

In 1809, the "Accommodation," the first Canadian steamship, was built for the Hon. John Molson to run between Montreal and Quebec. By 1818 Molson formed a company, the St. Lawrence Steamship Company or the Molson Line. On lake Ontario, the "Frontenac," beginning with 1817, was used on a weekly service between York and Prescott, and following this beginning came a period of great activity in lake and river shipping. In 1845, the "Gore" reached lake Huron by way of the Welland canal to carry on transport trade in the Upper Lakes, where previously there had not been enough traffic to support a large ship. Shipping on the Upper Lakes became brisker now, for there were settlers to be carried from Buffalo to the western United States and grain to be brought back. In this period Canadian shipping made its profit by carrying American goods, for there was little traffic originating in the Canadian near-West.

The period from 1850 to the present has witnessed a general decline in inland shipping owing to the competition of railways. Considerable traffic is still carried over water routes, however, and the transport of grain, coal and iron ore now forms the basis of considerable fleets of cargo boats on the Great Lakes.

57.—Canadian and American Vessels trading on Rivers and Lakes between Canada and United States, exclusive of ferriage, 1918-1922.

	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.
VESSELS ARRIVED—					
Canadian—					
Steam.....No.	10,292	11,774	11,587	12,420	10,110
Tons register.....	7,326,058	6,664,144	5,883,911	7,884,184	6,283,053
Number of crew.....	275,804	207,523	235,405	288,117	276,557
Sail.....No.	1,518	1,087	967	1,298	712
Tons register.....	418,482	416,124	269,908	404,180	181,534
Number of crew.....	5,475	5,132	3,653	4,917	3,086
American—					
Steam.....No.	24,594	16,325	16,499	14,089	20,792
Tons register.....	8,643,144	6,708,059	5,611,030	6,059,357	7,546,477
Number of crew.....	264,221	180,420	191,569	169,904	198,725
Sail.....No.	2,196	2,034	1,147	1,550	1,025
Tons register.....	661,297	521,317	319,415	480,733	348,158
Number of crew.....	7,348	6,589	3,912	6,366	3,878
Description of Vessels—					
Steam, screw.....No.	32,923	26,992	26,664	25,118	29,741
Steam, paddle....."	1,911	1,031	1,384	1,359	1,140
Steam, sternwheel....."	52	76	38	32	21
Sail, schooners....."	1,063	729	642	809	251
Sail, sloops....."	21	17	11	13	33
Sail, barges....."	1,970	2,375	1,461	2,026	1,453
Sail, barks....."	660	-	-	-	-
VESSELS DEPARTED—					
Canadian—					
Steam.....No.	10,454	11,896	11,847	12,384	10,292
Tons register.....	7,351,692	6,320,430	5,976,120	8,046,127	6,533,006
Number of crew.....	223,094	217,673	236,263	261,338	240,272
Sail.....No.	1,524	1,151	993	1,285	636
Tons register.....	450,376	407,835	305,046	391,987	170,777
Number of crew.....	5,574	5,009	3,963	5,186	3,065
American—					
Steam.....No.	24,419	16,160	16,249	15,140	20,819
Tons register.....	8,417,326	6,385,048	5,532,881	5,947,482	7,653,349
Number of crew.....	270,472	178,345	184,109	169,675	199,306
Sail.....No.	2,975	2,622	1,579	1,967	1,308
Tons register.....	746,986	544,698	350,468	517,851	354,429
Number of crew.....	8,426	7,610	5,150	6,398	4,320
Description of Vessels—					
Steam, screw.....No.	32,901	26,993	26,672	26,384	29,914
Steam, paddle....."	1,697	1,027	1,386	1,097	1,180
Steam, sternwheel....."	275	46	38	43	17
Sail, schooners....."	869	716	677	536	264
Sail, sloops....."	22	22	10	16	37
Sail, barges....."	3,608	3,035	1,885	2,700	1,643