

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.

Contract or agreement.

Fourth. Every contract or agreement entered into before a shipping commissioner shall be acknowledged by the persons executing the same, and certified under the hand and official seal of such commissioner. The certificate of acknowledgment shall be endorsed on or annexed to the contract, and shall be in the following form: State of Maryland,.....district..... On this.....day of....., A. D....., personally appeared before me, a state shipping commissioner in and for said district....., severally known to me to be the same persons who executed the foregoing instrument, who each for himself acknowledged to me that he had read or had heard read the same; that he was by me made acquainted with the conditions hereof, and understood the same; and that while sober, and not in a state of intoxication, he signed it freely and voluntarily for the uses and purposes therein mentioned.

Keep seal.

Fifth. And the said shipping commissioners shall procure and keep official seals, with the name of their office and the name or number of their respective districts, and shall perform such other duties as are now or may hereafter be required by law.

Fees.

Sec. 6. *And be it enacted*, That the commissioner drawing and superintending the said contracts shall, upon the execution of the same, be entitled to receive and collect from the master or owner of the vessel a fee of fifty cents for each person engaged under the contract as above provided, one-half of which fee shall be deducted by said master or owner from the wages of each man; and upon the discharge of the crew, or any member thereof as before provided, the commissioner before whom the discharge is made shall