

SHIPPING OWNED IN THE PROVINCES.

UPPER CANADA.

It is no easy matter to make an accurate statement as to the number and tonnage of vessels, owned in Canada, for the system of registration is imperfect both on the part of the private owners and the public officers.

The most reliable record of the Shipping of the Lakes and River St. Lawrence is that contained in the Register prepared by Captain Thomas, for the use of underwriters, and kindly placed at our service by one of the Agents of the Western Insurance Company, (Limited), of England. This record we condense into the following table:—

	No. under 50 tons.	No. between 50 & 100 tons.	No. between 100 & 300 tons.	No. between 300 & 500 tons.	No. above 500 tons.	Total number.	Total tons.	Value in dollars. \$
Steamers .....	...	18	56	30	17	121	33,383	1,786,700
Propellers	6	25	24	21	4	80	16,044	906,700
Barkentines .....	...	...	9	40	1	50	18,091	542,300
Brigantines .....	...	...	12	7	...	19	4,903	89,700
Sloops	1	4	...	...	...	5	285	4,100
Schooners	37	88	162	23	...	310	44,563	1,040,200
Total	44	135	263	121	22	585	117,269	\$4,369,700
Add Barges—carrying capacity, 1,837,650 bushels						175	31,979	445,700

* Tonnage of these vessels, steamers, 186 tons, \$21,400; sloop, 35 tons, \$500; schooners, 1441 tons, \$28,300.

Separating the figures for Upper and Lower Canada, we have:

	Steamers.	Pro-pellers.	Barken-tines.	Brigan-tines.	Sloops.	Sch'ners.	Total.	Tons.	Value.
Upper Canada.	53	37	48	17	4	273	432	83,580	\$2,620,000
Lower Canada.	63	43	2	2	1	37	153	33,689	1,749,700

To this statement for Upper Canada should, perhaps, be added a number of vessels of less than 50 tons, which the Insurance Register does not mention. By the aid of table 14, T & N returns, 1864 '5, we are enabled to estimate this at 75 sailing, and 15 steam vessels of 1,400 and 500 tons respectively, making for Upper Canada, besides barges, a grand total of:—

Steam vessels—No. 68 tons. 23,206 Value, say \$1,139,700
Sailing vessels—“ 454 “ 62,234 “ 1,537,300
Total U. C. 522 “ 85,440 “ \$2,677,000

LOWER CANADA.

At the Port of Montreal, the register under the Provincial Act shews a total of 75 steamers, and 355 vessels not steamers, with a tonnage of 6,265, and 31,737 tons respectively. These are chiefly tugs, dredges, scows and barges, engaged altogether in the inland navigation. Perhaps they should be almost entirely left out of this account, which is only intended to include vessels fitted for the navigation of the Sea or of the Lakes, (which latter are indeed inland seas, and the craft plying upon which are, in many cases, adaptable to salt water navigation.) Under the Merchant Shipping Act of 1864, there are registered in the port 65 steamers, of 15,764 tons, and 143 sailing vessels, of 28,638 tons. Six of the sailing vessels of 4,594 tons are owned abroad, and should perhaps be taken off for the purposes of this account. This would leave 207 vessels of 39,803 tons. In Quebec the register shows:—

Of 50 tons and over	472 vessels, 83,123 tons
Of less than 50 tons.	287 “ 9,753 tons

On the north and south coasts of the river and Gulf below the port of Quebec, (which extends to Bic), about 170 vessels are owned, with 12,300 tons. Adding all these figures together, we have as a total for Lower Canada, which is probably not very wide of the mark, 1,136 vessels, of 144,989 tons. These include the fleet of Canadian Ocean Steamships.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

The returns of the Comptroller of New Brunswick, who is also the Registrar and Surveyor of Shipping, show the tonnage registered in the Province on the 31st December of each successive year. The figures are as follow:—

	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1854	878	141,454	1860	825
1855	866	138,292	1861	813
1856	892	164,226	1862	814
1857	857	160,508	1863	891
1858	812	139,095	1864	958
1859	811	134,055	1865	1,019
				309,695