

Custom House and Port Regulations.

In the Harbors of California.

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In the absence of the Commander in Chief of the Pacific Squadron, the undersigned in virtue of authority in him vested, orders and establishes the following Regulations for the better Enforcement of the orders of the President of the United States respecting the collection of Military Contributions,

1.st ~ The Collector shall visit all Merchant vessels immediately on their arrival, and make the Master of each vessel acquainted with such regulations as may be established from time to time for the Police of the Harbor,

2.nd ~ Any dispute which may arise between the Masters of Merchant vessels in relation to Anchorage or moorings shall be decided by the collector.

3.rd ~ If the Master of any Merchant vessel shall refuse or fail to obey the directions of the Collector as to Anchorage or mooring of his vessel, he shall be fined not exceeding thirty dollars, or imprisoned not exceeding one month for each offence.

4.th ~ If any Master of a Merchant vessel shall receive, or connive at being received, on board his vessel, any deserters from the Army or Navy; or if such deserters shall be found concealed on board his vessel, the vessel itself shall be confiscated, and the Master shall be tried by a Military Commission and punished according to the Laws of War.

5.th ~ If any person belonging to a Merchant vessel, other than the Master, shall receive or shall connive at being received on board, any deserter from the Army or Navy, such persons shall be tried by a Military Commission and punished according to the Laws of War.

6.th ~ Any person who shall entice any sailor or other person belonging to any vessel on the Coast of California to desert; or who shall aid or abet in such desertions, or who shall knowingly receive or conceal, or assist in concealing such deserters, shall on conviction before any Judge, Alcalde or other civil Magistrate who may be authorized to issue warrants or try causes, be subject to a fine not exceeding

Five hundred dollars, and an imprisonment not exceeding sixty days.

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7.th — If any Master of a vessel shall be detected in landing or attempting to land any where in California, any goods or Merchandise, without permit from a Collector, he shall be fined for every such offence in the sum of Five hundred dollars, and the goods or Merchandise so landed, or attempted to be landed, and the boat or boats through which such landing is effected or attempted, shall be seized, forfeited, and sold by the nearest Collector.

8.th — If any person or persons, other than the Master of a vessel, shall be detected in landing, or in attempting to land, any where in Cal^a, any goods or merchandise, without permit from a Collector, he or they shall be fined in the sum of One hundred dollars, and the goods or merchandise so landed or attempted to be landed, and the boat or boats through which such landing is effected or attempted, shall be seized, forfeited, and sold by the nearest Collector. —

9.th — In case goods or Merchandise are landed or attempted to be landed, without permit from a Collector, at a point distant from a port of entry, it shall be the duty of the nearest Alcalde or other civil Magistrate to seize, confiscate and sell such goods and boats, and impose the penalties designated in the two preceding Articles, in the same manner as is directed for the Collector of a Port.

10.th On the arrival of any vessel whose Cargo is subject to duty, the collector will notify the nearest Comd^y Mil^y Officer, who, on receiving such notice, will immediately detail one or more Non-Comd. Officers or privates, as a guard for such vessel. This guard will be instructed to allow no cask, box, package, or other article of merchandise to be removed from the vessel without a permit signed by the collector. These permits will be returned from day to day by the Guard to the Collector for file in the Customs House.

11.th — Masters of vessels will be responsible for the conduct of their men while on shore on liberty, and will be held accountable for the payment of any fines or forfeitures imposed on them in violation of law, or riotous or improper conduct.

12.th — The Collectors will require the Masters of all vessels, when

clearing at the Custom House to make Oath to the correctness of their manifests, and that to the best of their knowledge and belief no gold or silver is on board, or about to be exported in their vessel, other than that set forth in their manifest, This oath will be subscribed to on the manifest,

13.th ~ All shippers and Supercargoes will be required to make Oath that their Invoices and papers set forth truly and correctly the amount of all goods, merchandize, or other property, shipped on board the vessel about to be cleared. A similar Oath may, at the option of the Collector, be administered to any passenger or other person about to sail in such vessel, All baggage belonging to passengers will be examined at the Custom House before it is suffered to go on board, and the Keys thereof be withheld till the Custom House guard is withdrawn from the vessel,

14.th ~ All gold or silver not mentioned in the manifest and found on board any vessel about clearing from a port of Cal.^a or concealed in passenger's baggage, or otherwise secreted for the purpose of defrauding the revenue, will be seized and confiscated, together with the box, trunk, or package, and all the contents of the same, in which it may be found. And should the amount of gold or silver so found on board of any vessel exceed in value one thousand dollars, the vessel will be seized and confiscated.

15.th ~ Any Collector who may have just and reasonable grounds for suspecting a vessel of having gold or silver on board for the purpose of defrauding the revenue by exporting the same without paying the export duty, will detain and search such vessel, even, if necessary to the unloading and examining of her entire cargo.

16.th ~ A similar examination will be made by any collector who may have satisfactory reasons for believing that any vessel trading in the Ports of Cal.^a has goods or merchandize on board not mentioned in her manifest, And all such goods or merchandize and the vessel upon which they may be found, will be subjected to the penalties mentioned in Article 12 of the Tariff Regulations.

17.th ~ The personal baggage of all passengers or other persons arriving in the Ports of Cal.^a will be inspected at the Custom House and any dutiable goods or merchandize which may be found in the possession of such passenger or other person, and not on the manifest will be confiscated together with the box, trunk, or package in

which it may be found.

18.th — Any Master of a vessel who after his clearance has been granted, shall communicate or allow any other person to communicate from his vessel with the shore or with any other vessel in port will be subjected to a fine of five hundred dollars; and the boat or boats through which such communication is effected will be confiscated. And any other person other than the Master of the vessel who shall make such communication, shall be subjected to a fine of One hundred dollars, and the confiscation of the boat or boats, as aforesaid.

19.th — Any person who shall visit a vessel arriving in a port of Cal.^a before she has a Custom House guard or Inspector on board, or before her manifest and papers are deposited at the Custom House will be subjected to a fine of One hundred dollars, and the confiscation of the boat or boats used for such visit. Any person guilty of either of the offences mentioned in this and the foregoing Article, will be imprisoned till said fines are paid.

20.th — The proceeds of all fines and confiscations imposed by Military Commissions or otherwise, for offences designated in Articles 4.th 5.th and 6.th of these Regulations, shall go for the exclusive benefit of the informer, the necessary Expenses of Court being previously paid; And in all other cases of fines or confiscations under these Regulations, one half of the proceeds shall go for the benefit of the informer.

21.st — All other Custom House and Port Regulations for the Ports of California, so far as they conflict with these Regulations, are hereby repealed.

Done at Monterey Cal.^a this 26.th day of July 1848.

R. B. Mason
Col. 1. Dragoons and
Gov.^r