

that, in future, all coal cargoes should be weighed, and the weight so delivered, shall be the quantity on which payment shall be made, irrespective of bills of lading." In connection with this subject, your Council are strongly of opinion that coals should also be sold to the local consumer by weight, and they hope the coal dealers will see the propriety of adopting the same rule in the retail as well as the wholesale trade.

WEIGHER, MEASURER AND GAUGER.

The Board of Examiners have adopted, and the Council have approved of a code of rules, and a tariff of fees, for the guidance of the weigher, measurer and gauger, under the Provincial Act of Parliament, 28 Vic., chap 6. Mr. John Fraser, has been appointed to the office.

THE PILOT SCHOONERS.

Complaints having been made of the absence of the pilot schooners from their station at Bic this fall, of their having failed to take the pilots out of six outward bound vessels, and the serious detention of the ship *Miranda* from the same cause, the Council referred the matter to the Trinity Board, who replied that they had no jurisdiction therein, but that under the by-laws of the Corporation of Pilots, the master of a pilot schooner, not performing his duty, is liable to a fine of not less than ten, and not more than forty dollars, and that in case the Corporation of Pilots refused to prosecute under the provisions of the by-law, they can, like other corporate bodies, be subject to a mandamus. If owners or masters of vessels would see the law enforced, there might be less cause for complaint.

✓ STEAM COMMUNICATION WITH THE GULF PORTS.

This important subject has been frequently before the Board and the public, and several ineffectual attempts have been made to establish a line of boats between Quebec and the Maritime Provinces. A Company, however, is now in course of organization—over two-thirds of the nominal capital has been subscribed and a suitable steamer has been purchased,—so that a weekly line during the ensuing summer may be regarded as a certainty. Great credit is due to those gentlemen who projected this new enterprise, and through whose energy and perseverance so much has been accomplished. It is the duty of all persons interested in the prosperity of Quebec to promote the success of the Company by every means in their power.

HARBOUR COMMISSION.

Early in the year a contract was entered into between the Commissioners and Mr. Brown, of Thorold, for dredging the Commissioners' wharves, and securing to proprietors the right of dredging round their wharves on the same terms as the Commissioners. The work was commenced and the East India wharf dredged to a depth of 25 feet, but owing to a series of