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*Board of Trade (Harbour Department),
Whitehall Gardens, January 4, 1878.*

THE Board of Trade have received through the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs a copy of a Despatch from Her Majesty's Minister at Buenos Aires, enclosing a Decree of the Argentine Government on the subject of Pilotage, a translation of which is appended.

(Translation.)

*Department of War and Marine,
Buenos Aires, November 7, 1877.*

Forasmuch as it is incumbent on the Government to exonerate both national (nacional) and foreign sea-going vessels engaged in navigating the Rio de la Plata and its tributaries from burdens not absolutely requisite, and which are prejudicial to the commerce of the country, the President of the Republic has resolved and decrees:

ARTICLE I. Until a Convention be concluded with the Government of the Oriental Republic as regards light-house service in the Rio de la Plata, the Port-Captain's Department shall not aid in the recovery of any light-dues which are not authorized by the laws of the country.

It shall be declared by the Port-Captain's Department, with the least possible delay, which are the lights and what the scale of charges for vessels coming direct and for those touching at Oriental Ports, in order to the adoption of needful steps in this regard.

ARTICLE II. Sea-going vessels bound from foreign ports beyond the capes (de cabos à fuera)* to the Rio de la Plata, direct for Argentine Ports, are not compelled to take a pilot, unless desirous so to do.

But since it is necessary to provide against damage that may possibly be occasioned to Argentine channels or harbours, through inexperience on the part of captains, in the event of not taking a pilot, the latter shall pay to Government one-half of the established pilot-charge.

ARTICLE III. A mutual agreement may be made between captains or consignees and pilots as respects the remuneration to be made to the latter; but in no case must this be in excess of the established tariff, which must hold good, unless an agreement has been made to the contrary.

ARTICLE IV. The office of pilot for direct navigation to Argentine ports is reserved for pilots of the Republic. Vessels which leave for foreign

ports, and from thence are bound to Argentine ports, shall not, upon leaving the latter, take any but Argentine pilots, if they wish to take a pilot at all.

ARTICLE V. Inasmuch as pilots are agents of the maritime police, and are subject to the obligations imposed by the marine ordinances and the rules in force as respects harbour police and river navigation, pilots of the country can alone exercise this profession, subject only to what is provided for in the present regulations.

ARTICLE VI. Pilots of other countries cannot exercise their profession in the navigation of the Rio de la Plata and its tributaries, from or to an Argentine port, without showing their certificate, and without being approved of, after undergoing examination, in the same manner as the pilots of the country, binding themselves, moreover, to fulfil every obligation imposed upon them by the laws of the Republic.

ARTICLE VII. A foreign pilot, exercising his profession without this requisite, shall not be recognised for the purposes of this Decree, and shall be responsible for damage caused by him, in accordance with what is provided for by the laws of the Republic.

ARTICLE VIII. Pilots of the country and foreigners shall not be compelled to give any security for exercising their profession, except when they have no fixed residence in the country, in which case they must provide a guarantee of the amount of two thousand five hundred silver dollars.

ARTICLE IX. Let this be made known, &c.

AVELLANEDA,
RUFRINO DE ELIZALDE.

Admiralty, 7th January, 1878.

The following promotions have been made:—

James Paterson, Esq., to be Chief Inspector of Machinery in Her Majesty's Fleet, with seniority of 15th December, 1877.

Richard Henry Sleeman, Esq., to be Inspector of Machinery in Her Majesty's Fleet, with seniority of 15th December, 1877.

*Royal Naval Artillery Volunteers.
London Brigade.*

The Honourable Philip Stanhope to be Honorary Lieutenant. Dated 7th January, 1878.

* Capes Santa Maria and San Antonio.