

that the Board of Harbour Commissioners and Trinity House should be amalgamated, as their duties could then be performed with more advantage and convenience to the public interests than now by two separate bodies, but no change has yet been resolved upon by the Government on this question.

A memorial has also been received from the Board of Trade, St. John's, Province of Quebec, recommending that several lights and buoys should be established on the Richelieu river between St. John's and the American lines, for the purpose of aiding and assisting the great inland traffic which is now carried on by that route between Canada and the United States. Several members and officers of the Trinity House, Montreal, which has supervision over that river, as well as my deputy, have recently visited the localities where the lights are required to be placed, and they have all urged upon me the great necessity which exists for them; and I am of opinion that it would be very desirable to place a few lights and buoys at the places suggested, with the view of aiding the growing traffic on this route, the expenses for construction and maintenance of which would be very small.

The total amount expended by the Trinity House, Montreal, during the last financial year, was \$22,453 52, including salaries of officers, lighthouse keepers, and maintenance of lights, buoys, and steamer. The expenditure during the year ended 30th June, 1870, was \$21,699 49. For the year ended 30th June, 1869, \$25,762 54, and for the year ended 30th June, 1868, \$23,053 53. The number of paid officials employed in connection with the Trinity House, Montreal, at the close of navigation, in 1871, was as follows, viz:—

The master, registrar and treasurer, superintendent of pilots, clerk, bailliff and messenger	5
Light-keepers, including keepers of light vessels	33
Assistants on light vessels	3
Captain and crew, steamer <i>Richelieu</i>	6
Harbour master, Sorel (now vacant)	1
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Total number of persons	48

I regret to add that Mr. Joseph Mondor, who for the last 20 years acted as harbour master at Sorel, and agent for the Trinity House, Montreal, died on the 11th September last, and as it was near the close of navigation no permanent appointment was made to fill his place. Mr. G. H. Bramley was, however, directed by the Trinity House to perform the duties temporarily, until a permanent appointment is made.

Mr. Narcisse Arcaud, the keeper of the light vessel No. 2 on Lake St. Peter was accidentally drowned on the 4th August, 1870, while coming up in his boat to Sorel for supplies, and his brother Edward Arcaud was appointed in his place.

The depth of water on the flats of Lake St. Peter is ascertained by the keeper of this light vessel, and is marked on the side of the vessel in large figures every day, so that vessels passing can see it. A report is made daily for the information of all parties