

N.S., on 1st April in that year, when 545 persons were drowned. On the 5th November in the same year, the steamer "Bavarian" was burned on Lake Ontario and 20 lives lost. In 1881 the steamer "Victoria" upset on the Thames River, near London, Ont., and 182 lives were lost.

543. The value and importance, as well as the efficiency of the meteorological service is continually increasing. Out of 906 storm warnings issued in 1886, 799 were verified, being 88 per cent., a trifle smaller percentage than in the previous year, but larger than in any other year, as will be seen from the following figures, which show the number of warnings issued and verified in each year since 1877:—

Meteoro-  
logical  
warnings.

YEAR.	Number Issued.	Number Verified.	Percentage Verified.
1877 .....	743	510	68.6
1878 .....	800	673	78.3
1879 .....	712	591	83.0
1880 .....	889	736	82.8
1881 .....	854	727	85.1
1882 .....	841	658	78.2
1883 .....	1,085	858	79.1
1884 .....	798	663	83.2
1885 .....	830	741	89.3
1886 .....	906	799	88.2

544. Out of a total number of 8,518 warnings issued, 6,956, or 81.6 per cent. were verified, being a yearly average of warnings verified of 81.5 per cent. It is not possible, of course, to form any correct estimate of the number of disasters and casualties that are prevented by these warnings, though it is undoubtedly large, and many reports and grateful acknowledgments are received, from mariners and persons interested, of the services rendered by them.

Number  
verified.

545. Out of 6,993 predictions of weather probabilities issued, 5,339, or 76 per cent. were fully, and 1,029 partly