

## Department of Public Works.

During the past winter the sum of \$284.57 was expended in effecting the following repairs. Sheathing and inserting new face timbers in the seaward face over a length of 50 feet at its outer end, securing loose sheathing inward of the outer 50 feet, placing two new face timbers and cap on the upper portion of the inner face over a length of 60 feet, placing and securing in position other face timbers which were found out of place and in putting on 12 new fenders on the bottom portion of the seaward face.

### POINTE DU CHÊNE.

Pointe du Chêne (Shediac Harbour), Westmoreland County, the eastern terminus of the Intercolonial Railway, and principal point of connection with ports on the Gulf of St. Lawrence and Prince Edward Island, is situated on the western side of Northumberland Strait, about midway between the entrance to Richibucto Harbour on the north and Baie Verte on the south.

For the protection of the railway wharf, which had on several occasions received much damage during easterly gales, the department, in 1875, constructed a detached breakwater, 600 feet in length, sheltering its outer end, which in 1879-80, was connected with the railway wharf by the construction of work, 200 feet in length, forming a place for the deposit of ballast, to enlarge which and protect the inner portion of the railway wharf, an extension inwards 600 feet of the breakwater was constructed in 1881-82.

The outer 600 feet of the breakwater built in 1875, having become much weakened by the action of the sea worms, was destroyed by a storm that occurred in the fall of 1891, and a contract for its reconstruction was entered into 17th June, 1893. Work, however, was not commenced at the close of the fiscal year.

### RAM PASTURE NECK.

This place, in Westmoreland County, is situated near the western boundary of the "Great Tantramar Marsh" and village of Sackville. The Tantramar River at this point is very crooked and two of its bends approach within 100 feet of each other, the dividing strip of marsh being known as the "Ram Pasture Neck." As the water at high spring tides was found to pass over this, it appeared probable that in time the river would form a new channel and so be diverted from its course past the wharfs at Sackville, rendering them and the branch line of railway connecting with the Intercolonial useless.

To prevent this, the department, in 1875, at an expenditure of \$900, constructed a brush breakwater or breastwork 600 feet in length to fill in and protect the lower and most exposed portion of the "Neck." This work was raised and repaired in 1880, lengthened 265 feet, and its western end connected by a dyke 600 feet in length, with the end of the dyke surrounding the portion of marsh lying to the westward and known as the "Ram Pasture Marsh."

The action of the river has since entirely carried away 200 feet of the breastwork and seriously injured a further length of 365 feet and destroyed the 600 feet of dyking connecting with the Ram Pasture dyke, allowing the water at high tides to pass over the neck, and the reconstruction and repair of the works having become necessary, these were effected during the past fiscal year and 120 feet in length added. The work built is of a substantial nature, more so than that first constructed, and as its outer side, where exposed, is protected by a plank slope. It will likely prove effective for some years.

The sum expended has been \$2,000.

### RIVER SAINT JOHN.

The Saint John is the largest river in the maritime provinces. It takes its rise in the state of Maine near the source of the Penobscot and Connecticut Rivers, and falls into the Bay of Fundy at the harbour and city of St. John, after traversing a distance of about 500 miles.