

In the month of September last, she went to the assistance of the ship "Frith of Clyde," which had been wrecked at Isle St. Pierre, on the coast of Newfoundland, and after rendering all the assistance that was practicable, she was returning to Quebec, having been unable to bring the wrecked vessel with her, and during a thick fog she ran on the rocks at Port à Basque, in the neighbourhood of Cape Ray Light-house, and very nearly became a total wreck. The weather being calm at the time, she was temporarily repaired and got off, when she proceeded slowly to Quebec, which place she fortunately reached in safety. Several of the iron plates in her bottom were very much damaged and had to be taken out and replaced. As she was engaged to proceed to St. Pierre, at the rate of \$300 per diem, she earned enough to leave a considerable margin for the repairs rendered necessary by this unfortunate accident. If she had not been built with compartments, it is doubtful if she could have been got off.

The other steamer employed at Quebec is the "Druid," also an iron vessel, but much smaller and of lighter draught of water than the "Napoleon." She is propelled by paddle wheels, and is principally used for supplying the light-houses in the river and laying buoys. On account of her paddles, she is not so suitable for service when there is floating ice on the river, as the screw boats, but on ordinary occasions she has been found to be a most serviceable and powerful boat. Before commencing her work last spring, she had a new boiler put in her, and had other repairs and alterations made at an expense of about \$7,000. Both these steamers have been fitted up with powder magazines, as large quantities of powder have to be carried to the light-houses below Quebec, for the use of the signal guns.

The total amount received during the last fiscal year on account of services rendered by these two steamers to vessels in distress, beyond their services to the Government, was \$2,004

The screw steamer "Lady Head," is a good serviceable sea boat, and has been for some time past stationed at Halifax and Pictou, employed in the Marine Police duties, and occasionally visiting Sable and St. Paul's Island, to render assistance to shipwrecked persons. She is commanded and managed by Captain Scott, R. N., who has had charge of the Marine Police Force in the waters of the Lower Provinces.

The amount expended by Mr. Gregory, the Agent of the Department at Quebec, on account of maintenance and repairs of the two steamers stationed in the St. Lawrence, for the fiscal year ended 30th June last, was \$59,797 05, and the amount expended by Mr. Johnston, the Agent of the Department at Halifax, on account of the steamers stationed there for the same period, was \$13,139 86, making altogether the sum of \$72,936 91 for maintenance and repairs of these three steamers.

The amount voted by Parliament for this service was \$73,300, leaving an unexpended balance of \$363 09.

The steamer "Richelieu," is an old paddle wheel steamer in the service of the