

INSPECTION OF HULLS OF STEAM VESSELS OF OVER 700
TONS.

MAY 26, 1898.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

Mr. PAYNE, from the Committee on the Merchant Marine and Fisheries, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany S. 622.]

The Committee on the Merchant Marine and Fisheries, to whom was referred the bill (S. 622) entitled "An act concerning sail vessels of over seven hundred tons," submit the following report:

The object of this bill is to so amend the provisions of the Revised Statutes providing for inspecting the hulls of steam vessels as to make the same applicable to sail vessels of over 700 tons burden. The bill, with amendments recommended by the committee, has no other object in view and accomplishes no other purpose. It is recommended by the Department. There is certainly no good reason why the same inspection should not be required of sail vessels that is now required of steam vessels. Other maritime powers require this, and for the protection of human life and property our laws ought also to require it.

The committee therefore recommend the passage of the bill with the amendments proposed below.

The following are the amendments proposed by the committee:

In line 10, page 1, after the word "or" and before the word "as," insert "on and after July first, eighteen hundred and ninety-nine," so that the paragraph shall read:

It shall be unlawful to employ any person, or for any person to serve, as a master, chief mate, engineer, or pilot of any steamer, or on and after July first, eighteen hundred and ninety-nine, as master or chief mate of any sail vessel of over seven hundred tons, who is not licensed by the inspectors; and anyone violating this section shall be liable to a penalty of one hundred dollars for each offense.

Strike out all of line 4, in section 3, and the following lines, including the words "to him," in line 18, page 3, and insert:

SEC. 4440. Whenever any person applies for authority to be employed as chief mate of ocean or coastwise steam vessels or of sail vessels of over seven hundred tons or as second or third mate of ocean or coastwise steam vessels, who shall have charge of a watch, or whenever any person applies for authority to be employed as mate of river steamers, the inspectors shall require satisfactory evidence of the knowledge, experience, and skill of the applicant in lading cargo and in handling

and stowage of freight, and if for license as chief mate on ocean or coastwise steamers or of sail vessels of over seven hundred tons or as second or third mate of ocean or coastwise steamers, who shall have charge of a watch, shall also examine him as to his knowledge and ability in navigation and managing such vessels and all other duties pertaining to his station, and if satisfied of his qualifications and good character they shall grant him a license authorizing him to perform such duties for the term of five years upon the waters upon which he is found qualified to act; but such license shall be suspended or revoked upon satisfactory proof of bad conduct, intemperate habits, unskillfulness, or want of knowledge of the duties of his station or the willful violation of any provision of this title.

Section 5, strike out "nine" in line 2, and insert "eight," so that it will read: "That this act shall take effect on July first, eighteen hundred and ninety-eight."

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