

CAPE PINE LIGHTHOUSE.

PRECIS OF PROCEEDINGS.

- 1847 :
August - 26 -- Captain Bayfield, R.N, reports to the Admiralty, pointing out Cape Pine as the best situation for a Lighthouse on the south coast of Newfoundland (See Report).
- September 25 -- Copy of Captain Bayfield's Report forwarded to the Board of Ordnance, with a request that, as it may be found eventually, that a light on Cape Race will also be beneficial to vessels outward-bound, the Lighthouse on Cape Pine may be constructed of iron, of the height of 80 feet, with a view, eventually, to exhibit two lights vertically, one 20 feet above the ground and the other 60 feet above that, also requesting that a beacon of the same metal may be built on Cape Race, on a spot pointed out, of such form and dimensions as may afford, at a future time, a base for the construction of a Lighthouse.
- 1848 :
May - 15 -- Board of Ordnance, in reply states, that just before the receipt of the Admiralty letter, they received a communication from Mr. Alexander Gordon, C.E., who had already been employed in the construction of buildings of the required character (enclosing a copy of his letter); that they forwarded a copy of the Admiralty letter and of Mr. Gordon's to the Commanding Engineer at St. John's, Newfoundland, for his information in preparing the plans and estimate ordered by Government, and they now forward his reply, and a letter from the Inspector General of Fortifications, making some suggestions.
- June - 1 -- Admiralty states, in reply, that they agree with the suggestions of the Inspector-General, and urges (provided Mr. Gordon's plans be satisfactory), the benefit likely to arise from entrusting to him, at once, the execution of the whole undertaking; and pointing out that it would be expedient to employ Lieutenant Binney, R.E., during the summer, in levelling the site, and in tracing out the road from the landing-place, but remarking, that if a gun be used as a fog signal, the powder magazine should be a detached building.
- 1849 :
January - 11 -- Lieutenant Binney, R.E., states, that the authorities of St. John's expect the Home Government to provide the funds for erecting the Lighthouse, the colony promising to maintain it; but, as it appears that 2,000 £. only has been appropriated by the Treasury to that purpose, he proposes that the structure be made of wood.
- „ - 15 -- Board of Ordnance enclose letter from Commanding Engineer, in which he states, that the Governor of the colony and the Committee of Lighthouses, considering that their means are not adequate to the expense which a gun, as a fog signal, would incur, and also considering the risk of having a powder magazine in the building, highly approve of the atmospheric screamer proposed by Mr. Gordon. Commanding Engineer of opinion, that a large bell struck quickly by a hammer worked by machinery, would be equal to the screamer, and not entail the expense of carbonic acid gas or steam, which would be necessary to work the latter.
- „ - 22 Harbour Department, Admiralty, reports to the following effect :—
1. That the Lighthouse be fixed on the site selected at Cape Pine.
 2. That the tower be of iron, at least 50 feet high, on the plan of Mr. Alexander Gordon, C.E., and that it be constructed under the superintendence of the Board of Ordnance.
 3. That the light be on the simplest catoptric or reflecting principle, to revolve or flash once in three minutes, and to burn rape or seal oil.
 4. That the tower be furnished with a screaming apparatus, or a small gun, as a fog signal; if the latter, the powder magazine to be detached.
 5. The tower to be painted with broad red and white bands.
 6. That a conspicuous beacon be erected on Cape Race.
 7. That the tower and apparatus be sent out in a Government steamer, direct from the Thames, which should remain, until the whole is landed and conveyed to the top of the cliff.
 8. That an immediate decision be come to on the subject, so that the light may be exhibited before the winter.

Hydrographer