

the climatology and meteorology of the northern portion of this continent, which has hitherto been unknown and consequently unavailable, and the storm signals at the principal sea-ports of the Dominion, which will probably result from a well matured system of meteorological observations cannot fail to be of the utmost importance to our maritime interests, and tend to secure the safety of life and property afloat. The account in detail of the expenditure of the \$5,000 voted by Parliament for this service for the current fiscal year will appear in the public accounts and in the report of this Department for the year ended 30th June, 1872, during which period it will have been expended, and although the utmost economy has been used in its disbursement, still it will scarcely be sufficient to meet the liabilities incurred for instruments, books, forms, records, telegraphing, and assistance, and it is my intention to recommend that an additional sum of \$3,000 be placed in the Supplementary Estimates for the current fiscal year to meet the liabilities incurred, and to carry on the system inaugurated, until the 30th June next. With reference to the ensuing fiscal year, Professor Kingston has, at my request, carefully prepared the necessary estimates for the performance of this service during that period, on the most economical scale consistent with its efficiency, computing the extent of ground and the number of persons to be employed, amounting to \$10,000, and I will be prepared at the proper time to recommend that this amount should be placed in the estimates to be submitted to Parliament at its next session, as I am of opinion that the money could not be better expended than in this service. With this small amount I will be able to make the necessary arrangements to furnish some new instruments which are much needed, and probably to furnish also from time to time to the principal sea-ports of the Dominion, on the Atlantic side of the Continent, a storm warning or weather telegraph of danger to be apprehended; but with this amount I do not expect to be able to send a daily telegram of the state of the weather to such ports.

The amount voted for the Quebec Observatory for the year ended June last was \$2,400, and the amount expended was the same as will be seen by the report of the Director in the Appendix.

The amount voted for the Observatory and Time Ball at St. John, N. B., for the last fiscal year was \$1,400, and the amount expended was \$1,179 82. The amount voted for the maintenance of the Magnetic Observatory at Toronto during last fiscal year was \$4,800, and the same amount was expended.

The amount voted for the Observatory at Kingston was \$500, and the amount expended was the same.

The amount voted for the Observatory at Montreal was \$500, and the expenditure was the same.

The amount of \$750 was voted for the establishment of an Observatory at Halifax, but as no steps have yet been taken for its construction no part of the vote was expended.

As the supervision of the observatories at Toronto, Kingston and Montreal is not under my Department, the expenditures on account of these institutions are not made through my office, and the officers who superintend them have not hitherto made any report to me of their proceedings.