

Increase
and de-
crease in
number
of vessels.

413. There was an increase in the total number of vessels of 766, and an increase in the tonnage of 101,954 tons, the increase in number having been wholly among Canadian vessels. The decrease in the number of United States' vessels was 226, but there was an increase in tonnage of 20,358 tons. The largest increase in number of vessels was on the St. Lawrence system, and the largest decrease on the Chambly Canal.

In freight
and pas-
sengers.

414. Except on the Newcastle District Canals, there was an increase in the amount of freight carried on every system, but the decrease on almost all the canals in the number of passengers was considerable.

Traffic on
Welland
and St.
Lawrence
Canals.

415. The largest portion of the canal traffic is carried on the Welland and St. Lawrence Canals, the proportion of the combined traffic on these two systems to the total traffic under the following heads having been, of vessels 57·3 per cent., of tonnage 71·8 per cent., of tons of freight 56·6 per cent., of passengers 67·1 per cent., and of total revenue 76·0 per cent.

Summary
of traffic,
1882 to 1886.

416. The following is a summary of the preceding table, showing the total amounts and quantities under the various heads in each year, from which it will be seen that, as compared with 1882, there was a decrease in the number of vessels and in their tonnage, and a slight increase in the number of tons of freight and in the total revenue. The passengers have been decreasing in number during the whole period, with the exception of a slight increase in 1885:—