

Decrease
in number
built.

551. The number of new vessels built in 1886 was 229, with a tonnage of 32,207 tons, and an estimated value, at \$45 per ton, of \$1,449,315. This was a decrease, as compared with 1885, of 11 in number and of 10,972 in tonnage. By far the largest number of the new vessels, viz., 93, were built in Nova Scotia, being 40·6 per cent. of the whole number, and involving 65·0 per cent. of the total tonnage.

Reasons
for de-
crease.

552. A number of reasons have been given for this falling off in the shipbuilding trade, among the most reasonable of which appear to be the fact that iron is rapidly taking the place of wood in the construction of ships, and that as steamers are absorbing almost the whole of the carrying trade of the Atlantic, there is no longer that demand for wooden vessels of fair size that used to exist. Moreover, the general depression of trade throughout the world, has caused such a large number of vessels to be lying idle, that the present supply is more than adequate to the demand. The majority of vessels now built are for fishing purposes, which explains the fact of the number of vessels not having decreased in more equal proportion to the decrease in tonnage.

Number
of vessels
entered
and
cleared.

553. The following is a comparative statement of the total number of vessels (sea-going vessels and vessels on inland waters) entered inwards and outwards in the Dominion of Canada, during the years ended 30th June, 1885 and 1886, according to their nationalities :—