

429. 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. At Montreal sick seamen are cared for at the General and Notre Dame Hospitals, at Quebec at the Marine and Immigrant Hospital, and Marine Hospitals are established at St. John, St. Andrews, Miramichi, Richibucto, Bathurst and Sackville, in New Brunswick, and at Yarmouth, Pictou, Sydney, Lunenburg and Point Tupper, in Nova Scotia. Seamen are also cared for at the Provincial and City Hospital, Halifax, and the Charlottetown Hospital, Prince Edward Island. The total amount received from dues in 1888 was \$41,669, being a decrease of \$665 as compared with 1887. The total expenditure was \$49,545, being \$7,876 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 \$5,222. The total excess of expenditure over receipts during the past twenty years has been \$7,483.

430. The total number of steamboats in the Dominion was 1,014, with a gross tonnage of 175,985 tons; 83 were added to the number during the past year, with a gross tonnage of 9,162 tons, and 100 lost or put out of service. The receipts on account of the Steamboat Inspection Fund during the last 19 years have exceeded the expenditure by \$13,358. During the year 894 certificates were granted to engineers

Provisions  
for sick  
and dis-  
tressed  
mariners.

Number  
and in-  
spection of  
steam-  
boats.