

Up to the present time very little has been done in the way of raising crops, the present superintendent having always found so many difficulties in the way of successfully cultivating the land.

The Government of Prince Edward Island contributed last fiscal year as their share of the expense of maintaining the Lighthouse and Humane Establishment on St. Paul's Island, under the award of the arbitrators who met in 1836 for the purpose, the sum of \$136 79. The amount contributed for the previous year was \$204 62

The total cost of maintaining the lighthouses, fog alarms, signal stations, buoys and beacons, in Nova Scotia, during the last fiscal year, was \$62,783 62, in Nova Scotia currency. Humane establishments, including Sable Island, St. Paul's, Scatterie, Mud and Seal Islands, \$10,552 51, making altogether when reduced to Canadian currency, the sum of \$71,380 44. The total expenditure in Nova Scotia for the last fiscal year, on account of maintenance and construction of lighthouses, including payments made for lanterns, &c., for Sable Island Light, Humane Establishments, Fog Whistles, Buoys and Beacons, when reduced to Canadian currency, was \$84,820 49, and the amount voted was \$84,864 00, leaving an unexpended balance of \$43 51, which reverted to the treasury.

The quantity of oil required for the Light-house service of the Dominion for the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1872, was 46,500 gallons, and on the 23rd February, 1871, the department invited tenders for its supply. The oil was required to be non-explosive at a vapor test of 105° Fahrenheit, must burn brilliantly without smoking until entirely consumed, and not crust the wick, must be free from all deleterious substances, and remain fluid at 10° Fahrenheit. The casks to be included in the price of the oil, and to be prepared outside and inside, so as, to prevent the oil from leaking. Tenders were received from thirteen different parties, and after the samples had been duly tested by the officers of the department, it was found that the tender of Messrs. F. A. Fitzgerald & Company, of the Union Petroleum Works, London, Ontario, was the most advantageous for the Government, with reference to price and quality. They agreed to furnish according to sample 15,500 gallons at Halifax, at 21 cents per gallon; 6,000 gallons at St. John, N. B., at 21 cents per gallon; 12,000 gallons at Quebec, at 19 cents per gallon; 7,000 gallons at Montreal, at 18 cents per gallon; 2,600 gallons at Hamilton, at 16½ cents per gallon, and 3,400 gallons at Sarnia, at 16 cents per gallon. This offer would give the oil for the Light-houses of the Dominion at an average rate of 19  $\frac{4}{10}$  cents per gallon, which is the lowest rate at which oil was ever purchased by the Government. The sample of the oil tested before the acceptance of the offer was pronounced by the Analytical Photometrical Oil Chemist of the Department to be of excellent quality, and samples were tried also from the casks when delivered, which were found to agree with the original samples tested. Reports were received from a number of Light keepers, bearing testimony to the excellent quality of the oil, while a few of the Light keepers reported that they had not found it so good as they could have wished. This may have been owing to some impurity in some particular barrels, or to some defect in the lamps.