
COAST SERVICE, LIGHTHOUSES, LIGHTSHIPS, FOG-SIGNALS, PROVISION DEPÔTS BUOYS AND BEACONS ABOVE AND BELOW QUEBEC.

I personally visited some of the stations in my district this season, and made such improvements as appeared necessary.

Owing to the great care required in placing the reflectors of range lights in perfect line with each other, the smallest defect is noticed by the pilots of passing boats, and at once reported to me.

To meet the views of this Department in making the navigation of the St. Lawrence as safe as possible, prompt action is taken to rectify all complaints, of whatever nature and kind, as soon as made known.

No. 2 Lake St. Peter Lightship has been thoroughly repaired, and will last for 20 or 30 years.

The two towers on the wharf at Montreal have been repaired, with a view to their lasting two or three years longer.

From personal inspection, I should think them perfectly serviceable for that length of time, when I believe it is the intention of the Department to put up new iron frames, removable at the end of the season, to be replaced again on the opening of navigation.

From Quebec outwards no important changes in the lights have taken place.

A new Upper Traverse Lightship has been built under contract, by Mr. J. M. Oliver, for \$1,200. She is a first-class vessel, and went to her station on the 16th April, 1878.

The old vessel, after being stripped of all that could be useful, was sold at public auction to the highest bidder, Mr. D. R. McLeod, for \$610.

A new revolving lighthouse has been erected at Greenly Island, Labrador, Straits of Belleisle, and was put in operation on the 13th August, 1878.

The steam whistle at Cape Ray has been removed and put in operation at Forteau, on the 8th August, 1878.

The new steam fog-horn at Cape Ray has not proved reliable, and notice to mariners has been issued to that effect.

The fog-gun formerly used at Forteau, has been removed to Greenly Island, and was put in operation on the 13th August, 1878.

Captain Thomas Connell, an intelligent, zealous and efficient officer, in command of the Manicouagan Lightship, accidentally shot himself upon his return from shooting seals, near his vessel, on the 9th of November last, and has been replaced by Captain Regis Leblanc, who has given every satisfaction since appointed.

Ten range lights at five points on Lake Memphremagog have been erected this season for the advantage of the navigation on that Lake, and will be put in operation at an early period.

A Committee of Enquiry at Ottawa, I believe, has fully established the great importance of telegraphic communication with Anticosti and the Magdalen Islands, and when connected with the south and portions of the north shores, would prove of eminent service to navigation, and its success is looked forward to by the shipping interest with great anxiety, and this year some advancement towards that end has been made by further extension of the line by the Montreal Telegraph Company as far as Fox River, County of Gaspé, thereby affording several more reporting Stations from Cape Rosier upwards.

The Fisheries Protection Service coming under my supervision, is the carrying out of orders I may receive from time to time, and the expenditure of the vessel employed on that duty, &c.

The Fish Breeding Establishments in this District also demand such attention as I may be called to exercise therewith from time to time by the Fisheries Branch of the Department.

Shipwrecked mariners belonging to British registered vessels are at the charge of the British Board of Trade, and are attended to by the Shipping Master. Those of foreign vessels are looked after by their respective countries' Consuls.