Section 3.—Water Traffic and Services

Complete statistics, comparable with those given for the railways, showing all the freight carried by water, are not available. Indeed it would be very difficult to obtain a record of the traffic handled by small independent coasting vessels. However, there is a record of the number and tonnage of ships calling at all ports at which there are customs collectors, of cargoes of vessels trading between Canadian and foreign ports and of all cargoes that pass through the canals.

Subsection 1.—Shipping

A brief description of the early development of Canadian shipping is given at pp. 597-598 of the 1941 edition of the Year Book. Shipping statistics are compiled from reports collected by customs officers at customs ports: consequently they are affected by customs regulations and include only data for vessels trading in and out of ports at which such officers are employed.

For years prior to and including the year ended Mar. 31, 1937, the statistics were summarized by the customs officer at each port and compiled by the Department of National Revenue; for subsequent years, compilations were made by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Effective Apr. 1, 1940, each vessel departing from port makes a statistical report which is forwarded to the Bureau and from these reports all compilations of shipping statistics are made.

With this change of procedure, changes have been made in the recording of the data. Cargoes are required to be reported in tons of 2,000 lb. or in tons of 40 cu. ft. Although previous reports did not define the ton, it is quite probable that for many cargoes the long tons of 2,240 lb. was used. Reports are not made now for vessels of less than 10 registered net tons and the tonnage of tugs is the gross ton and not the net ton used for cargo vessels. Fishing vessels are not required by customs regulation to report when operating from certain ports; consequently, the data are not on the same basis as data for cargo vessels.

Vessels in coasting service and vessels fishing in Canadian waters are not required by customs regulations to report any details of cargoes loaded or unloaded so that cargo data are available only for vessels in foreign service. The cargoes are not cargoes on board but cargoes unloaded and loaded at the respective ports.

Year Ended Mar. 31	In Foreign Service ¹		In Coasting Service		Total	
	No.	Net Tons Register	No.	Net Tons Register	No.	Net Tons Register
936 937 938 938 939 940 941	37,800 41,755 42,582 43,601 46,241 25,122	41,746,953 45,030,914 45,603,055 44,775,116 46,666,396 32,579,900	69,809 73,033 75,537 73,386 78,212 79,951	42,979,361 45,973,830 44,471,834 45,386,457 44,361,232 50,471,166	107,609 114,788 118,119 116,987 124,453 105,073	84,726,314 91,004,744 90,074,889 90,161,573 91,027,628 83,051,066
Calendar Year 941 942 943 944	26,203 24,066 22,901 23,786 24,431	31, 452, 400 25, 640, 763 26, 345, 562 28, 356, 681 29, 655, 984	77,592 73,366 65,066 64,999 65,410	48, 111, 082 43, 990, 764 40, 300, 778 43, 776, 497 48, 098, 201	103,795 97,432 87,967 88,785 89,841	79,563,482 69,631,527 66,646,340 72,133,178 77,754,185

17.—Vessels Entered at Canadian Ports, 1936-45

¹ Sea-going and inland international.