

in connection therewith, which was formerly performed by the Department of Public Works—the examination of Masters and Mates, and the management of the Meteorological observations throughout the Dominion. The increased correspondence arising out of the complicated state of affairs in connection with the Fishery Question, along with the administration and management of the Marine Police Force, the vessels of which were equipped and commissioned for the purpose of protecting our valuable in-shore sea fisheries, has also added considerably to the labours of the Department during the last two years, as the movements of these vessels, engaged as they were in duties of an important and delicate nature, required constant supervision and care, so as to prevent the officers commanding them from giving any unnecessary offence to the foreign fishermen who might be pursuing their operations on doubtful grounds. In this branch of the Department I have been much indebted to Captain Scott, R.N., who was placed in charge of our cruisers in the Lower Provinces, and whose judicious management of the duties devolving upon him contributed materially to the successful manner in which our rights were maintained with as little irritation as was possible under the circumstances. On several occasions during both the past summer and the previous one, I considered it advisable to visit the fishing grounds myself, and give some degree of personal supervision in the matter, so that I might have an opportunity of conferring with the commanders of the vessels of the force and inspect their vessels. With all the additional duties which have recently devolved upon the Department, I have much pleasure in stating that no material increase has been made in the working expenses of my staff at Ottawa, with the exception of the salary of a General Superintendent of Lighthouses and Constructive Engineer, which officer became absolutely necessary when the Department assumed the duties of construction of new Lighthouses, Steam Fog Whistles, and other works in connection therewith. Such an officer was also very much required in the maintenance of the Lighthouse service throughout the Dominion, as engineering questions were constantly arising in the administration of the Lighthouse service with its lighting apparatus, machinery, buildings, wharves and piers, attached thereto. The person recommended by me for this office was Joseph Tomlinson, Esquire, whom I had formerly known while he was employed by the Government of New Brunswick, and in whose attainments as a practical engineer I had every confidence. He was appointed to the office alluded to, by Your Excellency in Council on the 5th May, 1871, although he had been temporarily employed by the Department for fifteen months previous to that date. His principal duties are to prepare plans and specifications for the new works undertaken by this Department, to visit the grounds on which they are to be built, to determine the sites, inspect the works as they progress, and finally to examine and report on them when finished by the contractors and ready to hand over to the Department. He has also to visit any of the old Lighthouses already in operation when required by the Department to do so, and report on their condition, and description of repairs which are considered necessary, as well as many other minor duties too numerous to mention. Before proceeding further with my report, I may here enumerate the different branches of the Public Service administered by the Department over which I have the honour to preside:—