

except such vessels provided for in Clause 24 of this section.

(22) All merchant vessels entering the Firth of Forth are to proceed to the Examining Station to be passed by the Examining Officer and given the "Special Signal" before proceeding to any port in the Firth of Forth. On arrival at the Examining Station they are to "heave to" and await instructions from the Examination Steamer. If then ordered to the Examination Anchorage, they are to proceed there, anchor, and await further instructions. In the meantime they are to hold no communication with any other merchant vessel or with the shore without permission.

(23) If they arrive during the hours of "Official Night" or in thick or foggy weather, they must anchor outside the limits of the Firth of Forth (see definition of limits in Section I.), except as provided for in clause (24).

(24) Sailing ships and other small vessels which are forced to seek shelter owing to weather conditions, and arrive during the hours of "Official Night," will be anchored in the most convenient position by orders of a patrol vessel until the weather moderates.

Section V.

VESSELS LEAVING THE FIRTH OF FORTH.

(25) Merchant vessels must on no account leave the Firth of Forth without first obtaining a "Port Clearance" from the Collector of Customs at the port of departure.

(26) No merchant vessels are permitted to leave the Firth of Forth—

- (a) During the hours of "Official Night";
- (b) If sufficient daylight is not left to enable them to clear the Isle of May before dark; or
- (c) When the Firth of Forth is "closed,"

except with the permission of the Commander-in-Chief, Rosyth, which must be obtained through the King's Harbour Master, Rosyth.

(27) When the Firth of Forth is "Open" to the traffic of merchant shipping the following signal will be displayed at the various ports east of Oxcar:—

One Red ball, indicating that merchant vessels anchored in the roads off any port are at liberty to proceed.

No merchant vessel is to proceed until one Red Ball is hoisted as follows:—

Leith.—From the Examination Steamer anchored in the Examination Anchorage.

Inchkeith.—From the Flagstaff at the Signal Station.

Burntisland.—From the Middle Lighthouse.

Kirkcaldy.—From the Flagstaff at the Harbour Master's Office.

Methil.—From a Flagstaff at the Dock Gate.

Wemyss.—At the entrance to Wemyss Harbour.

Dysart.—From the East Pier at the entrance to Dysart Harbour.

Granton.—From Flagstaff at Central Pier.

The Licensed Trinity Pilot in charge of a merchant vessel will be held personally responsible that such vessel does not leave her anchorage until the above-mentioned signal is hoisted.

The Red ball will be hoisted at the commencement of "Official Day" if the Firth of Forth is

not "Closed" for any reason, and will be hauled down at the commencement of "Official Night."

Note.—It will be hauled down on all occasions when the Firth of Forth is "Closed" to merchant shipping traffic by order of the King's Harbour Master, Rosyth, and will be rehoisted by order of the King's Harbour Master, Rosyth, when the Firth of Forth is "Opened" again to mercantile traffic.

Section VI.

SIGNALS INDICATING FIRTH OF FORTH "CLOSED."

(28) Whenever the Firth of Forth is "Closed" during the day the following signals will be displayed:—

Three Red balls vertical will be hoisted by each Examination Steamer and also at Inchkeith and at the principal ports in the Firth of Forth.

The single Red ball which is hoisted at the principal ports in the Firth of Forth east of Oxcar, to indicate that the Firth of Forth is "Open," will at the same time be hauled down.

Note.—By night the Firth of Forth is closed to all mercantile shipping, except as provided for in clause (24).

Section VII.

POSITION OF THE EXAMINING STATION.

(29) The Examination Station is in latitude 56° 04' N., longitude 3° 04' W.

(30) Vessels are not under any circumstances to attempt to pass in from the Examining Station without obtaining permission from the Examination Steamer, or to leave the Examination Anchorage, or to communicate with the shore or any other vessel, without first obtaining permission from the Examination Vessel.

(See Appendix "A," "Warnings to Masters.")

Section VIII.

PILOTS AND PILOTAGE.

(31) It will be compulsory for all vessels to have a licensed pilot on board when navigating the Firth of Forth.

Incoming vessels will pick up the pilot from the Pilot Vessel which will be found in the vicinity of the Examining Station during the hours of "Official Day."

Outward-bound vessels from ports west of Inchkeith are to proceed to the Examining Station and discharge their pilot there. Outward-bound vessels from ports east of Inchkeith will discharge their pilots when the main route channel is reached, whence the Masters will receive detailed instructions from the pilot how they are to proceed.

Section IX.

CAUTION AS TO ANCHORING.

(32) No merchant vessel will be permitted to anchor within the limits of the Firth of Forth, except as hereinafter stated, unless—

- (a) To avoid, or after, an accident;
- (b) Her further progress is prevented by unforeseen circumstances;
- (c) During thick or foggy weather.

When anchoring, care must be taken to be well clear of the fairway.

(33) If a vessel has to anchor for any of the reasons shown (a, b, or c, above) she is to hoist