

The world's shipping in 1892 was 32,326 vessels of 22,939,958 tonnage. In 1894-95 it was 30,721 vessels of 24,569,496 tons, an increase of 1,629,538 tons or 7·1 per cent.

In 1892 of a total of 32,326 vessels with 22,939,958 tons, 19,606 vessels with 7,065,555 tons were of wood and 12,720 vessels with 15,874,382 tons were of iron and steel.

In 1894-95 of a total of 30,721 vessels with 24,569,496 tons, 16,519 with 5,965,120 tons were of wood and 14,202 with 18,604,376 tons were of iron and steel.

The tonnage of wooden vessels decreased 1,242,698 tons and the tonnage of iron and steel increased 2,729,994 tons. Thus in three years the tonnage of wooden vessels has decreased from 30·8 per cent of the whole to 23·7 per cent, while the tonnage of iron and steel vessels has increased from 69·2 per cent of the whole to 76·3 per cent.

The tonnage under construction in the United Kingdom has not been increasing. Lloyd's register gives the following merchant and other vessels (not warships) under construction :—

In 1881 there were	611	vessels of	1,024,626	tons.
“ 1889 “	521	“	882,749	“
“ 1891 “	475	“	702,114	“
“ 1892 “	385	“	678,780	“
“ 1893 “	326	“	616,560	“
“ 1894 “	327	“	653,311	“

In 1875 there were under construction 132 steam vessels of 158,531 tons, and 317 sail vessels of 157,643 tons.

In 1894 there were under construction 283 steam vessels of 617,327 tons, and 44 sailing vessels of 36,004 tons.

In 1875 the tonnage under hand was equally divided between steam and sail.

In 1894 the proportion of steam to sailing tonnage building was more than 17 to 1.

These facts are apparent :—

1st. That wooden vessels have been largely supplanted by those constructed of iron and steel—the process having gone on so rapidly that between 1891 and 1894 the proportion has changed from 30 to 23 per cent of wooden vessels.

2nd. Steam has supplanted sail very greatly—in 19 years change has been made from the construction of an equal tonnage under sail and under steam to the building of 17 tons under steam to 1 under sail.

3rd. The tonnage under construction in Great Britain was 371,315 less in 1894 than in 1881.

The first iron ship was built in Great Britain in 1843. The first steel ships were built on the Clyde in 1879, when 18,000 tons of shipping were constructed of the metal.