

The shipping of seamen is conducted by Shipping Master Mr. B. Trudel and Assistant Mr. William Miller.

A large stock of coal, with oil and other necessary articles, are kept at Gaspé Basin, in charge of Mr. Joseph Eden, sub-Agent, to meet any demands in that neighbourhood and the Gulf.

Mr. Fox, Collector of Customs, Magdalen Islands; Mr. Bellefeuille, Harbour-Master, Sorel; and Captain Jones, St. Johns, Province of Quebec, have also willingly complied with any request I have made them, tending to further the interests of navigation and the service generally of this Agency.

The oil furnished by Messrs. Fitzgerald & Co., London, Ontario, has continued to maintain its reputation for illuminating quality and durability.

The lamps and reflectors obtained from Mr. Chanteloup, of Montreal, are powerful, as well as being of the most modern and improved description.

The powder for the signal guns of Canadian manufacture, and now supplied direct from the Hamilton Powder Company has proved of excellent quality, and cost much less than that purchased from the Imperial Government.

The duties this Agency is called upon to perform in connection with the coast lighthouses, fog-whistles, provisions depôts, buoys, beacons, Dominion steamers, shipwrecked mariners, enquiries into the cause of wrecks, river police, Dominion vessel for the protection of the fisheries, fish-breeding establishments, etc., keep myself and staff fully employed summer and winter.

I beg to offer you many thanks for the continued courtesy and confidence exhibited by you and your efficient deputy, the manifestation of which has greatly assisted me in the multifarious duties I am called upon to perform. I am also indebted to the officers under my control for the prompt and willing manner in which they have aided me in carrying out your instructions.

The amount expended by the Agency during the past year for the under-mentioned services, were as follows (details of which are given in the Appendix to this Report):

BUOYS.

There are 74 buoys in this district; they are situated between Red Island and Cap Santé, in the Rivers St. Lawrence, Chicoutimi and Saguenay, the Magdalen Islands, Gaspé and Baie des Chaleur.

In the River St. Lawrence they are frequently displaced or injured by passing vessels, necessitating constant supervision, and several trips have been made by one of the Dominion steamers to put them in order when information has reached this Agency relative to their derangement.

In the River St. Lawrence all the black buoys are on the south side of the channel, except those at Beaujeu's Patch and White Island, which can be passed on either side.

The one at Vache's Point, near the Saguenay, is on Vache Patch, and can be passed on either side. The red buoys are all placed on the north side of the channel; white and chequered buoys indicate rocks or ends of shoals, and can be passed on either side, except the white and chequered buoys of the Saguenay, which must be passed to the north.

Green buoys indicate sunken wrecks. One extra chequered buoy has been placed at Gaspé to mark the ballast ground. A black buoy has been placed on the patch lately discovered three-quarters of a mile off Crane Island; it is anchored in three fathoms of water. Crane Island Lighthouse bearing N. by E. $\frac{1}{2}$ E.

A black buoy has also been placed at Berthier; one extra black buoy has also been placed at Magdalen Islands, another at Paspebiac, Baie des Chaleur and Gaspé for the convenience of passenger steamers; also a black buoy at Fox River, to indicate entrance to the harbour; another black buoy has been placed at Cock Point