

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORT.

dollars. Again, in the spring, there might be no more uncertainty about entering from sea than in the Gulf of St Lawrence, where vexatious delays are not uncommon after the open season is supposed to have arrived.

The Montreal harbor master, according to the United States report on commercial relations for 1878 (page 657), furnished a table showing the average opening and closing of that port for ocean-going vessels for twenty years to be:—Average opening 1858 to 1877, 1st May; average closing 25th November.

Summary of the opening and closing of Hayes' River, opposite York Factory for various years from 1830 to 1880, according to report of Mr. Wood, Government Meteorological Observer at York Factory:—

DATE OF OPENING.		DATE OF CLOSING.
1830.....	May 17.....	December 2.
1835.....	" 24.....	November 18.
1840.....	" 12.....	" 16.
1845.....	" 22.....	" 24.
1850.....	" 31.....	" 28.
1855.....	" 21.....	" 24.
1860.....	" 18.....	" 19.
1865.....	" 16.....	" 20.
1870.....	" 11.....	" 27.
1875.....	" 19.....	" 15.
1880.....	" 26.....	" 20.

The records of the Hudson's Bay Company, as presented to the Government in 1880, show that the Hayes' River at York Factory, for an average of 53 years was open on the 15th May. Only once in the 53 years did it remain closed till the end of May or first of June. Once (in 1878) the river closed as early as the 3rd of November, but the average closing for 53 years was about the 20th of November. It must be borne in mind that the Hayes' is but a small river in comparison with its neighbor, the Nelson, which is distant from it at York about six miles. The Nelson closes much later than does the Hayes', if indeed it can be said to close at all.

It is interesting, then, to note the comparison between the opening of the harbors of York and Montreal, though a fortnight is here given against York to clear the river and again in the fall when ice first forms:—

	MONTREAL.	YORK.
Opening of harbor.....	1st May.....	1st June.
Closing of harbor.....	25th Nov.....	10th Nov.