

his coming a second time; and the same sum for every subsequent attempt.

12. If the applicant passes he will receive a document from the Examiner, which will entitle him to receive his Certificate of Competency from the Shipping Master at the port to which he has directed it to be forwarded. If his testimonials have been sent to the Registrar to be verified, they will be returned with his certificate.

13. If an applicant is examined for a higher rank and fails, but passes an examination of a lower grade, he may receive a Certificate accordingly, but no part of the fee will be returned.

14. In all cases of complete failure the candidate must be re-examined *de novo*, and in case of failure in *Seamanship* a candidate will not be re-examined *until after a lapse of SIX MONTHS*, to give him time to gain experience.

15. As the examinations of Masters and Mates are made compulsory, the qualifications have been kept as low as possible; but it must be distinctly understood that it is the intention of the Board of Trade to raise the standard from time to time, whenever, as will no doubt be the case, the general attainments of officers in the merchant service shall render it possible to do so without inconvenience; and officers are strongly urged to employ their leisure hours, when in port, in the acquirement of the knowledge necessary to enable them to pass their examinations; and Masters will do well to permit apprentices and junior officers to attend schools of instruction, and to afford them as much time for this purpose as possible.

EXAMINATIONS IN STEAM.

16. Arrangements have been made for giving to those Masters or First or Only Mates who possess Certificates of Competency, or who may apply for such Certificates, and who desire it, an opportunity of undergoing an examination as to their practical knowledge of the use and working of the steam engine. These examinations will be conducted under the superintendence of the Local Marine Boards, at such times as they may appoint for the purpose; and the Examiners will be selected by the Board of Trade, from the Engineer Surveyors appointed under the Act. The examination will not comprise intricate theoretical questions, but will be such as to satisfy the Examiner that the applicant is competent to controul the working of the engine, and has such a knowledge of the ordinary parts of the machinery as will enable him to judge of the nature of an accident, and, in the absence of the engineer, to give the necessary directions in the engine room. The practice will be as follows: The applicant must deliver to the Shipping Master a statement in writing to the effect that he wishes to be examined in Steam. If he is about to pass an examination in Navigation, the statement must be on or annexed to the form EE; if the applicant has a Certificate of Competency the statement must be delivered to the Shipping Master with his Certificate, so that due notice may be given to the Examiner, and so that the Board of Trade on receiving it may have the means of indorsing on his Certificate and recording the fact that he has "*Passed in Steam.*" He must also, at the same time, pay a fee of One Pound (1*l.*), which will be applied in remunerating the Examiners. Notice will be given of the time at which the applicant is to attend to be examined; and if he passes, the result of the examination will be reported to the Board of Trade, and his Certificate of Competency will be issued or returned to him, as the case may be, with an indorsement as above mentioned, showing that he has "*Passed in Steam.*" If he

fails, no notice of the failure will be recorded on the Certificate, but *no part of the fee will be returned.*

17. Full directions as to the course of Examination in Steam, and the qualifications required of candidates, are contained in the instructions issued to Engineer Surveyors appointed as Examiners at the larger Ports.

*Marine Department, Board of Trade,
May, 1855.*

*Board of Trade, Whitehall,
May 14, 1855.*

THE Right Honourable the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade and Plantations have received, through the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a Despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris, enclosing a copy of a French Imperial Decree, fixing the import duty on printing types (old and out of use) at 5 francs the 100 kilogrammes.

*Board of Trade, Whitehall,
May 14, 1855.*

THE Right Honourable the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade and Plantations have received, through the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a Despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris, enclosing a copy of a French Imperial Decree, fixing the import duty on nitrates of soda and potash at the following rates, viz.:

	The 100 kilogrammes.
In French vessels	f.
{ From countries situated beyond Cape Horn and the Cape of Good Hope	- 1
Do. - - { From other countries out of Europe	- 6
Do. - - { From entrepôts	- 8
In foreign vessels	- 11

And the following rates of bounty on the exportation of nitric and sulphuric acid:

	The 100 kilogrammes.
	f. c.
Nitric acid	- 5 0
Sulphuric acid	- 0 20

*Board of Trade, Whitehall,
May 15, 1855.*

THE Right Honourable the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade and Plantations have received, through the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a Despatch from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Hamburgh, enclosing a Notice to Mariners issued by the Bremen Chamber of Commerce respecting certain alterations in the position of Buoys in the River Weser, a translation of which is subjoined.

(Translation.)

(Copy.)

NOTICE TO MARINERS.

Publication respecting the position of the Buoys and Tuns in the channel or fairway of the River Weser.

In reference to the publication of the Chamber of Commerce, under date the 28th July, of last year, relative to the position of the Buoys and