

Parliament for the purposes of this Observatory; and in Appendix No. 24 will be found a statement of the expenditure for the fiscal year ended 30th June last.

An appropriation of \$2,400 was made by Parliament for the Observatory at Quebec; \$1,200 for the Observatory at St. John; \$500 each for the Observatories at Montreal and Kingston; and the reports of the directors of these institutions will be found with the Appendices to this Report.

An allowance of \$100 is made to Mr. Robt. H. Cogswell, who gives the true time at noon to the public at Halifax, by means of a ball dropped at his establishment.

PORT WARDENS.

MONTREAL.

The office of Port Warden of Montreal was established in the year 1863, under the provisions of the Act 26 Vic., cap. 52, the appointment being made by the Governor in Council, on the recommendation of the Board of Trade of Montreal. The Council of that Board was empowered to appoint a Board of Examiners, five in number, to examine all candidates for the office of Port Warden, and such number of Deputy Port Wardens as the Council might deem necessary for the business of the harbour. The Port Warden is bound, at his own expense, to keep his office always open during certain hours on lawful days; to have a seal of office and the necessary books in which to record his fees and matters pertaining to the office. The Act does not appear to have contemplated the accumulation of any money—the fees being made payable to the Port Warden for services performed by him and his deputies; but an amended Act, 29 Vic., cap. 59, allowed the Board of Trade, if they saw fit, to fix a salary to the Port Warden, to include the remuneration to his deputies, and the expenses of the office, or otherwise, as might be arranged; and any balance which might appear from his certified annual return was to be paid over by the Port Warden to such person as the Board of Trade should depute to receive the same. The Act of 1874 further, in amendment, requires the Port Warden to transmit yearly, within seven days after the 1st of January, to the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, a report of the business done in his office, and of the receipts and expenditure thereof, in such manner and form as the Minister may direct.

The duties of the Port Warden consist *inter alia* in examining the condition and stowage of cargoes on board vessels, and, if any goods are damaged, in ascertaining the cause and making a record of the same in his books of office. He is also, when required, to proceed to any vessel, warehouse, dwelling or wharf, and examine and make a similar record of any goods alleged to be damaged on board any vessel. In like manner he shall, when required, be surveyor on any vessel which may have suffered wreck or damage, or which shall be deemed unfit to proceed on her voyage; he shall also be surveyor of the repairs necessary to render the vessel seaworthy, and