

1045. A police force was established for a number of years at the harbours of Montreal and Quebec, for the purpose of keeping order and restraining crimping, to meet the expenditure of which a tax of 3 cents per ton was levied on all vessels at either port, paid once a year by vessels under 100 tons, and twice a year by vessels over that amount. The Montreal Board of Trade, however, in the interest of trade, having urged on several occasions the abolition of dues in connection with the above, it was decided that the harbour police force should no longer be maintained, and it was accordingly permanently disbanded on the 30th November, 1889. An Order in Council was issued on the 20th April, 1893, disbanding the force at Quebec.

1046. 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 at 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 1893 was \$46,191, an increase of \$1,809 as compared with 1892. The total expenditure was \$35,052, being \$11,139 less than the receipts. The total excess of expenditure over receipts during the past twenty-five years has been \$17,344. 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.

1047. The total number of vessels on the registry books of the Dominion on the 31st December, 1893, was 7,113, with a gross