

have assumed the duty, and it is probable their assistance will be of great importance to the undertaking.

In addition to these chief stations alluded to, which are superintended by high class men who have made the subject a study, there are considerably upwards of a hundred ordinary stations throughout the Dominion which are in communication with the chief Director of the scheme at Toronto, who send in the result of their observations as opportunity offers. Some of the observers at the ordinary stations are men of education and scientific attainments, who have kindly volunteered to give their valuable aid and assistance in carrying out the scheme which has been attempted under such favorable auspices.

Observations are recorded at thirty-seven of the principal Lighthouse Stations, which were selected on account of their favorable localities and the ability of the keepers to make observations, and keep records, many of whom are very intelligent men, well versed in all matters relating to weather. Some of these stations, such as Sable Island, St. Paul's Island, Belle Isle and others in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the Straits of Belle Isle, are beyond the reach of the Post Office, and their records cannot therefore be procured and made available for monthly or quarterly reports, as they can only be received by the Department at long intervals, when one of the Government steamers visits them with their annual supplies. Still their observations and records, made all at the same time each day and forming part of a regular system, although not immediately available, are both useful and valuable in ascertaining general results, and arriving at correct conclusions with reference to the course and range of storms over an extended area. In the event of the Legislature seeing fit to make the necessary provision for the extension and perfecting of this important and extensive scheme which I propose to carry out, and for which I will recommend to my colleagues in the Government, an increased sum to be placed in the estimates for the ensuing fiscal year, say \$10,000; arrangements will also soon be made for the establishment of one or more Meteorological Stations in British Columbia, and the result of the observations taken there will be communicated by mail to the chief office at Toronto. When these arrangements are completed, and meteorological observations are systematically recorded daily at numerous stations throughout the Dominion, numbering probably one hundred and fifty, scattered over an area of many thousands of miles in extent—ranging from the Atlantic to the Pacific—Canada will be able to present to the scientific world a meteorological record and analysis of the laws of storms, scarcely inferior to that of any other country, and probably superior to many of the older and wealthier countries of Europe, which have not the same facilities and extent of territory possessed by the Dominion. The importance of being able to ascertain from these proposed extended observations, the operation and course of the great storms which occasionally sweep over the Atlantic and a large portion of this continent, as exhibited by the data subsequently collected and tabulated in the form of storm charts or tables, cannot well be over estimated. Such a system, if properly and vigorously carried out, must have an important bearing on the interests of Commerce, and must necessarily be the means of diffusing a vast amount of useful knowledge relating to