

## Department of Public Works.

9,540 cubic yards of stone, boulders, old timber, gravel, etc. Much time was lost owing to stormy weather. The cost of the work was \$5,591.86 or 58.6 cents per cubic yard. The great cost is attributable to the exposed position of the cove and the detention caused by stormy weather.

### DREDGING IN PICTOU HARBOUR.

Pictou Harbour is an important harbour on the southern shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. It is situated 5 miles to the southward of Caribou Point, and at the bottom of a bay which has a superficies of more than 2 square miles, between Logan Point and Mackenzie Head, and the bottom of the bay.

The town of Pictou is on the north shore of the harbour, 2 miles within the lighthouse, along the shore of a small bay, and the foot of a ridge, which rises to a height of 200 feet above the sea. Opposite the town, the harbour expands into three large arms, at the heads of which are the East, Middle and West Rivers.

The harbour of Pictou is an important one, owing to the valuable coal mines, iron mines, and quarries, and finely settled country, in its neighbourhood; and also owing to the fact that the town of New Glasgow is only  $6\frac{1}{2}$  miles up the East River, and that the channel is navigable to that town for vessels drawing eight feet of water.

During the fiscal year 1892-93, 12,600 cubic yards were removed by the dredge "Geo. McKenzie," at a cost of \$7,385.48 or 58.0 cents. The great cost of the work is due to the fact that the dumping ground is at a very great distance from the seat of operations. This work included the dredging of a basin at New Glasgow, 940 feet in length, and from 20 to 80 feet in width, and from 9 feet to 15 feet in depth, to permit the launching of a steel steamer built there for the Department of Railways and Canals.

The work in the East River of Pictou is being proceeded with from year to year whenever a dredge is available for the work without detriment to other places. It is the intention of the department to make it navigable to a depth of 16 feet at low spring tides, but this work can only be done very slowly and gradually, unless a special appropriation is granted and a special plant constructed to do it.

The dredge "Geo. McKenzie," also worked at the head of the Middle River of Pictou, making a cut 400 feet in length by 15 in width, to a depth of 20 feet, in front of the wharf, also making a dock 400 feet in length, 50 to 125 feet in width and 13 feet in depth. The total quantity removed was 3,240 cubic yards of mud at a cost of 58.9 cents. Here again the great cost of the work must be attributed to the distance of the dumping ground.

The dredge "Canada" was employed in improving the harbour of Pictou from the 5th of November, 1892, to the 1st of December, 1892, opposite the Market wharf, removing 2,790 cubic yards at a cost of \$762 or 27.3 cents per cubic yard.

The dredge "St. Lawrence" reached Pictou on the 9th of November, 1892, and while waiting to go on the slip for repairs, was placed at work on the Middle River at Granton, near the wharf, where she made 2 cuts of 70 and 90 feet in length, 30 feet in width and 22 feet in depth, removing 4,820 cubic yards of clay and rock at a cost of \$946.48 or 19.6 cents per cubic yard.

### DREDGING AT ST. PETER'S CANAL.

St. Peter's Canal unites St. Peter's Bay on the ocean to the Bras d'Or Lakes, its length being about 2,400 feet. This canal is of very great service to the numerous vessels engaged in the coal and gypsum trades, inasmuch as it gives them a short and safe route to the principal ports of Canada and the United States.

During the year the dredge "St. Lawrence" was sent to deepen the entrance into the canal from the Bras d'Or side, and between the 6th of July, 1892, to the 4th of August, removed 7,844 cubic yards of red clay and boulders, widening the lake end of the canal by 110 feet to a depth of 18 feet at low water, over a length of 630 feet, thereby making the canal at that end perfectly easy of access.

The cost of the work was 19.6 cents per cubic yard.