

of the receipts viz :—\$29,683 41 leaves a surplus of \$705 19 to the credit of the fund in the hands of the Government.

The amount of receipts and expenditure on account of this service during the last three years was as follows :—

	Receipts.	Expenditure.
For the fiscal year ended 30th June, 1869 .....	\$31,353 78	\$26,987 04
"                                  "      1870 .....	31,410 46	27,029 34
"                                  "      1871 .....	29,683 41	28,978 22
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	\$92,447 65	\$82,994 60
Deduct Expenditure from Receipts.....	82,994 60	
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Balance to the credit of the fund in the hands of the Government .....	\$9,453 05	
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The amount voted by Parliament for the Marine Hospitals, sick, distressed and shipwrecked seamen at all the ports of the Provinces of Quebec, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia for the last fiscal year (with the exception of the Port of Quebec) was \$18,526, and the amount actually expended by this Department on account of this service was \$16,029 68 leaving an unexpended balance of \$2,496 32 which reverted to the Public Treasury.

The receipts for the current financial year on account of sick and distressed mariners' fund may be estimated at \$30,000, and the expenditure about the same, or a little more, as the claims on this fund have been unusually heavy this year on account of there having been so far a large number of wrecks, and distressed mariners to take care of and clothe.

The tonnage duty on account of sick and distressed mariners is not levied in Ontario, and no expenditure was made on account of this service during last fiscal year in that Province, with the exception of the sum of \$500 which was voted by Parliament in the estimates of last fiscal year, as a contribution in aid of sick mariners at the Saint Catharines Hospital. This sum was not a charge on the sick mariners' fund collected in the three Maritime Provinces, but was paid out of the general revenues of the country. The Hospital at Saint Catherines has been of very great service to many of the mariners sailing on the upper Lakes who may have fallen sick in their vessels, or met with accidents while on duty ; and as the Hospital is close to the canal, through which a large portion of the Lake shipping passes, it has been found very convenient to bring sick or disabled mariners to that place, either on the voyage up or down, on account of its central position, and the facilities, for moving sick men from the vessel to the Hospital.

A petition, signed by a large number of persons interested in the lake navigation, was presented to the House of Commons last session, by Thomas R. Merritt, Esq., M.P. for Lincoln, praying for the imposition of a small tax on the shipping passing through the Welland Canal, for the purpose of establishing and maintaining a marine hospital at Saint Catherines on a permanent footing, for the benefit of the sick mariners belonging