

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 in 1887 consisted of 75 men, 36 at Quebec and 39 at Montreal, and the total number of arrests made was 978, being 71 less than in the preceding year. There was an excess of expenditure over receipts of \$17,415, and during the past 18 years the total expenditure has exceeded the total receipts by \$43,978.

563. 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. No vessel not registered in Canada and employed exclusively in fishing is subject to the payment of this duty. These provisions do not apply to Ontario, but a parliamentary grant of \$500 is made to each of the General Hospitals at Kingston and St. Catharines for the care of seamen. The total amount received from dues in 1887 was \$12,338, being an increase of \$1,487 as compared with 1886. The total expenditure was \$52,262, being \$9,928 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 \$4,887. The total excess of expenditure over receipts during the past nineteen years has been \$12,705.

Provisions
for sick
and dis-
tressed
mariners.

564. The total number of steamboats in the Dominion was 1,031, with a gross tonnage of 174,896 tons ; 81 were added to the number during the past year, with a gross tonnage of 3,426 tons, and 48 lost or put out of service. The receipts on account of the Steamboat Inspection Fund during the

Number
and in-
spection of
steam-
boats.