

The total revenue of the Harbour Commissioners was \$89,025, an increase of \$6,716 over 1876. The expenditure was \$63,255.

The total value of assets was estimated at \$874,078, and the liabilities at 748,149.

The contract for the proposed improvements at the mouth of the St. Charles was let for \$529,296, the works to be completed in October, 1880.

The proposed graving dock at Lévis is to be 500 feet long, 100 feet wide, 24 feet deep and entrance 62 feet.

At *Pictou, N.S.*, in 1877, there were entered 1,449 vessels, of which 48 were foreign vessels. The total tonnage was 200,540 tons. The receipts were \$4,933, and the expenditure \$5,999.

WHARVES, PIERS AND BREAK-WATER.

Since the 23th of April, 1877, the Harbours of Goderich, Ont., Rimouski, Rivière du Loup, Rivière Ouelle, Malbaie, Eboulements, L'Islet and Berthier, Que., and Maitland, Oak Point and Cow Bay, N.S., have been transferred from the Department of Public Works to the Department of Marine. Rules have been established and officers appointed to collect the tolls, &c.

METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE.

The operations of this office were considerably extended during the year. There are now in operation 10 Chief stations, 14 reporting by telegraph, 4 reserve, 39 storm-signal, and more than 100 ordinary stations. The most important of the new stations are Inverness, Skeena River, McLeod's Lake and Stewart's Lake, B.C.; Moose Fort, Hudsons Bay and Placentia, Newfoundland. A general synopsis of the weather in Canada for the past twenty-four hours and the probabilities for the next twenty-four was made out daily at Toronto at 10 a.m., and furnished to the telegraph companies for publication in the evening newspapers. There were at the close of the year 95 places where daily weather bulletins were published, a copy posted in the Post Office and another in the Telegraph Office each day before noon. 20 of these stations are in the Maritime Provinces. Out of 3,372 prognostications issued, 2,660 were fully verified, and 459 partly so. 743 storm warnings were issued, of which 510 were verified, of these 262 were for the Lakes, 81 for the St. Lawrence and Gulf, and 167 for the Ocean. The expenditure was \$36,500 being \$500 less than the appropriation.

OBSERVATORIES.

Magnetic Observatories are established at Toronto, Montreal, Quebec, St. John, N.B., and Kingston. The expenditure for these for the Fiscal Year was between 9 and 10,000 dollars, principally at Toronto and Quebec.

MERCHANT SHIPPING.

On the 31st Dec., 1877, the total number of vessels on the Register Books of the Dominion was 7,362, measuring 1,310,468 tons register tonnage, an increase of 170 vessels and 49,575 tons as compared with 1876. At \$30 a ton this would make the

value of the registered tonnage \$39,314,040. These vessels were divided among the different Provinces, as follows:—

	Vessels.	Tons.
P. E. Island	342	55,547
Nova Scotia	2,961	541,579
N. Brunswick.....	1,133	329,457
Quebec	1,951	248,399
Ontario.....	926	181,761
B. Columbia.....	43	3,479
Manitoba.....	6	246
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	7,362	1,310,468

The number of new vessels built in the Dominion in 1877 and registered in the Dominion was 420, measuring 118,985 tons register. Rather more than half of these were built in Nova Scotia. The following table shows the division of these vessels among the Provinces:—

	Vessels.	Tons.
P. E. Island.....	62	17,036
Nova Scotia	219	47,980
N. Brunswick	54	31,158
Quebec	62	19,253
Ontario	28	3,316
Manitoba	3	43
B. Columbia.....	2	204
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	430	118,985

Two vessels measuring 1,943 tons, built at Quebec, went from that port to the United Kingdom without register, which would make the vessels 432, and the tonnage 120,928 tons. At an average value of 45 a ton, the value of these vessels would be \$5,411,760. An Act of Parliament was passed in 1877 directing all Canadian Steamships to be re-measured according to the rules of the Merchant Shipping Act of 1854. 180 vessels were re-measured, and there are 75 or 100 yet to do. The subjoined table (page 42) from the *Repertoire Général* for 1877-78 shows the tonnage of the principal nations of the world:—

COASTING TRADE.

It having been ascertained that Italy, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden and Norway, Austro-Hungary and Denmark, allowed British ships to participate in their coasting trade on the same footing as those of their own nation, the ships of these nations have been by Order-in-Council, admitted to the coasting trade of Canada. An Act has been passed preventing steamers of other foreign nations from towing ships, vessels or rafts in the waters of the Dominion.

REWARDS FOR SAVING LIFE.

Thirty-four testimonials and money rewards, with letters of thanks, were presented by the Canadian Government for humane exertions in saving life from Canadian vessels, and four testimonials and one letter have been received by Canadians from other Governments.

ESTABLISHMENT AND STAFF.

The number of persons employed in the Department at Ottawa during 1877, was 22. The number in the outside service was 1,647. The total expenditure for the fiscal year, including the establishment staff, was \$935,875, an excess over the amount voted of about \$40,500.