

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

The operations of the meteorological office were somewhat extended during 1876. There are now 10 chief stations in the Dominion, 15 reporting telegraph stations, 4 reserve stations, 38 drum stations, and 79 ordinary stations. Reports were received from various stations in N. W. Territories from officers of Mounted Police. 20 rain-gauge stations have been established in British Columbia, and 6 in the vicinity of Lake St. John, Quebec. Altogether there are about 120 stations, of which number 80 are unpaid. The total number of storm warnings issued for the Dominion from the office at Toronto was 351 of which 266 were verified. The expenditure for this service was \$37,000. There are observatories at Toronto, Montreal, Quebec, St. John, N. B., and Kingston, Ont. The correct time is given to these cities daily, and observations taken several times in a day.

MERCHANT SHIPPING.

The number of new vessels built and registered in the Dominion in 1876 was 416, measuring 127,700 tons. The increase of registered tonnage of the Dominion for that year was 55,328 tons. The total number of vessels on the register book of the Dominion on the 31st Dec., 1876, was 7,192, measuring 1,260,893 tons register tonnage. Four new vessels, measuring 3,201 tons, were built for registration outside of the Dominion, giving a total of 420 vessels of 130,901 tons built in the Dominion, which at the average value of \$45 per ton, gives value of new tonnage for the year \$5,800,545. The total value of the registered tonnage of the Dominion at the end of 1876 was estimated by the Deputy Minister of Marine as \$37,826,790. The merchant shipping is divided among the different provinces of the Dominion as follows :

	Vessels.	Tons.
New Brunswick...	1,151	321,513
Nova Scotia.....	2,867	529,252
Quebec.....	1,902	2,85,503
Ontario.....	839	123,947
Prince Edward Island	338	50,692
British Columbia.....	40	3,409
Manitoba.....	2	178
Total.....	7,192	1,260,893

The number of new vessels built and registered was distributed among the provinces as follows :

	Vessels.	Tons.
New Brunswick.....	61	31,040
Nova Scotia.....	194	58,771
Quebec.....	51	17,800
Ontario.....	47	5,397
Prince Edward Island....	62	14,571
British Columbia.....	1	121
Manitoba.....		
Total	416	127,700

COASTING TRADE.

The countries which, by order in Council, are allowed to participate in the coasting trade of Canada, having allowed British ships to participate on equal terms in their coasting trade, are, with the dates at which the order was issued :

Italy.....	August, 1873
Germany.....	May, 1874
Netherlands.....	Sept., 1874
Sweden and Norway....	Nov., 1874
Austro-Hungary.....	June, 1876
Denmark.....	1877

An act has been passed to prevent foreign steamers, other than these, from towing ships, vessels or rafts in the Dominion waters.

REWARDS FOR SAVING LIFE.

During the year 1876, 42 testimonials and rewards were presented by the Government for humane exertions in saving life from Canadian vessels. The value of these varied from ten to a hundred dollars, and amounted altogether to about \$1,650.

STAFF AND EXPENDITURE OF MARINE AND FISHERIES' SERVICE.

The number of hands employed on the establishment staff of the Marine and Fisheries Department at Ottawa was 22, and in the outside service 1,596. The total expenditure of the Marine Department, exclusive of fisheries, was, in the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1876, \$980,272.

Dominion Fisheries.

The following information is taken from the Report of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries :

In comparison with the depressed condition of other industries in the Dominion, the Fisheries in 1876 were prosperous. The gross value of the produce of the fisheries for 1876 was \$11,147,590—an increase of \$661,917 over 1875. This production was divided among the various Provinces as follows :

P. E. Island.....	\$491,967
Nova Scotia.....	6,029,050
New Brunswick.....	1,953,388
Quebec.....	2,097,667
Ontario.....	437,229
Manitoba.....	30,590
B. Columbia.....	101,697

Of the different kind of fisheries, that of cod was by far the most valuable, the value of the codfish taken being \$4,128,100.