
steamers, 52. The sum of \$2,888 was received by the Chairman as fees for certificates and deposited to the credit of the Steamboat Inspection Fund, being an increase of \$18 over the amount received during the preceding year.

The total number of steamboats in the Dominion is 775, having a gross tonnage of 155,631 tons and 94,686 tons register. Of this number, 217 belonged to the West Ontario, Huron and Lake Superior Division, 107 to the East Ontario Division, 135 to the Montreal Division, 55 to the Three Rivers Division, 103 to the Quebec Division, 109 to the Maritime Provinces, 37 to British Columbia, and 12 to Manitoba. Of the whole number in the Dominion, 718 were inspected, 299 of the whole number were paddle and 476 screw steamers, and 354 were passenger steamers, 65 freight and 356 tugs.

During the last calendar year, 53 new steamers were added to the list having a gross tonnage of 5,539 tons and 3,637 tons register. During the same period, 27 steamers were lost or put out of service, having a gross tonnage of 2,762 tons and 1,347 tons register. This shows a gain in steamers of 26, and of gross tonnage 2,777 tons and 2,290 tons register. The principal increase in tonnage was in British Columbia and Manitoba.

The amount received during the last fiscal year on account of tonnage dues, inspection of steamboats, and certificates to engineers was \$12,331.16, of which sum \$9,570.16 was for tonnage dues and inspection fees, and \$2,761 for certificates to engineers. This shows an increase in receipts as compared with the preceding year of \$246.91 in tonnage dues and inspection fees, and a decrease of \$347 in fees for certificates, or a total decrease of \$100.09. The expenditure for steamboat inspection during the past fiscal year, as will be seen by reference to Appendix No. 10, amounted to \$13,076.46, and as the receipts amounted to \$12,331.16, there is a deficiency for the past year of \$745.30.

A statement of the different casualties which occurred in the respective divisions, will be found detailed in the Report of the Chairman. Prominent among these is that relating to the steamer "Waubuno" of Collingwood, which vessel, with all on board, was lost on the 22nd November last, while proceeding to Parry Sound from Collingwood. The cause of the disaster is unknown, and it is probable an investigation will be held into the loss of the vessel. Besides the crew of the steamer, numbering 15 persons, there were, so far as known, 10 passengers who perished by this unfortunate casualty.

The Chairman in his Report refers again to the matter of overcrowding on excursion steamers, and the difficulty of making rules which will be acceptable to steamboat owners and at the same time effectually cure the evil. The subject is at present under the consideration of the Department.

It has been deemed advisable to suspend in several instances certificates of engineers for a period of three months, with a view of putting a stop to a practice