

## PORT WARDEN OFFICE.

*Office of Port Warden of the Harbour of Montreal.*—Port Warden, Captain Archibald Reid ; Deputy Port Wardens, Captain J. A. Vibert and Captain Alexander T. Crighton. Board of Examiners, 1896 :—John Torrance, Chairman, R. Bickerdike, Wm. Cunningham, resigned November 4th, succeeded by Charles McLean, R. M. Esdaile, Robert Reford.

The Council of 1895 having left to your Council for consideration the suggested reduction of the Port Warden fees on small sailing vessels and on steamers carrying mining supplies, also a letter from the Government with regard to the fees charged by that office for night service, consideration was given to these matters through a special committee, whose recommendations were approved, as follows:—"The addition to the last clause of By-law 19, Port Warden Office, of the following words ; 'But whenever such vessels clear with less than 150 tons of cargo such inclusive charge on vessel and cargo shall be one dollar for each trip ; also that the custom hitherto prevailing, with the Council's sanction, of the collection by the Port Warden and his Deputies of a personal fee for clearing vessels out of office hours shall be discontinued, and that such service shall be performed at any hour without any extra charge whatever, and that to recompense the Wardens for such extra service, their salaries are hereby increased from 1st January, 1896, in lieu of the fees they have hitherto received therefor.'" The Government approved this action, and in consequence thereof itself abolished the night fees for clearing vessels which had hitherto been payable to the inspectors of cattle fittings.

In April the Council permitted Capt. Crighton, Deputy Port Warden, to accept the surveyorship in this district to the British Corporation and the Bureau Veritas, societies for the classification and registration of vessels.

Mr. Wm. Cunningham having tendered his resignation as a member of the Port Warden Board of Examiners, in consequence of his appointment to the Shipping Mastership of this port, the Council filled the vacancy thus created by the appointment of Mr. Chas. McLean to that office. The Marine Underwriters Association, which had written that it would be equitable to replace Mr. Cunningham by a marine underwriter, upon being made aware that the Council did not adopt its suggestion, wrote asking reconsideration of the appointment made, on the ground that it was incongruous that in a committee of five appointed to control the Port Warden office, three should be shipping agents. The justice of