

New
vessels.

576. The following is a list of the new vessels built and registered in each province in 1887:—

	Number.	Tonnage.
New Brunswick	18	2,909
Nova Scotia.....	87	12,310
Quebec.....	28	2,888
Ontario	66	2,993
Prince Edward Island.....	7	601
British Columbia	9	376
Manitoba	8	439
Total.....	<u>223</u>	<u>32,516</u>

This was a decrease of 6 in number and of 9,691 in tonnage as compared with the preceding year. Assuming the value of the new vessels to be \$45 a ton, the total value would be \$1,013,220.

Decrease
in demand
for wood-
en ships.

577. Now that wood has been so completely superseded by iron and steel in the construction of ships, the demand for wooden ships is rapidly decreasing, and the decline in this industry has been very marked in consequence, and as far as can be seen, nothing can happen to revive it. It is not correct, therefore, as in some cases has been done, to attribute this decline in Canada to the policy of the Government, for it has been brought about by causes entirely outside the control of this or any other Government, and it is equally impossible that it can be revived by any Governmental action. Such questions as these are, at the present time, in the hands of scientific men, and it may be that iron and steel will yet be equally superseded by some other material.

Remarks
by Mr.
Coghlan.

578. Mr. Coghlan remarks to the same effect respecting this industry in New South Wales: "The general tendency to supplant sailing vessels by steam, and the substitution of iron for wood for the frames and hulls of vessels,