

EUROPEAN COMMISSION OF THE
DANUBE.NEW PROVISIONS concerning the Lighter
Service.

THE European Commission of the Danube,—

Whereas, the provisions of Part V. of the Regulation of Navigation and Police, under date of the 2d November 1865, which rule at present the Lighter Service, have been drawn up especially in view of the operations which are carried on at the mouth of the river ;

Whereas, at the present time, on the contrary, lighters are employed principally for the passage of the shoals of the Sulina Branch, or for the conveyance of cargoes destined for sea-going vessels which do not ascend the river ;

Whereas, moreover, the number of licensed lighters, subject to the disciplinary superintendance of the Inspector-General of the Navigation has diminished to a considerable extent ; and whereas, consequently, sea-going vessels of low tonnage are employed in greater numbers than formerly to act temporarily as lighters ;

Whereas, those vessels being subject neither to the constraint of being visited and measured every year, nor to that of giving pledges for good conduct, offer less security to commerce than the licensed lighters ; and whereas more frequent abuses, committed to the detriment of the lightened cargoes, have been made known to the Commission ;

Whereas, it thus appears that the provisions in force concerning the Lighter Service no longer correspond with the exigencies of the Danubian Navigation in so far as they have been modified by the effect of the works executed at the Sulina Mouth ;

And considering Article 112 of the above-quoted Regulation of Navigation and Police of the 2d November 1865 ;

Enacts the following provisions :—

Art. 1.

Articles 82 to 93, both inclusive, of the Regulation of Navigation and Police annexed to the Public Act relating to the Navigation of the Mouths of the Danube, under date of the 2d November 1865, forming Chapters 1, 2, and 3 of Part V. of the aforesaid Regulation, are repealed, and replaced by the following Articles :—

“ PART V.

“ *The Lighter Service.*

“ CHAPTER 1.

“ *General Rules.*

“ Art. 82.—Lighterage operations are divided into two classes :

“ 1st. Local lighterage effected by a sea-going vessel, which, in order to cross the Sulina Bar (either on entering or on leaving the river), or a shoal in the interior, discharges the whole or part of its cargo into a smaller vessel in order to re-ship it after having cleared the obstacle ;

“ 2d. Coasting lighterage performed by sailing vessels, or by steam vessels and towing lighters, which take a cargo in a port of the Danube and consign it to a sea-going vessel anchored in the port or on the roadstead of Sulina.

“ Art. 83.—No one can undertake lighterage operations without having previously entered, at

the Office of the Inspector-General of the Navigation at Toultscha, the vessels intended to act as lighters, or without having provided himself, for each vessel, with a licence delivered by the Inspector-General, and which must always be forthcoming on board.

“ Before delivering the licence the Inspector-General causes the vessels intended to act as lighters to be visited by a commission which judges whether they are in good condition, and ascertains at the same time their capacity in register tons and their burden in imperial quarters.

“ The licensed lighters are bound to submit themselves every year to a fresh visit, the period of which is fixed by the Inspector-General ; if the result of the examination is deemed satisfactory, the Inspector-General notes it on the licence of the lighter ; in the contrary case, the licence is withdrawn until the necessary repairs have been made.

“ Art. 84.—Vessels provided with regular ship's papers can be temporarily employed for lightening other vessels, upon condition that the captains make for each operation a special declaration to the Inspector-General of the Navigation, if the lighterage is to be effected over the shoals of the Sulina Branch, or to the Captain of the Port of Sulina if the lighterage is for the passage of the Mouth. This declaration is accompanied by the deposit of all the papers of the vessel intended to act as a lighter, except the muster-roll of the crew.

“ If the vessel employed as a lighter has entered the river with more than a third of her cargo, the dues owing for entry become demandable immediately after the first lighterage operation.

“ No vessel, however, not entered as a lighter, can be employed in this capacity during more than four consecutive months from the first operation, except after fulfilling the formalities prescribed by Article 83.

“ Art. 85.—Every master of a licensed lighter is compelled to deposit 600 francs (£24), which is paid into the Navigation Chest at Sulina. This deposit may be replaced by the liable security of a person well-known to be solvent, resident in one of the ports of the Lower Danube.

“ The licence cannot be delivered by the Inspector-General before the deposit has been made, or the security accepted.

“ The deposit cannot be returned or the security discharged as long as the vessel continues to act as a lighter. This deposit may be appropriated to the payment of the pecuniary fines pronounced against the Master of the lighter, and in this case the licence is withdrawn from the vessel until the deposit has been renewed entirely.

“ Art. 86.—Licensed lighters, as well as vessels temporarily employed as lighters, are bound to have the muster-roll of their crews in order, and to present it, whenever required, to the Inspector-General of the Navigation, to the Captain of the Port of Sulina, and to the agents placed under the orders of these latter.

“ Licensed lighters are bound, moreover, to bear the number of their licence ; and vessels employed temporarily as lighters the number of the last stamp affixed to the roll of their crew, in execution of Article 17 of the present regulation. These numbers must be marked in white paint on each side of the bows, in Arab figures, one foot in height.