

completed. It will probably be lighted up about May next. Three new Lighthouses are also under contract to be built in Lake Superior, and the material is now being prepared for them. They will probably be lighted up in August next. The new Lighthouse at Port Maitland which was built during the last season to replace the old one which was blown down is now finished, and my officers report it to me as a very superior work. The cost of it will appear in the financial statement of the Department for the current year.

Extensive repairs have been made on the pier at Gull Island Light, Lake Ontario, which were much required and now render it quite safe. It is one of the best lights on the lakes.

An ice breaker is much required at Point Claire pier Light, at the mouth of the River Ottawa, as also at Lancaster Bar Pier Light, and tenders have been invited for their construction. Contracts will be immediately made to have these works done before the opening of navigation, so as to protect the Lighthouse Towers from the action of the ice in the spring.

The oil and the other supplies for the Lights in this Division for the year ended 30th June, 1871, were delivered in July and August, 1870, in the screw propeller *Mary Ward*, at a contract price of \$1,400, and for the year ending 30th June, 1872, in the same vessel for \$1,700.

The total expenditure for the maintenance of the Lighthouses, Light Ships, buoys and beacons, above Montreal, including the construction of the beacon Lights on the Ottawa River, for the fiscal year ended 30th June, 1871, was \$44,053.99, against \$46,289.05 for the previous year. The amount voted by Parliament for this service for the last fiscal year was \$44,604, leaving an unexpended balance of \$550.01.

Many of the Lights in this district have been much improved during the past year by the addition of large circular burner lamps, each of which gives a light equal to twenty-seven candles. They consume a large quantity of oil, but the cost of it is small compared with the additional brilliancy of the light and the advantages to the navigation.

On the 7th March last, Mr. Isaac Hope of Kingston was appointed inspector of Lights for this division at a salary of \$1,200, in the place of Mr. D. C. Smith, deceased.

Numerous complaints reached this Department for some time past that the growing timber on Presqu' Isle peninsula, Lake Ontario, was being rapidly cut down, and that the protection which it had hitherto afforded to vessels running into Presqu' Isle harbor during stormy weather for shelter, would probably be destroyed, unless some measures were soon taken to protect it. On enquiry, it was found that the peninsula was owned by the Government of Ontario, and that this Department had no legal right to prevent the destruction of this valuable shelter to vessels making for that harbor of refuge. The subject was however brought under the notice of the Ontario Government, and they consented to transfer the peninsula to this Department with a view of protecting the timber that was still left on it. A considerable portion of the peninsula was found to be under cultivation by persons who had either squatted or settled on it themselves, or had bought out the improvement from previous squatters. In October last, my deputy visited the peninsula in company with Joseph Keeler, Esquire, the