

458. The following table gives the number of vessels and number of tons on the register books of the Dominion on 31st December, 1885, all sailing vessels, steamers and barges are included.

Provinces.	Number of Vessels.	Number of Steamers	Gross Tonnage, Steamers.	Total Net Tonnage.
New Brunswick.....	1,060	76	10,383	288,589
Nova Scotia .....	2,988	76	9,291	541,832
Quebec.....	1,631	328	89,845	203,635
Ontario .....	1,223	526	81,063	144,487
Prince Edward Island .....	227	12	3,055	36,040
British Columbia .....	123	74	13,872	11,834
Manitoba .....	63	39	5,061	5,439
Total.....	7,315	1,131	212,570	1,231,856

459. This was an increase of 61 vessels, but a decrease of 21,891 tons, as compared with 1884. Assuming the average value to be \$30 per ton, the value of the total registered tonnage would be \$36,955,680.

460. The next statement shows the number of vessels and of tons on the register in each year from 1873.

Year.	Vessels.	Tons.	Year.	Vessels.	Tons.
1873.....	6,783	1,073,718	1880.....	7,377	1,311,218
1874.....	6,930	1,158,363	1881.....	7,394	1,267,394
1875.....	6,952	1,205,565	1882.....	7,312	1,260,777
1876.....	7,192	1,260,893	1883.....	7,374	1,267,394
1877.....	7,362	1,310,468	1884.....	7,254	1,253,747
1878.....	7,469	1,333,015	1885.....	7,315	1,231,853
1879.....	7,471	1,332,093			

461. It will be seen that up to and including 1878 there was a steady increase both in the number of vessels and in the tonnage, and that since that year there has been as steady a decrease. In 1885 there were fewer vessels by 154, and 101,162 tons less than in 1878. There were 240 new vessels built in 1885, with a