

In May, the Council authorized Captain J. G. Shaw, one of the Deputy Wardens, to accept the office of Lloyd's Surveyor for the Port of Montreal.

REPORT OF THE PORT WARDEN.

OFFICE OF THE PORT WARDEN,

MONTREAL, 31st December, 1886.

To the President and Council of the Board of Trade, Montreal.

GENTLEMEN,—In accordance with the Act 45 Vict., chap. 45, section 31, I have the honour to submit this my annual report of the affairs of the office for the year ending this day, accompanied by financial statement of receipts and expenditure during that period.

Navigation opened this year somewhat earlier than usual.

The ice moved out of the harbour on the 20th April; on the 24th, river and coasting craft began to arrive from their winter quarters at Boucherville; on the 26th, quite a number of steamers and schooners arrived at the wharves from their winter quarters at Sorel; and on the same day, the first steamer left for Quebec.

The first arrival last year from winter quarters was on May 5th, in 1884 on April 24th, in 1883 on May 3rd, and in 1882 on April 21st.

The S.S. Dominion of the Dominion Line, from Bristol, came into port on the afternoon of 30th April; she was the first arrival from sea this season, and reported having had exceptionally fine weather on her passage and seeing no ice; other arrivals followed during the first week in May, and by the 8th of that month there were quite a number of ocean steamships in port and the business of the harbour was in vigorous operation; most of the ships that arrived this spring saw no ice in the Gulf, others saw very little, and none were delayed by it.

The first sailing ship to arrive was the barque "Rhine," from Antwerp, which came into port on the 12th May.

The steamship "Carmona," from Newcastle, and the steamship "Concordia," from Glasgow, were the first ships to pass inwards through the Straits of Belle Isle this season; which they both did on the 16th June, they found the Strait clear of ice; and reported having passed a large number of icebergs, outside and near to the eastern entrance to the Strait, but were not delayed by them.

The last sea-going ship to arrive was the steamship "Grasbrook," from Antwerp; she came into port on the 22nd November; and was also the last departure for sea, having sailed on the 25th November; there was very little or no ice in the harbour when she left. The water in the river has kept up remarkably well this year; on May 12th, the "Carmona," bound to London, left port drawing 27 feet; on June 1st, the steamship "Sarmatian," bound to Liverpool, left port drawing 26 feet six inches, and on June 7th, the steamship "Vancouver" left for Liverpool, drawing 26 feet 7 inches.

There is a large increase in the number of sea-going ships and amount of tonnage which arrived in port this year as compared with last: 364 ships were entered at this office during the year with an aggregate of 592,405 tons, against 323 ships measuring 501,679 tons in 1885. Of the 364 ships, 301 were steamers of 547,737 tons and 63 were sailing ships of 44,668 tons, being an average of 1,820 tons for each steamer, and 709 tons for each sailing vessel. These figures do not include vessels from Newfoundland, the Gulf ports, or other places within the Dominion, as such vessels do not come within the jurisdiction of this office.

The import trade of the port has been large this year, all our regular traders as well as transient ships, having brought on the whole, large cargoes.

The export trade has been greater this year than during any year since the office was established.