Pay which may be due to the Warrant and Petty Officers, not allowed to draw Bills for their Pay, and to each Seaman, Non-commissioned Officer and Private of Marines and Boy serving on board His Majesty's Ships and Vessels, who may be desirous of receiving it, shall be issued to them at the Expiration of every Month, or as soon after as the Convenience and Necessity of the Service may admit, on the Ship's Arrival at any Port at Home or Abroad where Money can be procured for that Purpose, which Regulation cannot be carried into Effect without an Alteration of certain Provisions for the better Payment of the Navy, which have been established by the said Act before recited; be it therefore further enacted, That from and after the passing of this Act, it shall and may be lawful for the Commissioners for executing the Office of Lord High Admiral aforesaid, to authorize and direct the Issuing and Payment to such of the Warrant and Petty Officers of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels in Commission as are not entitled to draw Bills, and to the Seamen, Non-commissioned Officers and Privates of Marines, and Boys, who shall be desirous of receiving the same, a Portion of the Pay which may be actually due to them, in such Proportions *per* Month, to such Amount, and according to such Rate, as shall for that Purpose be authorized and ordered by His Majesty in Council; such Payment to be made in any Port Abroad or at Home, at the Expiration of every Month, or as soon after as the Convenience and Necessity of the Service will admit; and for the Purpose of carrying this Regulation into Effect, the Captain or Commanding Officer is hereby directed and enjoined to make out or cause to be made out a complete List of the Names with their respective Numbers on the Ship's Books, of such of the Description of Persons before mentioned as shall be willing to receive such Portion of their Pay, and who shall be actually on board at the Time of making out the said List, which List shall be signed by the said Captain or Commanding Officer, One other Commissioned Officer or Warrant Officer entitled to draw Bills, and by the Purser; and that the Purser of the said Ship or Vessel shall then draw, for the Amount of the said Portion of Pay so to be issued, a Bill at Three Days Sight upon the Commissioners of the Navy, according to the Form set forth in the Schedule to this Act annexed, which Bill shall be certified by the Signature of the Captain or Commanding Officer of the Ship or Vessel in the Manner prescribed by the said Schedule; and the Commissioners of the Navy are hereby directed and enjoined to accept the said Bill, and assign it for Payment in the usual Manner on the Treasurer of the Navy,

Navy, who shall be entitled to take Credit for the same, and the Amount shall be charged against the said Purser, who shall clear his Account in the Manner herein-after directed; and that as soon as Cash shall have been obtained on the said Bill, the said Portion of Pay shall be paid by the said Purser to the Parties entitled thereto on the said List, in the Presence of the Captain or Commanding Officer, and a Commissioned or Warrant Officer entitled to draw Bills, and the Payment shall be certified on the said List by the said Captain or Commanding Officer, the said Commissioned or Warrant Officer, and the said Purser; and that as soon after the said Payment as may be, the said Captain or Commanding Officer shall transmit the said List by the first safe and convenient Opportunity to the Commissioners of the Navy; and the Captain or Commanding Officer and the Purser shall likewise, under their respective Hands, certify at the End of each Muster Book the full Amount, in Words at Length, of the Monies which shall have been so paid during the exact Period of Time of such Book, and that the several Sums so paid have been duly charged against the respective Men's Names on such Books; provided always, that in case after any such Payment there shall be a Balance remaining in the Hands of the Purser, he shall give Credit for the Amount thereof in the next Bill to be drawn by him for Monthly Payments, so that he shall not be at liberty to draw for more than what, including such Balance, *shall* be sufficient to answer the next Monthly Payment.

Payments to be carried to Account of the Purser.

V. And be it further enacted, That on the Receipt of the said List, the Payments made thereon shall be carried to the Credit of the Purser of the Ship or Vessel by whom the Bill for the Amount shall have been drawn as aforesaid; and on the making out of the Pay Books, Muster Books, Slop Books, Pay Lists, and Pay Tickets of the said Ship or Vessel, the Sums so paid shall be charged against the Wages of each Person having received the same.

Men sick or absent may also obtain Monthly Payments.

VI. And whereas it may happen that some of the Persons desirous of receiving such Portion of Pay at the Time of such Payment be absent on Duty or sick, or on Leave of Absence, or from other sufficient Cause; be it therefore further enacted, That on the Return to the Ship of any Individual so absent, his Name may and shall be subjoined to the next Lists to be made out for Payment, such Lists specifying the Cause and Date of Absence, and Date of Return; and in case any Individual shall be discharged to another Ship or Vessel, and shall at the Time of his Discharge be entitled to any Payment, or Portion of Payment, not then made, he shall be entitled to a Certificate from the Captain or Commanding Officer of the Ship or Vessel from which he may have been discharged, who is hereby required to furnish the same, specifying the Rating of such Individual in the Muster Books of the said Ship or Vessel, and the Time for which he is entitled to such Portion of Pay, which Portion shall be paid to him on the next Payment to be made to the Crew of the Ship or Vessel into which he may have been discharged, and shall be allowed to the Purser of such last-mentioned Ship or Vessel in the Account of such next Payments: Provided nevertheless, that in all Cases where any of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels shall be at a Port where a Commissioner

Bills to be cashed by Clerks of

missioner of the Navy shall be and reside, and whereat there shall be an Establishment of Clerks, having Money in their Custody for the Payment of Wages, and that such Monthly Portion of Pay herein-before authorized and directed to be advanced shall at that Time be due and payable, the Purser shall draw a Bill for the Amount thereof, subject to such Abatement, and certified and attested in manner and form as herein-before directed, which Bill shall be cashed to him by the Clerks to the Treasurer of the Navy at such Out-Port, out of the Monies in their Hands for the Payment of Wages, and the Amount thereof shall be charged by the Commissioners of the Navy against the Purser, as before directed, and the Treasurer of the Navy shall be entitled to take Credit for the same.

