

1265. 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 Jeffrey 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 1894 was \$49,105, an increase of \$2,914, as compared with 1893. The total expenditure was \$38,405, being \$10,700 less than the receipts. The total excess of expenditure over receipts during the past twenty-six years has been \$28,046.

1266. The total number of vessels on the registry books of the Dominion on 31st December, 1894, was 7,245, with a gross tonnage of 869,624 tons. Of this number 1,640 were steamboats with a gross tonnage of 240,906 tons, being a decrease of 266 tons, and an increase of 102 in number, as compared with 1893; 326 vessels were added to the number during the past year, with a gross tonnage of 21,243 tons. The expenditure on account of the steamboat inspection fund during the last twenty-four years has exceeded the receipts by \$26,706. During the year 1894 the receipts amounted to \$24,853 and the expenditure to \$25,961, being an excess of expenditure of \$1,108.

1267. Since the 16th September, 1871, when the Act came into operation, 1,879 candidates have passed and obtained masters' certificates and certificates as mates. The receipts from fees amounted to \$2,907 and the expenditure to \$3,721. Since 1871 the expenditure has exceeded the receipts by \$45,957.

1268. During the twelve months ended 30th June, 1894, 111 candidates for inland and coasting certificates passed and obtained masters' certificates of service and 24 mates' certificates of service, while 206 obtained masters' and 45 obtained mates' certificates of competency.

1269. The total number of wrecks and casualties to sea-going vessels of all nations that occurred in Canadian waters and to Canadian sea-going vessels in other nations, during the twelve months ended 30th June, 1894, as reported to the department, was 86; the tonnage involved was 36,777, and the amount of loss, so far as ascertained, \$322,225. The number of lives lost was ten.