

Patrol work
and annexa-
tion of terri-
tory.

The "Arctic" left Winter harbour August 12 1909, went up Byam Martin channel and returned by Austin channel to Barrow strait and Lancaster sound, and thence proceeded through Navy Board inlet, calling at Ponds inlet on the way along the coast of Baffin land. As the "Arctic" was engaged in patrolling the coast line to issue licenses to whalers, she called at several points or harbours. A search was also made for the "Snowdrop," a whaler owned in Dundee, Scotland. The "Arctic" visited Cumberland gulf, then Port Burwell, and finally returned, arriving at Quebec October 5 1909. Captain Bernier's account of the voyage and reports on the geological and meteorological observations are included in the Report issued by the Department of Marine and Fisheries. During the voyage Commander Bernier annexed to Canada a large territory and territorial waters. Banksland and Victoria island were added to the lands annexed in 1906-7. Stores were left in cairns to assist vessels in distress, and fishery regulations were enforced by issuing licenses to whalers.

Improved aids
to navigation
in Canadian
waters.

With double seaboard and numerous coastal and inland waterways, Canada is deeply interested in efforts to render navigation safe and sure. Dangers of navigation in Canadian waters have been greatly lessened during recent years by new appliances installed by the Marine and Fisheries Department. Some of these Canada was the first to introduce, and their success in practice has led other countries to adopt them also. The dredging of important harbours and channels now enables larger ships to enter the principal ports than was previously possible. A Port Directory recently published by the Department describes fully the new types of navigation aids now used in Canadian waters, such as diaphones, beacons lighted by acetylene gas combined with whistling or bell buoys, submarine warnings, wireless telegraph stations and ice breaking steamers. The Directory includes also special statistical tables as to the quantities and approximate prices of different varieties of grain for the eight years 1900-1907, with the rates of marine insurance. These rates have been gradually reduced from 99 cents per \$100 in 1900 to 38 cents per \$100 in 1907, and the reduction is attributed largely to the increased safety which improved aids to navigation have rendered possible. Similarly within the same period reductions have been effected in the insurance rates on merchandise, provisions and hulls, viz., from 84½ cents to 38 cents per \$100 for merchandise and provisions and from 5 to 4½ per cent on the value of hulls.

Department
of the Secre-
tary of State.

The number of charters of incorporation issued during the calendar year 1909, including supplementary charters, was 458, as compared with 290 in 1908 and 378 in 1907. The total capitalization of the new companies in 1909 was \$250,994,300, and the capital of existing companies was increased during the