

On looking in the Minute Book we find that whether a Vessel comes fully laden or not it was to pay Port dues upon its Registered Tonnage.

Messrs. Read & Sons acting on behalf of Messrs. G.F. Birch & Son decline to pay stating that such a practice does not obtain in any of the Ports on the Eastern Coast and they sent us a copy of the Dock, Harbour and Pilot Trust Dues and Wharfage Rates for the Dock of Boston.

It reads as follows :-

"Every Ship or Vessel entering into or sailing from the Dock or Harbour with only part of a Cargo is chargeable accordingly ; but in no case will a greater reduction be allowed than one-half of the net registered tonnage!"

We accordingly accepted from Messrs. Read & Co. half Dues on the Boat referred to in the accompanying Account.

We want a Ruling of the Trustees on the matter for the guidance of the new Harbour Master.

It will be seen that so far as Boston ^{is} ~~are~~ concerned Fees are charged on both inward and outward journeys, but for many years past the practice at Fosdyke is to charge on the inward journey only.