

laying down, taking up and keeping in position the large number of buoys below Quebec. Besides sailing his vessel, Captain Marmen performs the duties of inspecting the lighthouses, and attending to other matters in a prompt and efficient manner. The "Druid's" speed would be greatly improved, and a considerable saving in the consumption of fuel effected, if she were furnished with patent floats, and a surface condenser, the cost of which would be saved in two or three years by the advantages gained.

The steamship "Lady Head," under the direction of Commander N. Lavoie, and sailed by Captain C. Morin, was built of iron by Messrs. R. Napier & Sons of Glasgow, in 1857, and is of 100 horse-power nominal, with a carrying capacity of about 1,000 barrels. She is employed during the season of navigation as an armed cruiser, for the protection of the Fisheries, and her services are fully reported upon in the Fisheries Branch of the Annual Report, by Commander Lavoie. This vessel ran ashore on the night of the 10th August last at Point Jeunne near Fox River, Gulf of St. Lawrence, and became a total wreck; no lives were lost. Efforts were made by the Department to save her, but finding them ineffectual after expending about \$3,000, the wreck was sold at public auction for \$650. All the rigging, sails, anchors, chains and furniture of all description was saved, and brought to this Agency. The purchaser, Mr. L. Leclaire, after trying to save the vessel, and expending considerable money, abandoned her. An official enquiry has been ordered into the cause of the disaster.

The police steamer "Dolphin," sailed by Chief Coxswain Cunningham, of the Quebec River Police Force, is a small craft 50 feet long, 12 feet beam, draws about five feet of water, and is propelled by a 10 horse-power engine; she is employed on police duty in the harbour of Quebec.

The police launch "Wannonish," is also employed on River Police service during the season of navigation under Coxswain Battle. This vessel was entirely renewed last winter, the hull being built on the Island of Orleans, by Mr. A. Pouliot, at a cost of \$425. Her engines and boiler are found of considerable use in turning the lathes in the machine shop of the Agency during the winter, when a large portion of repairs and outfits are made to the different services under my control.

In the forge and machine shops connected with the Agency, are executed the principal repairs to the vessels and lighthouses in the district. The forge contains four bellows and anvils, and some valuable tools, almost in constant use, especially during the winter, when frequently several more fires are employed to meet the requirements of the service.

All repairs to the hulls of the iron vessels are attended to by the master smith, Mr. Charles Vezina, whose ability has been fully displayed in the excellent work he has turned out during twenty years in the employ, notably the extensive repairs to the steamship "Napoleon III."

Near the forge is the machine shop and turning lathe, driven by steam from the boiler of the launch "Wannonish" in winter.

In this shop a great variety of work is performed for engines and apparatus connected with fog whistles and revolving lights, by the engineers of the steamers under yearly salary, thus keeping them profitably employed.

The carpenter's shop under the direction of Mr. Telesphore Routier, employs several men in making models for machinery, castings, repairs to lighthouses, &c., and contains a large number of valuable spare models, carefully preserved for use.

The accommodation afforded by the large adjoining premises (the Queen's wharf and stores) having been acquired by the Department, has enabled me to store several hundred barrels of petroleum in bomb-proof vaults, thereby effecting an annual saving of about \$600, and having the articles of supply near at hand. The upper portion is used for storing boats, rigging, sails, spars, &c., and the west end made into quarters for the River Police Force.

During the past winter the coxswains of the River Police, retained at half-pay, were employed on repairs and outfitting, and fully earned the amount they received.

Repairs are absolutely necessary to preserve the Queen's and the Department wharves from becoming dangerous, and a small amount this year has again been spent for that purpose.