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THE DREDGING FLEET OF MONTREAL HARBOUR.

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To be Read Before the Mechanical Section, 14th January, 1904.

To fully describe the working part or details of operation of the various machines comprising a dredging fleet is, of course, beyond the limits of this paper and therefore the writer will only touch upon such points as he deems of common interest among dredge men.

The Harbour Commissioners' Dredging Fleet proper at present consists of four dipper dredges, five floating derricks, one drill boat, five tugs and twenty-three scows. There are other machines, but as the work done by them cannot be said to pertain to dredging, no particular mention will be made of them. It may be stated, however, that the complete fleet comprises forty-one vessels.

The work performed is for the most part confined to dredging in localities where deeper water is desired, the material dredged being utilized in the construction of piers, wharves and other harbour improvements.

The dredges deposit their material on scows which are unloaded by the floating derricks at points where filling is needed.

With the exception of one dredge and one derrick, the fleet works day and night, offsetting to a certain extent, the disadvantages of a short season. The total number of men employed in operating the