

A statement follows which has been compiled from the *Reportoire Général* for 1877 and 1878, from which it appears that the tonnage on the Register Books of the British Empire, including Canada and her other Colonies, was 7,677,024 tons. The United States of America come next, with a tonnage of 2,564,980 tons, but this does not include the tonnage trading on the inland lakes and rivers of that country. Norway comes next, with a tonnage of 1,591,877, followed by Italy, with a tonnage of 1,360,425. Germany has 1,053,229 tons, and France 870,225. From this statement it would appear that Canada, with her 1,310,468 tons of shipping, follows Italy, and stands fifth on the list. With the exception of Canada, these figures do not include the inland tonnage of the sailing vessels of these countries, or of steamers under 100 tons register, but even taking that fact into account, Canada appears fairly to be entitled to take rank as the fifth amongst the ship-owning countries of the world.

The number of new vessels built in the Dominion of Canada during the last year and registered at the different ports of registry in the Dominion was 430, measuring 118,985 tons register, showing a decrease, as compared with 1876, of 8,715 tons, but showing an increase of 14 in the number of vessels.

In addition to the number of new vessels built and registered in Canada during the last calendar year, there were two vessels measuring 1,943 tons built at Quebec, and which proceeded from that port under a Governor's Pass for the United Kingdom without being registered. Adding these vessels to the new vessels built and registered during the year, it will give a total of 432 vessels and 120,928 tons as the tonnage built in the Dominion of Canada during the calendar year of 1877. Estimating the value of the new vessels at \$45 per ton, it will give a value of \$5,441,760 or £1,088,352 sterling.

In Supplement No. 4 to this Report there will be found a list of vessels whose names remained on the Register Books of the Dominion, on the 31st day of December, 1877.

In 1873 an Act was passed by the Parliament of Canada, 36 Vic, chap. 128, repealing the Act respecting the Registration of Inland vessels in Canada, and extending the provisions of the Imperial Merchant Shipping Act of 1854 and its amendments, to ships navigating the inland waters of the Dominion, and providing provision for vessels which had been registered under the Inland Act to retain their former registry and measurement, but requiring that all vessels registered in the Dominion of Canada, after the 27th day of March, 1874, should be measured and registered according to the rules and requirements of the Imperial Merchant Shipping Act of 1854 and its amendments, which had previously been in operation in the Provinces of Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and British Columbia. The rule of measurement of the Imperial Merchant Shipping Act of 1854 requires that all permanent closed in spaces above the upper deck of a