

THE FREE PORT QUESTION.

into Hamburg, and he will not take long to find his mistake out. The following are the

Hamburg Port Charges

Harbor Masters fee of \$1.25 on each ship drawing not more than six and a half feet each time the ship enters the port, and \$1.25 extra for each additional three feet.

There are certain special exemptions from the above charges, as in the case of yachts and pleasure boats or ships.

A tonnage due of 8 cents per register ton. (This rate is again subject to certain variations in certain cases.)

A charge for the use of the wharves of 12 cents per registered ton.

A charge of 25 cents per ton levied against the goods loaded or unloaded on the wharves, seven-tenths of which the ship pays, and three-tenths paid by the cargo; the whole, however, is paid by the shipowner, who collects the three-tenths from the merchant.

The pilotage dues are as follows, and are charged according to the draft of vessels, viz:—

Table of Pilot Dues

Ft. in.	\$	c.	\$	c.
2 3 $\frac{3}{8}$	6	10	8	55
6 9 $\frac{3}{4}$	8	55	11	05
9 10	11	05	15	90
13 1	17	15	24	50
16 4 $\frac{7}{8}$	28	20	38	00
19 8 $\frac{1}{4}$	44	15	58	80
22 11 $\frac{5}{8}$	60	00	80	85
26 3	70	00	96	50
29 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	78	40	107	50

The following discounts are allowed:—

Per cent.

For vessels going only as far as Cuxhaven	25
If vessels take a pilot not before Cuxhaven	75
If vessels come in empty or in ballast	50
If vessels clear out to sea from Cuxhaven	50
After twelfth voyage in a calendar year of same vessel made with a Cuxhaven government pilot	10
After twenty-fourth voyage under above-mentioned conditions	20
After thirty-sixth voyage under above-mentioned conditions	30
Extra fee if pilot takes the vessel to an Elbe Port farther than Gluckstadt	50

In case the river is full of drift ice the pilot is entitled to charge double the above-stated dues.

The pilot dues from Basch Station to the Hamburg port is about 90 cents per foot draft of vessel.

The Harbor pilot due is \$2.40 per vessel.

There are no dues levied direct against the goods and there is no intention on the part of the Harbor Authorities to change the method of raising revenue.

When the sheds are leased to different people temporarily, the charge is 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents per cubic foot for the first five days and $\frac{3}{4}$ cent per cubic foot for every day thereafter.

These various dues may not be excessive in view of the natural conditions prevailing in the Elbe, but they certainly do not go to confirm the idea that a Free Port is one that is free from port dues. The enormous