

Department of Public Works.

During the past fiscal year the sum of \$1,825.93 has been expended in renewing and securing the close piling on the outer and inner portions, and in strengthening the inner face and body of the middle section, so as to prevent a breach being made through the work, the outer face-timbers of this part of the breakwater below low water being entirely destroyed, and the greater part of its ballasting washed out.

STEPHEN'S PIER.

Stephen's Pier, King's County, is situated on the southern side of the Montague River, six miles above its entrance into Cardigan Bay, and immediately below Lambert's pier and Montague bridge. The pier consists of two wings about 50 feet apart, extending out from the bank of the river to the edge of the channel, where there is a pier-head having a face of 100 feet. The wings are respectively 90 and 115 feet long, built of squared timber, close faced, the space between them being filled with brush, stone and gravel, while the pier-head is formed of pile bents, floor stringered and planked over.

Since 1st July, 1892, the planking and floor stringers of the pier-head have been repaired at a cost of \$200.43.

ST. PETER'S BAY.

This bay, King's County, is situated on the north coast of the island, 35 miles to the westward of East Point, is of considerable extent, running inland some 8 miles, with an average width of three-quarters of a mile, carrying a depth of from 2 to 3 fathoms of water at low tide; its entrance, however, is obstructed by a sand bar having on it only from 6 to 7 feet at low water, thus rendering the harbour available only for vessels of small size, large numbers of which resort to this point during the fishing season.

To improve the entrance and afford better shelter and some shipping facilities for the fishermen, works were begun by the department in 1878, consisting of a breakwater 226 feet long on the western side of the mouth of the harbour, its inner end to be connected with the high land by a breastwork to prevent a channel being formed through the sand flats.

The beach protection inward of the western breakwater constructed of piles, brush and stone having become weakened owing to the natural decay, was destroyed by the severe storm of December 1st, 1890, when nearly all the brush and stone work was carried away, leaving only the piling driven at 10 feet centres standing. A contract for its reconstruction was entered into 23rd May, 1892, and work being commenced 28th June, was satisfactorily finished by 30th September. It consists, as formerly, of a length of 800 feet of breastwork 7 feet 6 inches wide, constructed of round log open crib-work, the interior filled with brush and stone, the face logs of the crib-work being secured to the piles remaining of the original structure.

VERNON RIVER PIER.

Vernon River Pier, Queen's County, is situated at the head of navigation on the Vernon River, and about two miles above its entrance into Orwell Bay. The pier consists of a close faced timber block 120 feet in length, 30 feet wide, lying parallel to the channel, and having on the face a depth of 9 feet at low water or 17 feet at high water springs. The pier, which is on the lower side of, and distant 30 feet from the Vernon River bridge, is connected with the latter by an approach or platform averaging 30 feet wide.

During the past fiscal year the sum of \$249.28 has been expended in effecting general repairs to the pier, by the renewal of several floor stringers and face timbers, replanking portions of top and approach and putting in new guard timbers and some fender piles on the channel face and outer end.