

on the 30th November, 1889. The force at Quebec was still maintained, but in a reduced condition, and in 1892 consisted of 16 men. The number of arrests made was 57. There was an excess of receipts over expenditure of \$2,553, but during the past 23 years the total expenditure has exceeded the total receipts by \$212,187. There is a general feeling among steam-boat owners and agents of vessels trading to the St. Lawrence, that this force should be abolished altogether.

625. 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. Any vessel not registered in Canada and employed exclusively in fishing is exempt from 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, and at Quebec at the Jeffery Hale and Hotel-Dieu Hospitals. Marine hospitals are established at St. John, St. Andrew's, Miramichi, Richibucto and Bathurst, in New Brunswick; at Yarmouth, Pictou, Sydney, Lunenburg and Point Tupper, in Nova Scotia, and at Victoria, in British Columbia. Seamen are also cared for at the Victoria General Hospital, Halifax, and the Prince Edward Island and Charlottetown hospitals, Prince Edward Island. At ports where no hospitals are established, sick seamen are cared for under the direction of the chief officer of customs. The total amount received from dues in 1892 was \$45,382, an increase of \$1,551 as compared with 1891. The total expenditure was \$33,499, being \$11,883 less than the receipts. The total excess of expenditure over receipts during the past twenty-four years has been \$5,273. The Marine and Immigrant Hospital, Quebec, was closed on 31st December, 1890, the Government having found the building to be too large and expensive to maintain.

Provision for sick and distressed mariners.

626. The total number of steam-boats in the Dominion, according to the Board of Steam-boat Inspection, was 1,124, with a gross tonnage of 210,907 tons, being an increase of 2,129 tons, but a decrease of 38 in number, as compared with 1891; 64 were added to the number during the past year, with a gross tonnage of 12,790 tons. The expenditure on account of the steam-boat inspection fund during the last 23 years has exceeded the receipts by \$26,506. During the year 1892 the receipts amounted to \$20,995 and the expenditure to \$22,737, being an excess of expenditure of \$1,742.

Steamers and steam-boat inspection fund.

627. Since the 16th September, 1871, when the Act came into operation, 1,817 candidates have passed and obtained masters' certificates, and 1,228 certificates as mates. The receipts from fees amounted to \$2,149, and the expenditure to \$4,364. Since 1871 the expenditure has exceeded the receipts by \$41,510.

Masters and mates certificates