

*First.* To superintend the engagement and discharge of all persons engaged or employed in vessels or boats of ten tons, or over, used for the catching of oysters in the waters of this State in the manner hereinafter prescribed.

*Second.* To make and certify under his hand and seal in triplicate all contracts of engagement as hereinbefore provided, on blanks, to be furnished by him gratuitously, which said contracts shall contain the name of the vessel and the number of her State oyster license, if she has one; the names of the owners and master; the names, places of birth, ages and residences of the various members of the crew, with the amount of wages to be paid to each respectively, and the date of employment of each man, the expiration of the period of such employment and the place where such employment is to terminate, the amount of advances, if any, made at the time of such contract, and whether in money or articles furnished, and the respective prices of such articles; one of said triplicate contracts shall be entered in a book, to be kept by said commissioner in his office expressly for said purpose, and shall be delivered at the termination of his office to his successor, and said book shall be open for inspection at all times. One of said triplicate contracts shall be delivered by the commissioner to the captain of the boat or vessel, and the third of said triplicate contracts shall be sent by the commissioner by the first mail to the office of the bureau of labor and statistics in Baltimore, to be preserved in his office.

*Third.* The crew or any member of the same of any such boat or vessel shall be discharged and paid off before the commissioner of the district named as the place of such discharge in the contract, and if such place shall be before a commissioner other than the one before whom such member was engaged, then it shall be the duty of the commissioner before whom the discharge was made to inform the other commissioner, by letter, of such discharge; and it shall be the duty of any commissioner thus appointed, to hear and determine all complaints of the non-performance of said contracts, and his certificate, under his hand and seal, to be furnished on demand shall be *prima facie* proof of the violation of the contract, and of the amount of damages suffered thereby, in any court or before any justice of the peace of this State.