

is wanted for purposes of emigration, or for other pressing purposes. The reason for the commutation must, however, be stated to the Board of Trade, and approved by that Board. The amount of such commutations and gratuities will be fixed by the Board of Trade.

*Form and Nature of Claim, and of Evidence to support it.*

22. The London Corporation and the Trustees of Outports will (unless their functions are suspended in consequence of their failing to be duly chosen, or resigning, or refusing or neglecting to act), select the persons who are to receive pensions, subject to the general rules, and to the tests hereby required, and to approval by the Board of Trade, and the muster rolls and books necessary for this purpose at their respective ports will remain in their possession. If any of these bodies are suspended, provision will be made for the performance of their duties, either by the Local Marine Board of the port, or if there is no Local Marine Board, or if that Board is unable or unwilling to undertake them, by the shipping master, to whom the muster rolls and books will in that case be transferred.

23. Pensions are to be granted at the port at which the claimants reside, without reference to the question whether the claimants, or their husbands or fathers, have contributed at that port.

24. Claims for pensions must be lodged with the president and governors, or the trustees, or with other the board or officers to whom the duty of inquiring into claims is committed.

The shipping master will, in all cases, inform claimants with whom to lodge their claims.

25. Claims must be made in printed forms which will be furnished for the purpose by all shipping masters. These forms will contain directions as to the manner in which they are to be filled up and used.

26. The claims of a widow and her children must not be on the same form, but one form must be used for the widow, and a separate one for each child.

27. Satisfactory evidence will be required of the various circumstances requisite to support claims; and for that purpose the following rules are to be observed:—

- (a.) Contributions to the fund prior to the 8th August 1851, having been universal and compulsory, will be considered as proved by the fact of service at sea in British vessels trading from ports in the United Kingdom. This service must be proved as follows:—If and so far as the service is stated to have been in vessels belonging to the port at which the claim is made, it must be verified by reference to the muster rolls there kept, and a statement of such verification must be made on the form of claim by the officer to whom the duty of examining claims is committed, and the claim must then be forwarded to the Registrar of Seamen. If this service is stated to have been partly or wholly in vessels belonging to other ports, the claim must be sent to the Registrar of Seamen for verification, who will either verify it by the records kept at his office, or will transmit it for verification to the port where the muster rolls in which such service is recorded are kept; from that port it will be returned to the Registrar.

- (b.) Contributions to the fund subsequent to the 8th August 1851, not being universal or compulsory, must be proved to have been actually made. This must be done as follows:—The fund register ticket, upon which the receipt for each contribution will be marked, must, when practicable, be attached to the claim. The claim, with this fund ticket attached, will be sent to the Registrar of Seamen, who will verify it by the records of contributions kept in his office.

- (c.) Claimants should also annex to their claims all certificates of discharge or other documents they may possess which can assist in proving their service to be such as is stated in the claim, whether such service has been prior or subsequent to the 8th August 1851.

- (d.) Claims founded on permanent incapacity, arising from sickness, wounds, or accident, must be supported by a certificate, to be signed by two respectable inhabitants of the place, and to be confirmed by one or more of the trustees or local managers or officers acting at the port, after personal inspection, and also by the certificate of a medical man.

- (e.) Claims founded on decrepitude or incapacity arising from age must be supported by the like evidence.

- (f.) In the case of claims by widows and children, the death of the husband or father, if happening in this country, must be proved by burial certificate.

In the like cases, death, if happening during a voyage, and the causes thereof (if essential), will be shown, by reference to the muster rolls or to the lists kept by the Registrar of Seamen, or by a certificate from the Consul or other proper authority at the place where it happened.

- (g.) In the case of claims made by widows, the marriage must always be proved, and this must be done by the production of the marriage certificate. In such cases it must also be shown that the marriage was contracted at a period of the husband's life before he became entitled to a pension, or, in other words, before he was worn-out, decrepit, or incapable of service.

- (h.) In the cases of claims made by children, the marriage of their parents must be proved by the production of the marriage certificate; and their age must be shown to be under fourteen, by certificates of their birth or baptism.

- (i.) For the purpose of proving, in the case of children above fourteen, that they are incapable from infirmity of obtaining a livelihood, medical certificates must be produced, and for the continuance of the pension, similar proof will from time to time be required.

- (k.) Evidence which has been produced to establish one claim need not again be produced to establish another founded on the same circumstances; but a reference may be made to the claim already established.

28. When a claim has been established to the satisfaction of the trustees or local managers of the fund by the production of the evidence above required, and has been verified so far as is in their power by reference to the documents in their possession, it should be signed by them or by their officer, and forwarded, with all the necessary cer-