

1098. As early as 1723 ship-building was a branch of industry in Canada, six merchant ships and two men of war having been built in the colony during that year. In 1752 a 74-gun ship was built at Cape Diamond, Quebec, but it was wrecked in the launching. In 1810 no less than 26 vessels, having an aggregate tonnage of 5,836 tons, were built in the provinces. In 1812, 37 vessels were built at Quebec. In 1830-31 the "Royal William,"—the first steam-driven vessel that ever crossed the Atlantic—was constructed in the "Cove," Quebec, and supplied with machinery in Montreal.

From these small beginnings sprang Canada's fleet, now numbering over 7,000 vessels.

1099. On July 1st, 1867, when the Confederation was created, there were 5,693 vessels with a registered tonnage of 767,654 tons, on the registry of shipping.

In December, 1874, the registry contained 6,930 vessels, with a tonnage of 1,158,363 tons.

In December, 1877, the registry held the names of 7,362 vessels, with a tonnage of 1,310,468 tons.

The next two years saw the culmination of the development of our marine. In 1878 there were 7,469 vessels, with 1,333,015 tons, and in 1879 there were 7,471 vessels, with 1,332,094 tons.

1100. In 1867 the steamers on the registry numbered 335, with a tonnage of 45,766 tons. In 1874 there were 634 steamers, of a gross tonnage of 122,836 tons. In 1883 the steamers numbered 1,006, with a gross tonnage of 203,539 tons; in 1886, 1,198 steamers, and gross tonnage, 257,818 tons; in 1889, 1,348 steamers, and gross tonnage, 205,632 tons; in 1892, 1,500, with a gross tonnage of 234,711 tons; in 1893, 1,538 steamers, with 241,172 tons gross. Apparently, the steamers were more in tonnage in 1886 than they have been since. Probably, this arose from the transfer of ocean steamers from the Canadian to the British Registry—a process which goes on from year to year, more or less, and in some years more than in others—unaccompanied, however, by change in ownership.