Navy Pay Office at Ports where there is an Establishment.

VII. And be it further enacted, That in case of a Payment made on board a Ship or Vessel which, from her Establishment or other Circumstances, may not have a Purser on board, the Commanding Officer of every such Ship or Vessel shall act as and be deemed to be the Purser for all the Purposes of this Act; and that in such Case the Payment shall be made in the Presence of any other Commissioned Officer of the said Vessel, and One Warrant Officer, or if there shall be no other Commissioned Officer, then in the Presence of any Two Warrant Officers, who shall certify and attest the Lists in the Manner before required.

Commanding Officer to be deemed the Purser where there is not one.

VIII. And be it further enacted, That the Purser of every Ship or Vessel, or in case the Vessel shall not have a Purser on board, then the Commanding Officer, shall debit himself, and be charged with any Premium which the Bills drawn by him in pursuance of this Act may bear, as Part of the Balance which may remain on Hand at the Conclusion of each Payment; and in case the said Bills shall be at a Discount, he shall add the said Discount to the Amount of the Bill to be drawn by him, which Discount shall be allowed in his Accounts, provided the Amount be truly certified at the Foot of such Bill, in the Form set forth in the Schedule to this Act: Provided nevertheless, that if the said Bills shall be drawn at any Port within the Foreign or Colonial Territories of *Great Britain*, where there shall be a resident Naval Officer, such Naval Officer is hereby enjoined and directed to give Cash for the Amount of such Bills at Par, upon which no Premium or Discount shall be charged or taken; and in case he shall not have sufficient Cash in Hand for the Purpose, he shall certify the same by Indorsement on such Bill.

Pursers to debit themselves with Premium on Bills.

Resident Naval Officers to cash Bills.

IX. And whereas by an Act passed in the Fifty-seventh Year of His late Majesty's Reign, intituled *An Act for making further Regulations respecting the Pay of the Officers of the Royal Navy, in certain Cases therein mentioned*, Officers and Persons of the Ranks and Rates therein expressed, and (amongst others) passed Mates and passed Midshipmen entitled to full Pay, are authorized to draw upon the Commissioners of the Navy at the End of every Six Lunar Months or Twelve Months for their Pay, as therein provided: And whereas His Majesty was pleased by his Order in Council, bearing Date the Twenty-fourth Day of *June* last, to establish a new Class of Officers in the Royal Navy, under the Denomination of Masters' Assistants; be it therefore

Masters Assistants may draw Bills for their Pay. 57 G. 3. c. 20.

therefore enacted, That from and after the passing of this Act, every Master Assistant, who shall have passed for a Master, or Second Master, shall have Licence, and he is hereby authorized to draw upon the Commissioners of the Navy a Bill or Bills for his Pay, at the Expiration of every Six Lunar Months or Twelve Months, but not for a less Period than Six Months, for the whole net Amount of his Pay, in the same Manner, subject to the like Deductions, and under similar Regulations, Limitations, Prohibitions and Restrictions, in every respect, as are in the said recited Act expressed and declared with regard to passed Mates and passed Midshipmen.

SCHEDULE.

SCHEDULE.

FORM OF BILL.

HIS Majesty's Ship at
Day of

Gentlemen,

THREE Days after Sight, be pleased to pay to or Order, the Sum of Pounds and Shillings [*the Sum to be inserted in Words at Length*]; on account of the Monthly Portion of Pay due to the Warrant and Petty Officers and Seamen, Non-commissioned Officers and Privates of Marines, and Boys of the above Ship from the Day of to the Day of

	£	s.	d.
Here insert the full Sum due or to be paid - -			
Deduct unpaid Balance of the Bill for the Month, of			
Net Sum drawn for - £			

(Signed)
Purser of the said Ship.

I HEREBY certify, That Warrant and Petty Officers (not entitled to draw Bills,) Seamen, Non-commissioned Officers and Privates of Marines, and Boys, [*insert the Numbers in Words at Length*], were actually serving on board this Ship at the Date of drawing the above Bill. Witness my Hand, at the Day of

(Signed)
Captain,
[*or* Commanding Officer, *as the Case may be*].

WE do hereby certify, That at the Date of drawing this Bill, the Course of Exchange on *England* was at the Rate of [*insert Words at Length*]. Dated at the Day of

(Signed) *A. B.* } Resident Merchants
C. D. } at

To the principal Officers and Commissioners
of His Majesty's Navy, London.

ASSIGNMENT.

N°

Navy Office, Day of

WHEN due, to be paid by the Treasurer of His Majesty's Navy, out of the Monies received under the Head of Wages.

} Commissioners of His Majesty's Navy.

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