authority as therein mentioned "shall have power to make compensation by a cash payment out of their funds for any loss arising from the transfer of any such shares, stock, or securities in pursuance of a forged transfer, or of a transfer under a forged power of attorney," and it is expedient to remove doubts as to the application of the Act to losses and forgeries before the passing of the Act: Be it therefore enacted as follows:— 54 & 55 Vict. c. 43.

The Forged Transfers Act, 1891, shall have effect as if at the end of sub-section one of section one of that Act there were added the words "whether such loss arises, and whether the transfer or power of attorney was forged before or after the passing of this Act, and whether the person receiving such compensation, or any person through whom he claims, has or has not paid any fee or otherwise contributed to any fund out of which the compensation is paid."

Amendment of 54 & 55 Vict. c. 43. s. 1 (2).

3. Sub-section two of section one of the said Act shall be read as if, after the words "on any one hundred pounds transferred," were inserted the words "with a minimum charge equal to that for twenty-five pounds."

Provision where one company takes over shares, &c. of another company.

4. Where the shares, stock, or securities of a company or local authority have by amalgamation or otherwise become the shares, stock, or securities of another company or local authority, the last-mentioned company and authority shall have the same power under the Forged Transfers Act, 1891, and this Act, as the original company or authority would have had if it had continued.

CHAPTER 37.

An Act to amend the Merchant Shipping Acts.

[27th June 1892.]

BE it enacted by the Queen'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, as follows:

Ships with submerged load lines to be deemed to be unsafe. 39 & 40 Vict. c. 80.

1. Every ship so loaded as to submerge in salt water the centre of the disc placed thereon in pursuance of the Merchant Shipping Acts, 1876 to 1890, and the regulations made thereunder, shall be deemed to be "unsafe" within the meaning of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1876, and such submersion shall be reasonable and probable cause for the detention of the ship.

Penalty for default in complying with regulations as to freeboard. 53 & 54 Vict. c. 9.

2. If any person makes default in complying with any regulation made by the Board of Trade in pursuance of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1890, with respect to the entry, publication, or delivery of copies of certificates or other particulars as to the draught of water and freeboard of a ship, he shall for each such default incur a penalty not exceeding one hundred pounds.

Provisions and water for crew to be inspected.

3.—(1.) In the case of ships trading or going from any port of the United Kingdom through the Suez Canal, or round the Cape of Good Hope or Cape Horn, the prescribed officer shall in the prescribed manner, and before shipment whenever practicable, inspect the barrels of beef and pork, preserved meat and vegetables in tins, and the casks of flour or biscuits intended for the use of the crews of such ships, and shall in the prescribed manner, if satisfied that they are fit for such use, certify the same accordingly.

(2.) The prescribed officer may at any time proceed on board a ship to ascertain whether the stores and water provided have been duly inspected or, if not, whether they are of a quality fit for the use of the crew of such ship. If he finds the same not to have been inspected, and deficient in quality, he shall detain the ship until such defects are remedied to his satisfaction.

(3.) No fee for such inspection shall be levied on the ship.

Appointment of officers.

4. The Board of Trade may appoint officers for the purposes of any inspection required under this Act, and may, with the concurrence of the Treasury, assign them remuneration to be paid out of moneys provided by Parliament.

Rules to be laid before Parliament.

5. All rules made under this Act shall be laid before Parliament within three weeks after they are made, if Parliament be then sitting, and if Parliament be not then sitting, within three weeks after the beginning of the then next meeting of Parliament, and shall not come into operation until they have lain for forty days before both Houses of Parliament during the session of Parliament.

Citation, construction, and rules.

6.—(1.) This Act may be cited as the Merchant Shipping Act, 1892, and shall be construed as one with the Merchant Shipping Act, 1854, and the Acts amending the same.

(2.) The Board of Trade may make rules for the purposes of this Act, and the expression "prescribed" means prescribed by rules so made.

CHAPTER 38.

An Act to alter the period for which certain Police Returns are required to be made. [27th June 1892.]

BE it enacted by the Queen'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, as follows:

Amendment of provision as to annual police returns. 19 & 20 Vict. c. 69.

1. The annual statement required by section fourteen of the County and Borough Police Act, 1856, shall be made for each calendar year, and shall be transmitted to one of Her Majesty's principal Secretaries of State as soon as may be after the termination of that year.

Commencement.

2. This Act shall come into operation on the first day of January one thousand eight hundred and ninety-three.

Short title.

3. This Act may be cited as the Police Returns Act, 1892.