

inspected and not inspected; number of passengers allowed to be carried; steam vessels added to list, and steamers lost or laid up, or rendered unfit for service during the year.

By Order in Council of the 7th April last, certain amendments were made to the revised rules and regulations, for the conduct of Steamboat Inspectors, and for the inspection of steamboats, approved by Order in Council of 6th July, 1886. These amendments were duly published in the *Canada Gazette*.

The amount received during the past fiscal year on account of tonnage dues, inspection of steamboats and certificates to engineers was \$12,701.20, of which sum \$11,630.20 was for tonnage dues and inspection fees, and \$1,071 for certificates to engineers. This shows a decrease as compared with the previous years of \$1,386.56. The expenditure, as will be seen by reference to Appendix No. 24, amounted to \$22,837.80, and the deficiency will amount to \$10,136.60. As the expenditure, on account of steamboat inspection, is now considerably in excess of the receipts, it will be a matter for consideration, as to whether the duty fixed by the Governor in Council, as provided by the 46th Section of the Act, to be paid on the tonnage of steamboats should not be increased. The rate, as now fixed, is four cents per ton, and the Act provides that it shall not exceed ten cents for every gross ton which a steamboat measures.

Previous to the Steamboat Inspection Act of 1886 coming into operation, engineers' certificates were issued by the Chairman of the Board of Inspection and signed by him and renewed yearly. The Act of 1886 provided that all engineers' certificates should, for the future, be signed by the Minister of Marine, and should be for life or during good conduct, and that certificates in force on the 2nd day of June, 1886, could be delivered up by the holder thereof to the Minister and receive in return a certificate for life on the payment of a fee of one dollar. Under this provision 768 certificates were exchanged up to the 31st December last, in addition to the certificates exchanged, 63 certificates were issued to applicants who passed an examination before the Board of Examiners, making a total of 831 engineers' certificates issued during the calendar year of 1887 of the following grades, viz.:—

1st Class Certificates	49
2nd do	219
3rd do	486
4th do	77

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The total number of steamboats in the Dominion is given in the returns of the chairman as 1,031, with a gross tonnage of 174,896 tons. Of this number 307 belonged to the West Ontario, Huron and Superior Division; 129 to the Kingston Division; 148 to the Montreal Division; 154 to the Quebec Division; 153 to the