

REPORT ON SHIPPING.

To the Honorable

G. E. FOSTER,

Minister of Marine and Fisheries.

SIR,—I have the honor to submit herewith the Sixth List of Shipping issued by this Department, being a list of the vessels whose names remained on the registry books of the Dominion of Canada on the 31st day of December, 1886, giving the name of each ship, her official number, the port at which she was then registered, her rig, where she was built, the year in which she was built, her register dimensions and her register tonnage. In the case of steamers, the list shows the gross tonnage as well as the net tonnage of each steamship. The list also shows the name and address of the owner of each vessel, but in cases where there are more than one owner, the name and address of the managing owner only is given. I have also, as far as was possible, shown the Institution in which the vessels are classed, but the list affords no information concerning the Classification.

The total number of vessels remaining on the register books of the Dominion on the 31st December, 1886, including old and new vessels, sailing vessels, steamers and barges, was 7,294, measuring 1,217,766 tons register tonnage, being a decrease of 21 vessels and 14,090 tons register, as compared with 1885. The number of steamers on the registry books on the same date was 1,198, with a gross tonnage of 257,818 tons. Assuming the average value to be \$30 per ton, the value of the registered tonnage of Canada, on the 31st December last, would be \$36,532,980.

The number of new vessels built and registered in the Dominion of Canada during the last year was 229, measuring 32,207 tons register tonnage. Estimating the value of the new tonnage at \$45 per ton, it gives a total value of \$1,449,315 for new vessels.

A statement follows, showing the number of vessels and number of tons on the register books at the different ports of registry in the Dominion, on the 31st December last, along with a comparative statement of the tonnage from 1873 to 1886. A statement is also published of the number of vessels built and registered in the Dominion during the last year, and a comparative statement of the number of new vessels built and registered from 1874 to 1886, both inclusive.

The following persons were appointed Measuring Surveyors of Shipping during the calendar year of 1886, viz.:

Mr. William C. Milner.....	Sackville, N.B.
Mr. Chs. E. Ratchford.....	Amherst, N.S.