

last for Marseilles, and having been reported cut with ice, went ashore at Metis, where she still lies. The regulations at present in force, for the investigation of shipwrecks, are very imperfect, and your Council trust the Government will see the necessity of constituting a permanent Court of Enquiry, as already suggested by the Council. The Government have not provided the Harbor Master with any funds for the calling and payment of witnesses, and have thrown the entire expense on either the Board of Trade or the Underwriters, who should certainly not be called upon to disburse money for the protection of the general trade, both foreign and colonial.

QUARANTINE STATION.

The Council have learnt, with pleasure, of the appointment of Dr. F. Montizambert (who efficiently discharged the duties of Assistant for several years) to the office of Chief Medical Superintendent at Grosse Isle Quarantine Station.

ASSISTANCE TO SHIPS IN THE GULF.

The Council are again indebted to the Honorable the Minister of Marine for the prompt manner in which he complied with the request of the Council, to allow the steamer *Napoleon III* to intercept inward-bound ships during the severe weather of last fall, and their thanks are also due to J. U. Gregory, Esq., Acting Manager, for the efficient manner in which the service was performed.

FISHING SERVICE.

Your Council would again urge upon the Government the necessity of employing steam communication for the fishing service, instead of sail.

BOARD OF ARBITRATION.

An important case between the owners of the ship *City of Manchester* and one of our merchants, was arbitrated upon during the year, and a satisfactory decision arrived at, with trifling cost. Your Council would reiterate the opinion expressed by them last year, that if the system of arbitration on commercial questions were more generally resorted to, the decisions would be more prompt and much less expensive than the tedious and costly process of Courts of Law.

RAILWAY CONVENTION AT PORTLAND.

The American Consul at this port, Charles Robinson, Esq., extended to your Council a very courteous invitation to attend a Railway Convention at Portland, last summer, but as the subject to be discussed did not particularly effect Quebec interests, no deputation was named.

TRADE WITH CUBA.

The Spanish Consul at this port, Sig. H. de Uriarte, has informed your Council of the following changes in the tariff of that Island :