

The time-ball is placed on the top of the Custom House, and dropped daily at 1 p. m., Sundays excepted, thus giving correct time to shipmasters and others. The sum of \$850 was voted for this Observatory, and the same amount has been expended during the fiscal year ended 30th June last.

A report from Rev. Dr. Williamson, of Queen's College, Kingston, will be found in Supplement No. 3 respecting the Kingston Observatory during the past calendar year. The sum of \$500 is annually voted by Parliament for this institution. The sum of \$1,500 was also voted for an Observatory at Halifax, N. S., but no portion of this amount was expended during the fiscal year ended 30th June last.

CERTIFICATES TO MASTERS AND MATES.

The report of the Chairman of the Board of Examiners of Masters and Mates for the calendar year ended 31st December last will be found in Supplement No. 2 to this report. During the past calendar year, as will be seen by reference to this report, the Board of Examiners under the superintendence of the Chairman have conducted examinations as usual at St. John, Halifax and Quebec. At the last mentioned place, however, owing to the small number of candidates offering, only three examinations were held during the year, while 18 were held at Halifax, and 17 at St. John. At St. John the number of masters who succeeded in passing and obtaining certificates of competency was 68, and the number of mates 16, while 52 candidates failed as masters and 10 as mates. At the Port of Halifax, 53 candidates passed a successful examination as masters and 13 as mates, while there were 34 who failed as masters and 8 as mates. At the Port of Quebec seven candidates passed for the grade of master and two for that of mate, while four candidates for the former grade and one for the latter failed in passing the required examination. It will thus be seen that during the past year, out of 218 candidates that presented themselves at the ports named for examination as masters, 128 succeeded in passing and 90 failed, and that out of 50 that applied for examination as mates 31 passed and 19 were rejected.

The number of candidates who have passed and obtained Masters' certificates since the Act went into operation, viz:—16th September, 1871, up to 31st December, 1875, was 653, and the amount paid for these certificates at the rate of \$10 each was \$6,530. During the same period 149 candidates received certificates of competency as mates, and the amount paid, at the rate of \$5 each, was \$745.

In Supplement No. 2 to this report will be found a list of all who have obtained certificates of competency and service either as masters or mates during the year ended 31st December last.

During the past calendar year 33 certificates of service for the grade of master and 40 for that of mate have been granted.