

## POINT LEPREAUX (TWO FIXED WHITE, 27 FEET APART.)

Lat. 45° 3' 40" N.; Long. 66° 27' 39." W.

I visited this Station when the steamer "Newfield" was on her annual tour, for the purpose of carrying supplies to the lighthouses and fog-whistles of the different stations on the Bay of Fundy. I found the lights well maintained and everything kept in a clean and orderly condition. Mr. George Thomas, the keeper of this Station, is one of the most careful, painstaking and experienced light-keepers in this branch of the service, and any casual observer, in passing through the lighthouse and over all parts of the premises, is at once struck with its neat and regular appearance.

The reflectors of both lights have a bright and high polish, and reflect, like mirrors, objects put in front of them; we have none like them on this coast. I could not but ask Mr. Thomas how he obtained such a brilliant polish, and he replied that he occasionally used the silver wash supplied by me some few years ago. He was at first disposed to throw it away, believing that it did no good, but Mr. Thomas, being a thoroughly intelligent and practical man, was determined to give it a fair trial before condemning it. He therefore persevered, using it as directed, and it was not long before he found the reflectors getting brighter and more brilliant, and by perseveringly continuing its use, they were in time covered with a new coating of silver, fully as bright, if not more so, than when they first came out of the silversmith's battery. The liquid did not at once, nor on being several times used, produce this result, but at each time of washing the reflector retained a small portion of the silver which was held in solution in the liquid, until after repeated applications its effects were seen by the covering of silver, evenly deposited all over the face of the reflectors, so that now, after some years' use, those reflectors keep and present a more brilliant and highly polished surface than any in the service that have come under my observation. I, therefore, feel greatly indebted to Mr. Thomas for this practical result of an experiment, which I adopted with some degree of reluctance on the recommendation of Mr. Hillman, some years ago. I afterwards felt disappointed at the results of its trial at the lighthouses where I had sent it, with directions for its use. Most, if not all, of the other keepers threw it aside, and pronounced it useless, but I shall again direct it to be used by all those light-keepers who have been supplied with it. At some Stations the reflectors are old, and its use could only be expected to be serviceable where the surface is good and the silvering not actually worn off; where this is the case they will again require re-silvering, and then, by using this liquid, the brilliancy of the reflectors may be maintained and yearly improved, instead of being removed and worn off by the constant cleaning as has heretofore been the case.

I had an opportunity of testing the boat supplied by the Department recently to this Station. Mr. Thomas is delighted with her, and well he may be. I saw him launch her down over the bank and along the beach of jagged and uneven rocks with the greatest ease, without the least injury to the boat; he lifts her about as if she were a toy, carrying her from one rock to another with great ease, and when in the water she floats with much buoyancy, is perfectly safe and easy to manage, and will carry from six to eight persons safely in a heavy sea. Several of the stations have already been supplied with boats from this model by the same builder, and all who have received them are delighted with them. It has been a very difficult matter to supply the keepers with satisfactory boats, as they had so many different notions respecting what was required, but I am now satisfied that for a rowing boat we have now reached precisely what is required.

The sills of the lighthouse tower on the south-east side of this Station are very considerably decayed, and will require renewing next season. (This building was erected in 1831, 47 years ago), and when that is being attended to such other repairs as may be required can then be made.

The road to Thomson's Cove, over which the coal is carted, required some repairs, and I gave Mr. Thomas permission to expend from \$10 to \$15 in repairs