

The number of vessels at present wintering in our Harbour is 46, including steam-boats, giving a total amount of 11,900 tons. There are also four steam dredges.

The expenditure in dredging operations during the year was as follows, viz. : Messrs. Hamilton & Pearce's contract for dredging channel Queen's Wharf, was again commenced on the 5th of June, and continued up to the 28th of October, when the contract was closed by final certificate of Mr. Tully. The total amount expended in dredging during the year was \$12,949.37, including drawback from 1873 of \$80.36, Engineer's fees, and Check Clerk.

The Channel proper is now upwards of 300 feet wide, and when cross dredged, to clear the bottom, will doubtless give much satisfaction to the Commissioners and also to mariners frequenting our Harbour.

Queen's Wharf Premises.—This pier, the property of the Harbour Trust, having become very much out of repair from the immense traffic carried on there for the past two or three years, the Board at its last meeting instructed Mr. Tully, in conjunction with Mr. Wragge, Engineer to the Lessees, the Toronto, Grey and Bruce Railway Company, to make an inspection and report on the state of the wharf, and the cost of putting the same in good repair.

I would respectfully urge on the Board the necessity of having those repairs commenced at as early a date as possible, there being comparatively little business going on over this wharf in the winter season. It might be well, at the same time, to again request the Corporation to repair their portion of roadway leading to this wharf, and the Toronto, Grey and Bruce and Northern Railroad premises, from which there is a large amount of taxes collected annually.

Mr. Tully, Engineer to the Trust, will, I have no doubt, furnish all necessary information in connection with the works under his supervision.

The Rolling Mills, Don Channel, have not required any expenditure thereon this year ; although considerable shipping business has been carried on there, everything went on satisfactorily. The Eastern Gap Channel continued favourable during the greater part of the season, admitting of steamboats and other vessels passing in and out up to the beginning of October, the water averaging from 7ft. 2in. up to 8ft. 3in.

The water in the Harbour kept unusually high until towards the closing of the navigation, when it began to fall rapidly, being at times down so low as zero. I might here remark that it is intended, on the opening of the navigation, to place out in the Channels a larger description of buoys, so as to make them observable at a greater distance.

Hood v. The Harbour Commissioners.—This case, in which the plaintiff was non-suited, the Judges having granted a new trial, came on for argument before the Court of Error and Appeal on the 15th instant. Judgment reserved.

Mr. Charles Robertson (under the direction of Professor Kingston) has completed the storm signal on the Island, near the Lighthouse, for the Dominion Government. The person in charge will take his observations from the Commissioner's storm signal on the Queen's Wharf, in charge of Captain Kerr.

On the 26th of May last I received a circular from the Department of Public Works, Dominion Government, Ottawa, requesting a statement showing the amount expended on harbour piers and breakwater by local companies, municipal authorities, harbour companies, and other companies or persons, since or before the 1th of July, 1867, on the Harbour of Toronto. On the 27th of June I forwarded, in answer, such information as I was able to obtain in connection with this Harbour, showing that there had been expended by the above mentioned companies, from the year 1853 to 1874, a total sum amounting to \$1,156,879 00. Also, on the 10th of September, I received from the same Department a communication requesting a statement in detail of expenditure on this Harbour in connection with former return. Not being in a position to furnish detailed statements of other companies' expenditure, "which was given in bulk sums;" at the same time I furnished a statement in detail, showing the sums expended by the Harbour Commissioners of Toronto on piers, breakwater, dredging, &c., extending from the year 1853 to 1874, amounting to \$207,074 00.