

REPORT OF THE CRUISE OF THE DOMINION
GOVERNMENT STEAMER *ARCTIC* IN
NORTHERN WATERS SURROUND-
ING ARCTIC LANDS AND
ARCTIC ARCHIPELAGO
IN 1908-1909.

CHAPTER I.

Departure from Quebec.

Under a Royal Commission, issued to me to annex lands and territories granted by the British Crown to Canada, and as fishery officer of the northern waters of Canada, I commanded the steamer *Arctic*, fitted out and made ready for sea for a two years' voyage under instructions of the Marine and Fisheries Department. Specific instructions were given as to the waters to be patrolled, explored, and lands to be annexed in continuation of the two voyages already made to the northern waters by the same ship, commanded by myself. Discretion was given in the instructions issued by the department, to use my best judgment in the matter of remaining in the regions referred to during the winter of 1909-10 or of returning to Quebec in the fall of 1909, as late as safety would permit.

The vessel was inspected by the Hon. Mr. Brodeur, Minister of Marine and Fisheries, and Rear-Admiral Kingsmill, commander of the steamers of the department, and found to be in a seaworthy condition, with all necessary stores for the perilous undertaking. An address was made at the time by the Minister to the officers and crew, acquainting us of the expectations of the Government and people of Canada respecting the result of the voyage, and wishing us a prosperous and successful cruise. Read-Admiral Kingsmill also addressed the officers and men of the ship, expressing confidence in the *Arctic* and those who