

Document No. 25.

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ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
BOARD OF  
Commissioners of Pilotage  
OF THE  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY,

*For the Year Ending October 31st, 1887.*

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MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

OF

Commissioners of Pilotage of New Jersey.

OCTOBER 31ST, 1887.

NAMES.	RESIDENCE.
THOMAS S. NEGUS (President).....	Jersey City.
ROBERT SIMONSON (Secretary).....	East Orange.
DANIEL SHARP.....	Bridgeton.
HENRY W. MILLER.....	Morristown.
HENRY C. GULICK.....	Barnegat.
DAVID COX.....	Jersey City.
S. S. HUDSON. ....	Mays Landing.

(3)



## LIST AND TONNAGE OF PILOT BOATS.

OCTOBER 31ST, 1887.

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Number 1.	Thomas S. Negus.....	71.85 Tons.
"	2. Ezra Nye.....	44.28 "
"	3. Thomas D. Harrison.....	69.71 "
"	4. David Carll.....	65.59 "
"	5. William W. Story.....	52.20 "
"	6. James Gordon Bennett.....	58.78 "
"	7. Centennial.....	55.25 "
"	8. Edward E. Barrett.....	65.59 "
Number of New Jersey Sandy Hook Pilots.....		56
Number of Perth Amboy Pilots.....		2



TABLE No. 1.

*Report of Commissioners of Pilotage, showing Number and Kind of Vessels Piloted by New Jersey Sandy Hook Pilots during the Year ending October 31st, 1887.*

MONTHS.	PILOTED INWARD.						PILOTED OUTWARD.					
	Steamships.	Ships.	Barks.	Brigs.	Schooners.	Total.	Steamships.	Ships.	Barks.	Brigs.	Schooners.	Total.
1886.												
November.....	51	6	23	14	6	100	48	4	20	6	.....	78
December.....	51	9	27	7	7	101	49	5	22	8	10	94
1887.												
January.....	56	14	32	9	10	121	50	10	27	8	.....	95
February.....	52	6	23	10	3	94	53	6	19	6	7	91
March.....	50	11	23	5	8	97	54	13	26	15	5	113
April.....	60	11	59	16	5	151	49	5	21	10	.....	85
May.....	85	11	35	7	11	149	88	9	30	11	4	142
June.....	67	6	35	10	10	128	76	9	33	5	4	127
July.....	50	7	18	10	7	92	53	6	33	8	5	105
August.....	61	7	14	8	4	94	70	7	18	7	4	106
September.....	48	9	23	7	1	88	48	5	15	3	3	74
October.....	49	7	22	5	4	87	46	5	14	7	2	74
Total, 1887.....	680	104	334	108	76	1302	684	84	278	94	44	1184
Total, 1886.....	634	97	351	139	121	1342	626	72	284	100	35	1117



## REPORT.

*To His Excellency Robert S. Green, Governor of the State of New Jersey:*

SIR—The Board of Commissioners of Pilotage has the honor to present herewith its annual report for the year ending October 31st, 1887.

During the past year no serious accidents or collisions have occurred to vessels in charge of the pilots of the State.

It is happy to state that no deaths have occurred, and none of our pilots have been disqualified from performing their duties during the year by reason of accident or sickness.

The efficiency of the corps has been kept fully up to that of previous years, and we have reason to feel proud of this important auxiliary of our merchant marine.

The causes which induced the Board, in its last year's report, to call the attention of the Executive to the serious effects likely to ensue from the want of material wherewith to recuperate the service, we are happy to state have been done away with, to a certain extent, by the pilots themselves, they having, during the present year, entered, as apprentices to their different boats, seven (7) young men, selected for their good characters for sobriety and ability by the captains of the different boats. The Board highly approves of the step thus taken, and believes that the pilots themselves have a realizing sense of the importance of recuperating the service in this manner rather than by arbitrary action on the part of the Board. While the Board recommend young men, American-born, these cannot always be obtained to stand the hardships and trials of a four years' apprenticeship, hence two of the above seven apprentices are foreign-born, but meet every qualification necessary.

The shad fishery of this year was carried on with much less friction than heretofore, and the Board has not felt itself justified in making rules and regulations to hamper this important industry of our people, as long as they kept reasonably within the limits prescribed by law, as to obstruction of navigation and commerce, preferring to deal separately with any case wherein said laws might be trespassed upon, and the Board is happy to state that no serious complaint came before it, nor has it been necessary to expend any money in this direction.

By a law passed by the Legislature March 22d, 1882, this Board is



empowered and it is made its duty to prosecute all violations of said act; it therefore becomes its duty to most earnestly urge upon your Excellency the great importance of providing means to stop the filling in of our navigable waters by unprincipled contractors, who daily and nightly set the law at defiance in dumping dredging and all sorts of refuse in our rapidly-shoaling water-ways; they do this with impunity, well knowing that the State has left the guardians of this precious trust unprovided with the means of bringing them to justice. Officers of the U. S. Engineer Corps, U. S. Army, in charge of the improvement of our navigable waters, have appeared before us and entered complaints, but as it costs money to prosecute, the Board's hands are tied, and though it is charged with the duty of arresting persons so engaged, it is rendered powerless by the fact that no provision has been made by the State for the payment of any necessary expense in making such arrests.

We earnestly emphasize the remarks in a previous annual report, viz., that in most of the cases the State would be re-imbursed by the fines and costs collected, but it cannot be expected that conviction will always follow arrests, or that public officers should pay the costs in such cases out of their own pockets.

No arrests can be made by the Board or any of its members, except of a party or parties taken in the act, and in order to capture such, it is necessary to incur the expense of employing a tug-boat to tow the offending vessels with their crews to wharves, where they may be detained until bonds are furnished as required by law.

The importance of the subject will, we believe, warrant the Legislature in taking such action as, in its judgment, may be considered necessary to enable the Board to enforce the law.

The usual annual tables are appended herewith.

By order of the Board.

THOMAS S. NEGUS,

*President.*

ATTEST:

R. SIMONSON, *Secretary.*