

comprises about 115 miles of dredged channel. Below Quebec the limiting depth of dredged channel, about 15 miles in length, is 30 feet at low tide, with a width of 1,000 feet. An average tidal range of 15 feet in this area provides ample depth for any vessel using the St. Lawrence route. Above Quebec, maintenance requirements as a result of silting in this dredged channel are relatively minor but below the city silting is more pronounced because of tidal action.

The ship channel is well defined by buoys and the centre marked by range lights, permitting uninterrupted day and night navigation throughout the open season from about mid-April to early December. The movements of all shipping, weather and ice conditions and obstructions to traffic throughout the St. Lawrence waterway from Fame Point, Que., to Kingston, Ont., are recorded and made available to all concerned through a series of reporting stations known as the Marine Reporting Service.

**16.—Seasons of Open Navigation on the St. Lawrence Ship Channel, 1953-62**

NOTE.—Figures from 1882 are given in the corresponding table of previous Year Books beginning with the 1934-35 edition.

| Year      | Channel Open, Quebec to Montreal <sup>1</sup> | First Arrival from Sea, Montreal Harbour | Last Departure for Sea, Montreal Harbour | Year      | Channel Open, Quebec to Montreal <sup>1</sup> | First Arrival from Sea, Montreal Harbour | Last Departure for Sea, Montreal Harbour |
|-----------|---|--|--|-----------|---|--|--|
| 1953..... | Mar. 30                                       | Apr. 2                                   | Dec. 21                                  | 1958..... | Apr. 6  | Mar. 30                                  | Dec. 23                                  |
| 1954..... | Apr. 15                                       | Mar. 30                                  | " 15                                     | 1959..... | " 13  | Apr. 1                                   | " 20                                     |
| 1955..... | " 17  | Apr. 5                                   | " 16                                     | 1960..... | " 14  | Mar. 21                                  | " 16                                     |
| 1956..... | " 13  | " 2                                      | " 17                                     | 1961..... | " 11  | " 27                                     | " 22                                     |
| 1957..... | " 8   | " 4                                      | " 18                                     | 1962..... | " 15  | " 12                                     | " 19                                     |

<sup>1</sup> "Channel Open" means the route can be navigated although there may be floating ice in the river.

**Steamship Inspection.**—The Steamship Inspection Service was established by authority of the Canada Shipping Act. Its functions include the approval of design of the hulls, machinery and equipment of ships; inspection during construction; periodic inspection and the issue of inspection certificates; the assignment of load lines; the conditions under which dangerous goods may be carried in ships; the protection against accident of workers employed in loading and unloading ships; the prevention from pollution of Canadian territorial waters by oil from ships; and the certification of marine engineers. The Board also looks after the interests of the Federal Government in schools for marine engineers.

The Chairman and the Board of Steamship Inspection are located at Ottawa and field offices are maintained in the principal ocean and inland ports. A total of 1,743 vessels of Canadian ownership or registry and 52 vessels registered or owned elsewhere were inspected during the year ended Mar. 31, 1962 compared with 1,668 and 28 vessels, respectively, in the previous fiscal year.

**Pilotage.**—Pilotage service functions under the provisions of Part VI and Part VIA of the Canada Shipping Act. Wherever a pilotage district has been created by the Governor in Council, qualified pilots are licensed by the pilotage authority of the district. There are in Canada 23 pilotage districts, in 10 of which the Minister of Transport is the pilotage authority (see Table 17); in each of the other districts the authority is a local body appointed by the Governor in Council. There are also three districts that are administered jointly by Canada and the United States.