

Traffic
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Sault Ste.
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619. The present canal was open for navigation for 228 days during the year 1890, being 16 days above the average time, which is 212 days, and during that time 9,041,213 tons of actual freight, valued at \$102,214,949, passed through, being an increase over 1889 of 1,525,191 tons and \$18,482,422. The total number of vessels was 10,557, of which 10,140 had an aggregate registered tonnage of 8,454,435 tons. This was an increase over 1889 of 978 in the number of vessels and of 1,232,500 tons in the amount of registered tonnage. The east-bound freight amounted to 6,428,838 tons, and the west-bound to 2,612,375 tons. The actual freight tonnage passed through the Suez Canal in 1888 according to official returns was 6,640,834 tons; in 1889, 6,783,187 tons, and in 1890, 6,980,014 tons, from which it will be seen that the freight carried through the Sault Ste. Marie Canal during the season of navigation, 1890, considerably exceeded in bulk that carried through the Suez Canal, which was open for the whole year. The number of vessels that went through the Suez Canal in 1890 was 3,389, with a total tonnage of 9,712,652, being an average of 2,866 tons, while the average tonnage of the vessels passing through the Sault Ste. Marie Canal was 834 tons. There is of course no comparison as regards value of freight, that through the Suez Canal being upwards of 282 million dollars annually; but considering that the Suez Canal will accommodate the largest vessels and is used more or less by the mercantile marine of the world, some idea can be gathered of the business done through the Sault Ste. Marie Canal and of the importance of providing additional accommodation for it, both from the foregoing figures and also from the following table, which gives a complete statement of the traffic through the Canal since its opening in 1855 :—