

expenditure for the two river police steamers at Quebec, for which, and the River Police Force of 30 men for the six summer months, the expenditure was \$24,500, less \$12,500 received from a tax of 3 cents levied on every vessel arriving at the port. At Montreal the Water Police Force consisted of 25 men, at an expense of \$13,205, less dues collected \$5,120. 780 arrests for crimping were made during the season, and at both ports crimping was kept much in check. This service is intended to be self-sustaining, but so far there has been an annual deficiency of \$10,042 to be provided for by the Government.

SICK AND DISTRESSED MARINERS.

In the fund for this purpose there was a large deficiency in the fiscal year 1874-5, and in the session of 1875 An Act was passed requiring vessels of over 100 tons to pay a duty of two cents a ton three times a year. This Act does not apply to the Province of Ontario, but a small grant has been made for several years in aid of the Marine Hospitals at Kingston and St. Catharines, Ont., and aid given towards the extension of the building at St. Catharines. The expenditure for Mariners in the Province of Quebec was \$25,128, and the collections of dues \$10,338. 257 Mariners were treated in Montreal and 830 at Quebec. In New Brunswick the expenditure was \$11,164 and the receipts \$7,081. There are six Marine Hospitals in the province, and an average of 20 seamen a week during the year. In Nova Scotia the expenditure was \$12,830 and the receipts \$9,376. In Prince Edward Island the expenditure \$1,591 and receipts \$42. Two or three seamen a week were in the hospital at Charlottetown throughout the year. In British Columbia \$5,832 were expended for sick and disabled seamen, and the collections were \$1,582. The new Marine Hospital at Victoria is reported in first rate condition. Twenty-two patients were in the hospital between September and July, and were all discharged cured. \$1,815 was paid to the Imperial Board of Trade for expenses incurred for shipwrecked Canadian seamen. The total expenditure for this service during the year at all places was \$59,106.

IMPROVEMENT OF HARBOURS.

A tax of 10 cents a ton has been imposed upon vessels arriving at certain ports in Quebec and New Brunswick to be expended in the improvement of the harbours. During the fiscal year 74-75, \$2,712 were collected for that purpose, and the amount expended for the service was, including tug service at Richibucto, \$21,451.

STEAMBOAT INSPECTION.

During the year 229 certificates were issued; 311 to first, second and third class engineers, and the remainder to assistant engineers. \$2,693 were received on account of these certificates. 661 steamers were inspected, having a gross tonnage of 113,115 tons, of these were:—

West Ontario and Superior Division...	238
East Ontario	do 85
Montreal	do 124
Three Rivers	do 51
Quebec	do 59
Lower Provinces	40 106
	661

Of these, 277 were paddle wheel.

384 screw boats.

661

272 passenger steamers.

57 freight do

322 tug do

661

75 new steamers with a gross tonnage of 11,461 tons were added to Canadian steamers during the year 1875, and 20 with a tonnage of 3,517 tons lost or put out of service. 11 of the 20 new steamers were built in the West Ontario division. There was received during the fiscal year for tonnage dues, steamboat inspection and engine-ers' certificates \$15,012, and the expenditure was \$12,200. 19 steamers were inspected in British Columbia. The principal steamboat casualty during the year was the collision on Lake Superior of the Canadian steamer 'Manitoba' and the American propeller 'Comet', by which the 'Comet' was sunk and 11 of her crew and passengers. Upon an investigation being held, no blame was found to attach to the officers of the Canadian steamer. During the last six years the balance of receipts over expenditures to the credit of this fund amounts to \$22,712.

CERTIFICATES TO MASTERS AND MATES.

Examinations were conducted at Halifax, St. John and Quebec. Very few candidates offered at Quebec, and only 3 examinations were held there, 18 at Halifax and 17 at St. John. 68 masters and 16 mates passed at Halifax, 53 masters and 18 mates at St. John, and 7 masters and 2 mates at Quebec. 30 failed in their examination as masters and 10 as mates. 31 certificates of service for master and 40 for mate were granted during the year. The fees received for these certificates amounted to \$2,715 and the expenses of the service to \$5,696. The nautical schools at Halifax and St. John were well attended, and a subsidy of \$1,500 was paid to them.

WRECKS AND CASUALTIES.

The number of casualties during the calendar year 1875 was to sea-going vessels 263. Loss \$2,325,671. To vessels on the inland waters of the Dominion 23. Loss \$11,350. Total vessels 286. Loss \$2,468,521. The number of lives lost were from sea-going vessels 76, inland 2. Total 78. The most appalling casualty reported was that of the American ss. 'Pacific,' of San Francisco, carrying passengers and freight between San Francisco and British Columbia, which collided with the American ship 'Orpheus' on the night of 4th Nov., 1875, by which 238 persons were lost.