

144. The following table, giving the dates of closing and opening of navigation at Montreal and Toronto during the last twenty-two years, affords the best evidence of the actual length of the winter in the central provinces:

CLOSING AND OPENING OF NAVIGATION AT MONTREAL AND TORONTO
IN THE YEARS 1870 TO 1893, INCLUSIVE.

YEAR.	Montreal.		Toronto.	
	Closing	Opening.	Closing.	Opening.
1870-71	December 18	April 8	December 24	March 11.
1871-72	" 1	May 1	" 21	April 12.
1872-73	" 8	April 25	" 10	" 14.
1873-74	November 26	" 25	November 26	March 16.
1874-75	December 13	May 3	December 18	April 16.
1875-76	November 29	April 27	November 30	" 11.
1876-77	December 10	" 17	December 18	March 25.
1877-78	January 2, '78	March 30	" 19	" 9.
1878-79	December 23	April 24	" 26	" 25.
1879-80	" 19	" 17	" 19	February 19.
1880-81	" 3	" 21	November 22	April 16.
1881-82	January 2, '82	" 11	January 2, '82	February 13.
1882-83	December 9	" 27	December 9	April 14.
1883-84	" 16	" 22	" 21	" 8.
1884-85	" 18	May 5	" 10	" 25.
1885-86	" 7	April 24	January 8, '86	March 20.
1886-87	" 4	May 1	December 4	April 12.
1887-88	" 23	April 29	" 24	" 11.
1888-89	" 14	" 14	" 20	March 15.
1889-90	" 29	" 14	March 1, '90	" 15.
1890-91	" 3	" 14	December 28	" 20.
1891-92	" 17	" 13	January 5, '92	" 31.
1892-93	November 30	" 24	December 22	April 7.
1893-94	" 24	" 12	" 23	March 17.

These dates do not represent the actual length of the open season since, both at the beginning and at the end of the season, time has to be allowed for vessels to arrive and take advantage of the "clear" channel in spring and to depart for winter quarters in the late autumn.