

an increase of 4 cents per ton over the value in 1892. The total number of vessels using the canal was 12,008, which is 572 fewer than the number using the canal in 1892. The canal was open to navigation during the season for 219 days, as against 233 days in 1892. The actual freight tonnage passed through the Suez Canal in 1888, according to official return, was 6,640,834 tons ; in 1889, 6,783,187 tons ; in 1890, 6,980,014 tons ; in 1891, 8,698,777 tons, and in 1892 7,712,029 tons, from which it will be seen that the freight carried through the Sault Ste. Marie Canal during the season of navigation, 1892, 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 1893 was 3,341, with a total tonnage of 7,659,059 tons, being an average of 2,300 tons, while the average tonnage of vessels passing through the Sault Ste. Marie Canal was 856 tons. There is, of course, no comparison as regards value of freight, that through the Suez Canal being upwards of \$300,000,000 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. The proportion of freight tonnage carried by Canadian vessels was : in 1887, 7 per cent ; in 1888, 6 per cent ; in 1889, 4 per cent ; in 1890, 3½ per cent ; in 1891, 4 per cent ; in 1892, 3 8-10 per cent, and in 1893, 4 1-10 per cent.