

Chairman is held responsible for the efficiency of all the examinations, as he must certify to each of the examination papers along with the local members of each of the Boards, before the certificates of competency are granted by this Department. On my recommendation, Capt. Scott, of Her Majesty's Royal Navy, was appointed by Order in Council, dated 7th March, 1871, Chairman of the respective Boards of Examination, and as he had been for some time previous to this appointment in the employment of this Department as commander of the Canadian Government steamer *Lady Head*, stationed on the Nova Scotia coasts for the protection of the fisheries, and as he also had the supervision of the marine police force in that district, I had full confidence in the ability, zeal and judgment which he would bring to bear in the performance of the important duties of the office to which I had recommended him. At St. John, two highly respectable and experienced retired shipmasters were appointed his colleagues on the Board, viz., Capt. Prichard and Capt. Cronk, both of them possessing the entire confidence of the maritime people of that place.

At Halifax, Capt. G. A. McKenzie and Capt. John Taylor, also two very respectable and successful retired shipmasters were appointed his colleagues at the Board for that port.

At Quebec, Capt. Armstrong, the harbor-master of that place was offered a seat at the Board, but declined to accept it on account of his other duties requiring so much of his time. Commander Ashe of the Royal Navy, Director of the Quebec Observatory, a gentleman of the very highest scientific attainments, along with Capt. Marmen, of the Government steamer *Druid*, and Capt. Gourdeau, of the Government steamer *Napoleon III.*, were then appointed members of the Board for the Port of Quebec. Both Commander Ashe and Capt. Marmen having passed the necessary examination before two examiners, as required by the Act, and having been found duly qualified have taken their seats at the Board, but Capt. Gourdeau, having been absent at the time the examination was held has not yet qualified to take his seat. The salary fixed by Order in Council for the Chairman is \$1,600 per annum, and the amount of remuneration allowed to each of the local members of the Board is four dollars per diem when engaged on the duties of the Board.

As the examination for certificates of competency is very strict, and the candidates require a thorough knowledge of the science of navigation in addition to a practical acquaintance with all the branches of seamanship and the handling of ships at sea under all circumstances, it could not be expected that the majority of our masters and mates could successfully pass the examination in the scientific branch of their profession until they had some opportunity of obtaining instruction in the subjects on which they would be required to pass examinations. I believe it is generally admitted that the masters and mates of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia cannot be surpassed as seamen in any country, but very many of them, while they are masters of their profession as seamen, have not had opportunities to acquire sufficient knowledge of the science of navigation, and consequently would be unable to pass the strict examination in this branch of their business required both in this country and the United Kingdom, to obtain certificates of com-