

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 1895 was \$42,816, a decrease of \$6,289 as compared with 1894. The total expenditure was \$38,333, being \$4,483 less than the receipts. The total excess of expenditure over receipts during the past twenty-seven years has been \$32,529.

1077. The total number of vessels on the registry books of the Dominion on 31st December, 1895, was 7,262, with a gross tonnage of 825,837 tons. Of this number 1,718 were steamboats with a gross tonnage of 247,007 tons, being an increase of 6,101 tons, and 78 in number, as compared with 1894; 250 vessels were added to the number during the past year, with a gross tonnage of 16,270 tons. The expenditure on account of the steamboat inspection fund during the last twenty-six years has exceeded the receipts by \$28,431. During the year 1895 the receipts amounted to \$24,631 and the expenditure to \$26,386, being an excess of expenditure of \$1,755.

1078. Since the 16th September, 1871, when the Act came into operation, 1,926 candidates have passed and obtained masters' certificates and 1,337 certificates as mates. The receipts from fees amounted to \$3,974 and the expenditure to \$3,758. Since 1871 the expenditure has exceeded the receipts by \$45,741.

1079. During the twelve months ended 30th June, 1895, 51 candidates for inland and coasting certificates passed and obtained masters' certificates of service and 15 mates' certificates of service, while 191 obtained masters' and 65 obtained mates' certificates of competency.

1080. 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 waters, during the twelve months ended 30th June, 1895, as reported to the department, was 247; the tonnage involved was 93,914, and the amount of loss, so far as ascertained, \$767,536. The number of lives lost was 54. No particulars are available of disasters to vessels in Canadian inland waters and to Canadian vessels on American inland waters. Owing to the manner in which the returns are made it is not possible to make any just comparison of the returns for recent years with those of previous ones.