

partner, giving any unfair preference to any creditor, is in like manner guilty and liable for damages. Banks are liable to any further general legislation about banks. Their charters will expire at the end of the session to be held in 1881. Any existing bank may, on application of its directors authorized by the shareholders, obtain a renewal and extension of its charter from the G. in C. on the report of the M. of F. and Treasury Board—such charter to contain any of the provisions of its former charters not inconsistent with the preceding provisions of this act. If the capital stock of the bank has been impaired, it shall be reduced accordingly by such extension of charter, but not by a further amount than 25 p. c., nor below \$200,000, nor shall the shareholders' liability be reduced thereby. Banks obtaining such charter must call in and redeem its notes under \$4 as soon as practicable. All banks under new charter will be free from the tax on circulation. The bank of B. N. A. must cease to issue small notes after the 1st July, 1871. The provisions in this act respecting redemption of notes, cash reserves in Dominion notes, furnishing certified lists of shareholders, the monthly returns and unfair preferences will apply to it, but not the others. No one but a chartered bank shall issue, or re-issue, make, or draw any note or other document, to pass as money, or substitute for it, under a penalty of \$400. A note is presumed to be such if under \$20, payable to bearer, or at sight, or on demand, or at less than 30 days, or overdue, or in any way designed for circulation—cheques on banks and promissory notes delivered by a debtor to his creditor being excepted. The act respecting banks of 1863 is continued till the end of the session of 1872. The Halifax Banking Co. may keep out its present circulation till the end of 1874.

NOVA SCOTIA BANKS.

Cap. 12.—Nova Scotia banks are allowed to issue notes under \$20, but not under \$4.

STAMPS ON BILLS OR NOTES.

Cap. 13.—Any person becoming a party to a note, draft or bill, before the duty (or double duty) is paid, becomes liable to a fine of \$100; and further, unless the double duty be paid the obligation becomes null. The fact that no part of the signature, or the proper date, is written on the stamp, is *prima facie* evidence of neglect; but no party will be held liable, if, when he becomes a party, the proper stamps (apparently) are on, he is unaware of the neglect, and pays double duty. Any subsequent party or holder (not becoming a party) may cure the neglect by affixing stamps for double the amount of the original duty, or of that by which stamps affixed fall short of the proper amount, cancelling the stamps in the usual manner, and on proof of the good faith, in this respect, of the holder, the instrument shall be held good, but the person guilty of the original neglect shall still be liable to the penalty.

COASTING TRADE OF CANADA.

Cap. 14.—No goods or passengers can be carried from one port in Canada to another, except in British ships, under a penalty of \$400 and the forfeiture of the goods so smuggled, and the foreign vessel offending may be detained until payment of, or security for, such penalty or forfeiture. The G. in C. may exempt vessels from the operation of this Act, belonging to a nation whose coasting trade is opened to British ships. This Act only comes into force after proclamation, and does not interfere with rights granted by the Imperial Government by treaty.

FOREIGN FISHING VESSELS IN CANADIAN WATERS.

Cap. 15.—Foreign fishing vessels found hovering in Canadian waters may be seized by fishing officers, and brought into a Canadian port and searched, and the master examined on oath. In case he do not truly answer he is liable to a fine of \$400; and if the vessel have been fishing without license within three marine miles of shore she is forfeited.

DISCIPLINE ON CANADIAN VESSELS.

Cap. 16.—All persons employed on Government vessels are, before entering on service, to have this Act read to them, and sign a book—also to be read to them—containing names, &c., of ship, master, year, &c.; that the Act has been read, the party submitting himself thereto, and promising submission to discipline, and acknowledging that, if found unfit for the duty for which he is engaged, he may be discharged. The book must have columns for the names, capacity, date of engagement, period to serve, wages, and witnesses to signature, and date of it. A person, for breach of discipline, may be tried before any Comr. of Police or J. P., and punished as follows:—For desertion, 4 weeks' imprisonment, with or without hard labour, forfeiture of clothes, &c., left on board, and wages; neglecting to join to proceed to sea, absence without leave within 24 hours of sailing, or other such absence not desertion, same imprisonment and 10 days' pay; quitting the ship before it is secured for winter, 10 days' pay; any act of wilful disobedience, same imprisonment and 2 days' pay, and 2 days more for each day's continuance; assaulting an officer, same imprisonment; for combining to disobey, same; wilful damage of vessel or embezzlement of stores, same imprisonment and forfeiture of value. Upon commission of any offence an entry is to be made in the log-book, and signed by the master and an officer or one of the crew; and, if the offender is on the vessel, it shall be read and a copy given to him, and a statement of this, and his reply, shall also be entered and signed. Unless so authenticated the Comr. or J. P. may refuse to hear the charge. The master, or an officer of such vessel, may arrest one of the crew absent, deserting, &c., and bring him before the Comr. or J. P., and keep him in custody 24 hours *en route*. Police constables, under 31 V., c. 73, may give assistance. Captain or officer is liable to \$100 penalty if arrest, &c., is made on improper or insufficient grounds, but, when paid, this bars action for false imprisonment. Deserters, &c., may be sent on board instead of being imprisoned, by Comr. or J. P., and costs deducted from wages; or, being imprisoned, may be sent on board to serve, before the term of imprisonment expires. Proof of engagement, of absence before completion of it, and entry of desertion in log-book, is, *prima facie*, sufficient evidence on which to base forfeiture of wages.

CERTIFICATES TO MASTERS AND MATES OF SHIPS.

Cap. 17.—Provides for examinations in Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, of men domiciled for 3 years in Canada, desirous of becoming masters and mates of sea-going ships