

383. The sum of \$126,533 was paid as a subsidy to the Montreal Ocean Steamship Company (Allan Line) for the twelve months ending 31st March, 1886, for the conveyance of mails to and from the United Kingdom. This mail service has been performed by this company continuously since May, 1856, until the close of last year, since which time the "Vancouver" and "Oregon" of the Dominion Steamship Company have assisted in the service, about one passage in three being made by one of these vessels. In the first year of service, viz., 1856, the average passage westward was 12 days 20½ hours, and eastward 11 days 2 hours.

Ocean
mail ser-
vice.

384. The following particulars of the passages in 1867-68 and in 1885-86 will be interesting for comparison:—

Compari-
son of voy-
ages—1867
and 1886.

WINTER SEASON.

YEAR.	Average Passage to Liverpool.			Number of Pas-sengers.	Barrel Bulk.	Average Passage to Portland.			Number of Pas-sengers.	Tons of Freight.
	d.	h.	m.			d.	h.	m.		
1867-68	10	12	44	1,026	169,375	12	12	0	4,399	16,095
1885-86	9	2	35	2,452 *	9	10	40	5,066	39,195

SUMMER SEASON.

1868	9	20	34	5,044	241,877	To Quebec. 10 15 57	14,073	28,398
1886	9	8	15	4,511	666,584	8 22 12	10,424	53,462

* The bulk of cargo was loaded at Portland and Baltimore.

385. The fastest passage from Quebec to Liverpool, in 1868, was made in 8d. 14h. 15m., and in 1886 in 7d. 21h. In the latter year the passage from Liverpool to Quebec was made in 7d. 19h. 19m., but as a general rule the eastward passages are the fastest.

Time of
passage.