

templated, those executed and those in contemplation are of a character to accommodate ships drawing 28 feet of water. I will at once endeavour to lay these doubts before the gentlemen representing the Harbour Board here to day. I must say that in the plans which have been prepared under the superintendence of Mr Perley, the entrance to the Wet Dock is deep enough to provide for ships of the description already mentioned. The entrance according to Mr. Boyd will leave 30 feet in the sill with a 12 feet tide, and 28 feet with a 10 feet tide, and, as Mr. Boyd remarks, the 10 feet tide is a thing of very rare occurrence. With a tide of 12 feet which is comparatively a thing of unfrequent occurrence, the depth of water on the sill would be 30 feet which is plenty, I understand, to accommodate ships drawing 28 feet of water. Is the rest of the dock now of the same description? Will a ship which shall have been able to pass the entrance have sufficient depth to go through any part of the Wet Dock? If not, in my mind it is useless to have such a deep entrance, if the rest of the dock is not proportionately as deep, and we may at once give up the idea of expecting to accommodate the class of large shipping which we anticipate to see here.

The letter before mentioned is not very clear. It says that after its completion the Wet Dock will be able to receive vessels drawing 28 feet. This is not altogether satisfactory and is open to two constructions. One construction which might be satisfactory to us all is this that the wholospace of the dock can be filled up with vessels drawing 28 feet of water. But the sentence is open to another construction, which is that only one or two vessels drawing 28 feet of water could be accommodated, This latter would be quite unsatisfactory. Supposing, for instance, that only one or two ships could be accommodated alongside the cross-wall. I understand it is deeper alongside the new cross-wall than at the Louise Embankment. and I am informed that no more than two large steamers