

person having possession of it, to be examined by the Inspector.

10. On receipt of any instrument purporting to be such a will, the Inspector shall register it in books kept in his office for the purpose, specifying the date and place of execution, the name and description of the testator, and the name, description, and address of the person appointed executor, and those of the attesting witnesses.

11. If the Inspector doubts the authenticity of the alleged will, or if the instrument appears to him invalid as a will on account of any informality or of non-accordance in any respect with The Navy and Marines (Wills) Act, 1865, or otherwise, he shall, as soon as may be, give notice in writing to the person appointed executor, or, if none, to the residuary or the universal legatee, or other person most beneficially interested under the alleged will, informing him that the alleged will is stopped, and stating the reason thereof.

12. If the Inspector does not doubt the authenticity of the will, and the instrument does not appear to him invalid as a will, he shall cause it to be stamped with the official stamp of the Admiralty, and shall issue to the person appointed executor, or, if none, to the residuary or the universal legatee, or other person most beneficially interested under the will, a cheque in lieu of the will, containing directions as to the steps to be taken in consequence of the testator's death.

Proceedings on Testator's Death.

13. Where a seaman or marine dies leaving a will, and a cheque has been issued in pursuance of the foregoing provisions, the following steps shall be taken (in cases where this course of proceeding is applicable) by and with respect to the holder of the cheque :—

- (1.) The officiating minister of the parish or district parish wherein the holder of the cheque resides shall, on his request, examine him, and two inhabitant householders of the parish produced by him for the purpose.
- (2.) In the presence of the minister, the holder of the cheque shall sign the application, and the householders shall sign the certificate subjoined to the cheque (all blanks being first filled up according to truth, and the minister having first read over to the holder of the cheque and householders the caution printed on the cheque,) for which purpose the holder of the cheque and householders shall attend at such time and place as the minister appoints.
- (3.) The minister being, on examination of the holder of the cheque and householders, satisfied of the truth of their statements, and of the holder of the cheque being the executor, or other person therein described as qualified to act, and of the persons certifying being inhabitant householders of the parish, and having seen the parties sign the application and certificate respectively, shall add a description of the height, complexion, colour of eyes and hair, and age of the holder of the cheque, and of any observable peculiarities of person about him, and shall certify to the several particulars by subscribing his signature thereto.
- (4.) The holder of the cheque shall, before signing the application, pay to the minister a fee of 2s. 6d. for his trouble in the matter.

(5.) The application and certificates being completed the minister shall return them with the cheque addressed as directed.

14. If the Inspector, on the return of the cheque, application, and certificates, is satisfied of the right of the claimant, he shall proceed as follows :—

(1.) In case representation is required or intended to be taken out, he shall indorse on the original will a certificate (in such form and to such effect as he thinks fit) to enable the claimant to take out representation, and shall deliver the will to the claimant; and probate, obtained in accordance with the certificate, being produced to the Inspector and registered, and being indorsed by him as available for receipt of naval assets, shall be so available.

(2.) In case representation is not required or intended to be taken out, the Inspector shall issue to the claimant a certificate, which shall be available for receipt of naval assets, without probate.

15. If the Inspector, on the return of the cheque, application, and certificates, is not satisfied of the right or fitness of the claimant, he may (by indorsement on the original will) certify to that effect, and that he declines to interfere; or, if he thinks fit, he may (by indorsement on the original will) certify his objections, for the information of the Court out of which representation would be taken, and if the Court thinks fit to grant probate to the claimant, the same being produced to the Inspector and registered, shall be indorsed by him as available for receipt of naval assets, and shall be so available accordingly.

16. If in any case the minister is not satisfied that the holder of the cheque is the person qualified to act according to the instructions therein, he shall forthwith advise the Admiralty of his reasons, by letter, addressed as directed.

17. Notwithstanding anything in the foregoing provisions where probate, or, in Scotland, confirmation of executor, in case of testacy, is obtained without the Inspector's certificate, and naval assets form part of the effects, the Inspector, if satisfied on subsequent investigation, from official or other information, that there is no reason to doubt that representation has been obtained by the proper person, may admit the probate or confirmation of executor as authority for receipt of naval assets by indorsement thereon, and the same shall be available accordingly.

II.—INTESTACIES OF SEAMEN AND MARINES.

18. Where a seaman or marine dies intestate leaving naval assets, the following proceedings shall be taken :—

- (1.) On receipt by the Inspector of a letter from a person claiming the naval assets (as widow or next of kin) of the deceased, the Inspector shall, if, after the requisite preliminary inquiries, there appear sufficient grounds for entertaining the claim, send by post, under cover to the officiating minister of the parish or district parish wherein the claimant resides, a form of application to be filled up, and a letter of instructions for the minister's guidance.
- (2.) The Inspector shall at the same time send to the claimant a letter advising her or him of the transmission to the minister of the form of application, and pointing out the steps to be taken by the claimant for substantiating the claim.