

and nationality of parents, as he may be able to obtain, and such a case shall be referred to the Principal Examiner.

5. Foreigners must know English.—Foreigners must prove to the satisfaction of the Examiners that they can speak and write the English language sufficiently well to perform the duties required of them on board a British vessel. If a candidate fails for ignorance of the English language he will not be re-examined until after a lapse of six months.

6. Examinations : Where and when held.—The times and places at which examinations are held are shown in Appendix A, page 2995.

7. Examination, How to apply for.—1. Candidates for examination must fill up a form of application (Form Exn. 2) at a Mercantile Marine Office. The form, properly filled in, together with the candidate's testimonials in duplicate, and discharges, &c., must be lodged with the Superintendent of Mercantile Marine, for transmission to the Examiner, not later than seven days before the date of examination, and the candidate must conform to any regulations in this respect which may be laid down by the Marine Department.

2. The Examiner must be particularly careful to ascertain that any gaps in the candidate's service are properly accounted for, that his testimonials and discharges have been verified where such has been necessary, and that he has conformed to the requirements of these regulations, before he is allowed to sit for examination. In the absence of any necessary verification the candidate must not be examined.

3. A candidate who has failed in his examination and desires to again sit for examination, provided examinations are to be held during the next succeeding week, and provided he is eligible to sit, may make immediate application for such in the manner required by this regulation, notwithstanding a lesser period of seven days may elapse before the date of examination.

4. In cases where the services of a candidate require verification, or where he is in doubt whether his service complies with the regulations, and wishes to submit his case for special consideration, all certificates, discharges, and testimonials, together with the form of application (Form Exn. 2, which can be obtained at any Mercantile Marine Office), properly filled in (see para. 33), must be submitted to the Examiner of Masters and Mates or to the Superintendent of Mercantile Marine. If necessary, the officer will, after seeing that all the required information is clearly set forth in the papers, forward them, with his observations, to the Principal Examiner.

5. All other inquiries regarding examinations should be made and dealt with in the same way. The point on which information is sought should be clearly stated, and certificates, discharges, testimonials, &c., should be forwarded when they are material to the inquiry.

8. Application : Particulars of Sea Service.—1. A candidate's eligibility for examination will depend (amongst other things) upon the amount of sea service which he has performed, and upon the ranks which he has held on board the various vessels in which he has been employed. It is therefore most important that the particulars which the candidate inserts in Division H of the application form (Exn. 2) should be accurately stated.

2. Candidates who represent themselves as having served in a higher capacity than that actually held in the ship render themselves liable to prosecution under section 32 of the Shipping and Seamen Act, 1908. (See para. 16.) In this connection Examiners should remember that it is a common practice for ships to carry additional or auxiliary officers in one or more ranks, for instance, a ship may carry both a "chief" officer and a "first" officer; another may carry both a senior and a junior second mate; and so on. The method of assessing the service in such cases is explained in paragraph 112. The Examiner should be particularly careful, when checking an applicant's watch-keeping service, to ascertain the actual rank he held as a watch-keeping officer on board each of the ships in which he served.

3. All candidates for certificates of competency and for the voluntary examinations must submit all existing certificates held by them,