

541. There was an increase, as compared with 1890, of 24 in the total number of vessels, and a decrease of 19,490 tons in the total tonnage, and assuming the average value to be \$30 a ton, the value of the total tonnage would be \$30,164,250, being a decrease in value of \$584,970. There was an increase of 69 in the number of steamers, and an increase of 14,824 tons in steamer's tonnage.

Increases and decreases.

542. The next statement shows the number of vessels and of tons on the register in each year from 1873 :—

Number of vessels on register, 1873-1891.

VESSELS ON THE REGISTER IN CANADA, 1873-1891.

YEAR.	Vessels.	Tons.	YEAR.	Vessels.	Tons.
1873.	6,783	1,073,718	1883.	7,374	1,276,440
1874.	6,930	1,158,363	1884.	7,254	1,253,747
1875.	6,952	1,205,565	1885.	7,315	1,231,856
1876.	7,192	1,260,893	1886.	7,294	1,217,766
1877.	7,362	1,310,468	1887.	7,178	1,130,247
1878.	7,469	1,333,015	1888.	7,142	1,089,642
1879.	7,471	1,332,094	1889.	7,153	1,040,481
1880.	7,377	1,311,218	1890.	6,991	1,024,974
1881.	7,394	1,310,896	1891.	7,015	1,005,475
1882.	7,312	1,260,777			

543. The following is a list of new vessels built and registered in each province in 1891 :—

New vessels built, 1891.

PROVINCES.	Number.	Tonnage.
Nova Scotia.	130	35,528
Ontario.	44	2,662
New Brunswick.	43	6,269
Quebec.	46	4,200
British Columbia.	41	2,364
Prince Edward Island.	5	1,000
Manitoba.	3	122
Total.	312	52,145

There was an increase of 27 in number and a decrease in tonnage of 233 tons, as compared with the preceding year. Assuming the value of the new vessels to be \$45 per ton, the total value would be \$2,346,525.

544. Iron and steel have so completely superseded the use of wood in the construction of ships that the demand for wooden ships is reduced to an extreme limit, in consequence of which the ship-building industry

Decrease in demand for wooden ships.