

APPENDIX I.

REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS OF MONTREAL WATER POLICE,
DOMINION OF CANADA.

OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER DOMINION POLICE,

Montreal, March 30th, 1870.

SIR,—Pursuant to your instructions I have the honor to submit for the information of the Honorable the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, a report of the proceedings of the Montreal Water Police, for the year ended 30th June, 1869.

The number of men comprising this force varied during that period, it having been deemed expedient to disband almost the whole body on the close of the navigation.

From July, 1868, to 30th November of the same year, it was composed of one chief constable, four sergeants, and thirty-three men, making a total of thirty-eight.

From December, 1868, to the 30th April, 1869, it was reduced in accordance with instructions, to one chief constable, and two sergeants, and so remained until the 1st of May, 1869, when the river having commenced to clear from ice, it was again re-organised and consisted of one chief constable, four sergeants, and twenty men, making a total of twenty-five, and so continued until the 30th June, 1869.

The duties of this force at first glance would appear to be simply confined to the police supervision of the Montreal River (as the name implies), but it will be found that the exigencies of the public service have, from time to time, compelled the withdrawal of many of its members; some temporarily, others continuously, who have been engaged in, or despatched on special and confidential missions, requiring in most instances, a large amount of ability, fidelity and tact, and it may not be out of place to state that in every such case the results proved satisfactory.

These withdrawals materially caused the duties of those remaining to be more arduous, and in some instances from the extent of wharfage to be supervised, exceeding three miles in length, the greater portion densely crowded with shipping of varied tonnage, it was impossible for the small force available to afford that protection the public seemed to demand, and which, when they numbered thirty-eight, it was barely competent to perform.

These remarks are more particularly stated from the fact that parties, who had large amounts of property from time to time on the wharves, and for which they claimed a protection, it was impossible to afford, made (while admitting the efficiency of the body generally) certain public protests demanding as a right, special supervision on property liable to be carried off.

In addition, the Water Police afford protection to the masters of vessels in their endeavours to suppress insubordination amongst the seamen, accompanying their executive officers to Lachine and elsewhere, in the pursuit and arrest of sailors who have deserted, and a class of persons known as "Crimps," by whom they are usually enticed away.

Their services are frequently brought into requisition for the prevention and suppression of "Strikes" and incipient riots among ship laborers, and this duty is not alone confined to Montreal, for in September last it was found expedient to transfer to the city of Quebec, the chief constable, two sergeants, and fourteen men to assist the authorities there in quelling the disturbance originating in the strike of the ship laborers. This service having been satisfactorily executed, the chief constable and six men were detailed by the Quebec Government to accompany the special train conveying His Royal Highness Prince Arthur to Montreal.

It is also the duty of the Montreal Water Police in town, to attend to the arrival and departure of trains for the purpose of becoming acquainted with the suspicious