

The following pole lights in Minas Basin have been changed from white to red lights, and have been supplied with lanterns: Masstown, Economy, Little Dyke and Port au Pique.

BUOY SERVICE.

The large iron can buoy at Brig Rock was carried adrift from its station in April last, but was picked up by fishermen off Ship Harbour; the moorings, however, were lost.

The automatic buoy off Sheet Harbour was carried adrift by the ice in May last. It was picked up off Beaver Harbour by fishermen, with loss of moorings, whistle and guard, and two plates damaged. The buoy was brought to Halifax by the "Newfield" and repaired.

In December last the automatic buoy on the Lurcher Shoal was found to have drifted into six fathoms of water. On examination of the moorings the flue of the anchor was found broken off. A new buoy, with moorings, was placed by the "Newfield."

The automatic buoy on the Blonde Rock, which was lost in December, 1883, has never been recovered, and the shoal remained without any mark up to October last, when a new buoy was placed by the "Lansdowne" at the same place as the former one.

Large iron can buoys were placed, one off the shoal of the Cape Jack Ledges: one on the Orpheus Rock; one at Farens Ledge, off Lockeport Harbour; one on Kelly's Shoal; one on the Roaring Bull, Yarmouth.

A number of small iron can buoys and spar buoys have been placed on various parts of the coast and in the harbours of the Province.

As a means of distinguishing more readily the black and red spar buoys, the experiment has been tried of having a ball on top of the red or starboard buoys. The red starboard buoys in Lennox Passage, St. Peter's Bay, the Bras d'Or Lakes, Louisburg and Arichat have been fitted with balls. This is found to be such an improvement, that it is likely all red spar buoys will be fitted with balls this winter, before being replaced on the opening of navigation.

Sable Island.

Carpenters and building materials were taken to the Island last June by the "Newfield," to effect necessary repairs and improvements. A new boathouse was erected at the East End Station, with three cradles for boats, and a tramway from boathouse to water; a shed built near the east end barn, and repairs made to the foot of lake barn; re-shingling done to roof of sailors' home and the root cellar; a new lookout placed at the main station.