

on all vessels at either port, paid once a year by vessels under 100 tons, and twice a year by vessels over that amount. The force consisted of 75 men, 36 at Quebec and 39 at Montreal, and the total number of arrests made was 1,049, being 328 less than in the preceding year. There was an excess of expenditure over receipts of \$19,826, and during the past 17 years the total expenditure has exceeded the total receipts by \$162,982.

**Provision  
for sick  
and dis-  
tressed  
mariners.**

536. In order to provide for the treatment of sick and distressed mariners, all vessels over 100 tons register are required to pay a duty of 2 cents per ton three times a year, vessels under 100 tons only paying once in the same period; fishing vessels are also now entitled to the same benefits as other vessels, provided the dues are paid before leaving on a fishing voyage. These provisions do not apply to Ontario, but a parliamentary grant is made to the General Hospitals at Kingston and St. Catharines for the care of seamen. The total amount received from dues in 1886 was \$40,848, being an increase of \$1,779 as compared with 1885. The total expenditure was \$49,343, being \$8,495 in excess of receipts. A considerable number, however, of immigrants and residents are cared for at the Marine Hospital, Quebec, and if the amount expended for them be deducted, the receipts would be in excess to the extent of \$470. The total excess of expenditure over receipts during the past eighteen years has been \$26,558.

**Number  
and in-  
spection of  
steam-  
boats.**

537. The total number of steamboats in the Dominion was 930, with a gross tonnage of 169,390 tons; 81 were added to the number during the past year, with a gross tonnage of 5,672 tons, and 35 lost or put out of service. The receipts on account of the Steamboat Inspection Fund during the last 17 years have exceeded the expenditure by \$5,659. During the year 391 certificates were granted to engineers.