

The Dominion Marine Association.

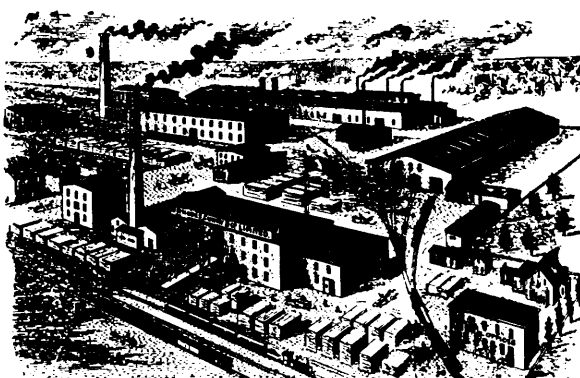
The following circular has been issued by the President and Secretary: Six months have passed since the convention held in Ottawa at which it was resolved to form a permanent organization to be known as the Dominion Marine Association. In this time the Association has been established upon an apparently firm footing and is already able to point to decidedly successful results in the matters it has undertaken. Amongst these may be mentioned:

CANALS AND CANAL TOLLS.—The Ottawa Convention asked that the canals should be made free. Proof of the statements made by the deputation being required before the ex-Minister of Railways and Canals would consent to consider the removal of the tolls, a committee of this Association forthwith met in Ottawa and prepared comparative statements of the charges for carriage of grain by way of the Erie and the Welland and St. Lawrence canals. Copies of these were sent to all the ministers, and later the committee met Mr. Blair and discussed the statements with him. Further statements were subsequently prepared in Kingston and Montreal, and likewise submitted, and the information furnished, with that in possession of the Government, was sufficient to support the petition for removal of the tolls. The Canadian canals have been declared free for two years, and the St. Lawrence route has thus been placed in a position to compete fairly with that by way of Buffalo. Under this heading reference may be made to two or three accidents which vessels have suffered in the Lachine and Cornwall canals. The assistance of this Association has been enlisted and representations have been made to the Department by the Secretary, which have in each case received attention and have been followed by instructions in the proper quarter made with a view to remedying any defects complained of and assisting vessels using the canals.

TONNAGE DUES AND INSPECTION FEES.—Immediately after the Ottawa convention the petition on this subject was followed up by correspondence. Authoritative information was compiled in support of the arguments adduced, and this was placed in the hands of all the ministers, while at the same time many members of the Association responded to a request for individual action and personally submitted their views to the Minister of Marine. On April 28 instructions were telegraphed by the Department to all inspectors instructing them to issue inspection certificates without requiring payment of the usual fees and dues. At a later date the Minister introduced a bill to amend the law, which has been passed. The sections of the Steamboat Inspection Act of 1898 under which tonnage dues and inspection fees were collected are repealed. The fees and dues are placed under the control of the Governor-in-Council, so that at any time they may be in whole or in part re-imposed. It is submitted that this result demands further consideration by this Association. The argument for the removal of these obnoxious charges justified their total abolition, and no reason is apparent for leaving it in the power of the Government to revive them. In the meantime, however, the desired exemption from their burden has been, at least, temporarily gained. Certain members of this Association obtained inspection and paid fees and dues before the instructions of April 28 were issued to inspectors, and found some difficulty in obtaining refunds. This Association was appealed to and action has been taken to have injustice prevented if possible. The matter has been promised consideration by the Department, and there should be no doubt that all steamboat owners will be placed in the same position for the year 1903 by refund being made of any fees collected.

RECIPROCAL INSPECTION.—Another important provision in the Act above referred to enables the Governor-in-Council to enter into reciprocal inspection arrangements with countries outside of Canada. This provision results from the action of this Association in calling attention to the statute and orders in

force in the U.S., and the reciprocal arrangements already entered into between that country and certain foreign powers. It will be in order now for the Government to carry this provision into effect and bring about the desired reciprocal inspection regulations with the U.S.



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