

the Government and the Legislature have decided to defray the cost thereof from the general revenues of the country, without the imposition of any special tax or tonnage duty, on the vessels using such harbors but at places where the improvements are wanted, merely for the use of the local trade, they will be made under the Act alluded to, on the application of the persons interested in the trade of such places, to have the operation of the Act extended to them, which will involve the imposition of the tonnage duty alluded to. This seems to be a safe rule to adopt for the improvement of our harbors, as our coasts are so very extensive, and the harbors so numerous, that if such improvements were to be undertaken by the Dominion Government at all the harbors of our wide-spread territory indiscriminately, a large increase in our taxation would inevitably follow.

HARBOR AND RIVER POLICE.

A River or Harbor Police Force is maintained by the Dominion Government at the Ports of Montreal and Quebec, and although managed and controlled by the General Government, it is not a source of any expense to the Dominion Treasury, as it is maintained by a tax on the shipping which visit these ports. Under the Act 31 Vic, cap. 62, a tonnage duty of three cents per ton is imposed on every vessel entering at the Ports of Quebec or Montreal, for the purpose of maintaining this force. Vessels of 100 tons or under pay once a year, and over 100 tons twice a year. The total strength of the force consists of fifty persons, viz., twenty-five at each place. At Montreal it is managed with much ability and discretion by Judge Coursol, who is Commissioner of Dominion Police, and Chairman of the Court of General Sessions of the Peace, and Presiding Justice of the Court of Special Sessions. The Judge also fills at present the highly important and honorable position of Mayor of Montreal, the chief city of the Dominion.

At Quebec this branch of the public service is managed by Mr. R. H. Russell, the Chief of the Force, an energetic and useful public officer, who also holds the office of Shipping Master.

The Act referred to provides that this force shall be under the control and management of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, and consequently both the officers alluded to receive their directions as to its management through my Department, which is also charged with the duty of defraying the expenses in connection with its maintenance, and I have much pleasure in stating that this force, both at Montreal and Quebec, is considered by me to be a highly efficient and useful body, and I believe I am supported in this opinion by nearly all the merchants and shipowners of these places.

The amount collected at the port of Quebec during the last fiscal year on account of this service, was \$17,102 73, against \$20,883 51 in the previous year. The amount collected at Montreal during the last fiscal year was \$4,132 33 against \$3,113 17 in the previous year. The total amount collected at both ports during last fiscal year, was \$21,235 06, against \$23,996 68 in the previous year, shewing a decrease of \$2,761 62 on last fiscal year as compared with the previous year.

The expenditure at Quebec during the last fiscal year, including \$800 salary of the Chief, \$1,192.43 for the maintenance and repairs of the police steamer, and the wages