

was \$116,800, leaving an unexpended balance of \$15,675 29 on this vote, which was carried over by an Order in Council into the present fiscal year to complete the construction of these works. The balance of the cost of construction for such of them as were unfinished on the 30th June last, will appear in the returns of the Department for the current fiscal year.

A floating light was established for the first time on the 13th July last, on Sandy Beach Spit, in Gaspé Harbour, for the purpose of leading vessels up the channel and keeping them off the bar. It has been hitherto a small dioptric lantern, shewing red, suspended between the two masts of a schooner, which has been hired for the purpose, but as the light is not strong enough it is proposed to make it a small white dioptric light instead of a red light. The number of keepers to attend to the lights in this division was at the close of navigation 39, including the keepers of the four light ships. In addition to these there were 18 assistant keepers and gunners for the signal guns. The keepers of the lightships engage their own crews and pay them out of the allowance which they receive for the service. The number of the crews in addition to the assistants already mentioned, was 20, making the total number of persons employed in attending to the lights, lightships and steam fog whistles in this division, 77. The total cost of maintaining this service, oil, stores, and salaries for the fiscal year ended 30th June last was \$31,532 75, and the amount voted for this purpose by Parliament for the same period, was \$32,907 46, leaving an unexpended balance of \$1,324 71, which was carried into the current fiscal year.

Since the transfer of the management of the lights in this division from the Trinity House to this Department, Captain Smith, formerly junior superintendent of pilots, has acted as inspector of lights for this district, at his former salary of \$1,200 per annum.

Mr. Gregory, the agent of this Department at Quebec, is also assisted in his office by two clerks, but he has a variety of other duties to perform in addition to the management of the lighthouse service.

A new iron lightship for the Manicouagan shoals, on the north side of the River St. Lawrence, a short distance above the Point de Monts Lighthouse, is now being built in England by contract, and will probably be ready to be moored at her station by the month of July next. The engine, boiler, and machinery for the steam fog whistle, which will be placed in her are also being made under contract, and will be ready on the arrival of the vessel in this country.

A minor lighthouse is under contract for Point Prairie, on Coudres Island, River St. Lawrence, as also a similar description of light for Lark Islet, at the entrance of the Saguenay River. It is expected that both these lights will be exhibited on the opening of navigation. They are intended to aid the local coasting trade on the north shore, and to facilitate the entrance of vessels into the Saguenay River. It is proposed to erect a powerful sea light on Cape Despair, in the County of Gaspé, at the north east entrance of the Bay Chaleur, but the amount voted for it last year, viz., \$1,000, was not sufficient for the purpose, and the construction of it has consequently been delayed until Parliament votes a sufficient additional sum to build and equip a good sea light there.