

During the same period, 20 steamers have been lost, broken up, or put out of service, having a gross tonnage of 3,917 tons, and 2,755 register, and this will give a gain of 58 steamers of a gross tonnage of 7,544 and 4,365 tons register. The principal increase in new steamers has been in the West Ontario, Huron and Superior Division; 11 steamers out of the 20 having been built there. It will be seen from the foregoing, that during the past calendar year, notwithstanding the depression in trade, the increase in the steam tonnage of the Dominion has been very considerable.

The amount received during the last fiscal year, on account of tonnage dues, inspection of steamboats and certificates to engineers, was \$15,011.90, being \$592.29 less than the amount received for the year ended 30th June, 1874, while the expenditure, as shown by Appendix No. 25, amounted to \$12,199.81, showing an excess of receipts over expenditure in the past fiscal year, of \$2,812.09. The fees chargeable on steamers for their inspection and certificates, are as follows:—For each steamer of 100 tons and under, \$5; and for each steamer over 100 tons, \$8. In addition to these fees, there is a charge of 7 cents per ton on each steamer, irrespective of size; such dues being charged on the gross tonnage of the vessel. From the passage of the Steamboat Inspection Act, until the 13th February last, the rate of duty required to be paid was 10 cents per ton; but as the large balance in favour of the Steamboat Inspection Fund for the past five years, appeared to warrant a reduction of this rate, an Order in Council was passed on the 13th February, fixing the rate at seven cents per ton, instead of ten cents, as formerly. The amount voted by Parliament for the last fiscal year was \$14,200, while the amount expended was \$12,199.81, leaving an unexpended balance of \$2,000.19, which reverted to the Treasury.

Reference was made in the report of last year to the difficulties which had attended the working of the Steamboat Inspection Act in the Province of British Columbia and to its consequent temporary suspension. It is satisfactory to learn from the report of the Agent of this Department at Victoria, who also acted as Inspector of Steamboats, that all the difficulties have been overcome, the steamers subjected to the provisions of the Act and all parties satisfied. It has been found that steamers formerly carrying a very dangerous pressure of steam per square inch, as high in some instances as 170 or 180 pounds, can now do the same work in the same waters at a pressure not exceeding from 80 to 100 pounds per square inch. In the report of the Agent will be found a list of the steamers, 19 in number, which received certificates during the year ended 30th June last.

By Order in Council of the 29th March last, Mr. Thomas Westgarth was appointed Inspector of steamboats for British Columbia, at a salary of \$250 per annum, and it will be seen by reference to the report of the Chairman of the Board of Steamboat Inspection, that the Board at a meeting held on the 3rd August last, examined Mr. Westgarth's papers, and after careful consideration were satisfied as to his competency to discharge the duties of inspector. Mr. Westgarth acted in this capacity previous to