

Productions.—The amount and variety of vegetation on this gigantic sand bar is extraordinary. Besides two kinds of grass, there are wild peas and other plants, affording subsistence to wild horses and rabbits, as well as to the domestic cattle belonging to the establishment. There are no other animals on the island, excepting rats, which have come on shore from wrecks. There are also four or five kinds of edible berries in great abundance, and many flowers and shrubs, but no trees.

Fresh water can be obtained in almost any part by digging down a few feet into the sand. Seals and abundance of wild fowl frequent the island in their seasons.

The fisheries around the island are exceedingly valuable, but the danger of remaining near its formidable bars has hitherto restricted the number of vessels engaged in them.

The Establishment on Sable Island for the relief of shipwrecked persons is situated on the north side of the island between the pond and the sand hills, and consists of a comfortable house for the superintendent and his family, buildings for the men and the occasional accommodation of shipwrecked persons, for storing provisions and other property saved from wrecks, workshops, stabling, etc.

The superintendent has under him sixteen men, who are stationed as follows, viz, the superintendent and six men at the main station which is at the west flagstaff; at the west end lighthouse, the lighthouse keeper and his assistant; at the east end, the lighthouse keeper, his assistant, and two boatmen; at the middle station, two boatmen; and at the foot of the lake station, two boatmen. In addition there are generally two or three extra men. These stations are all connected by telephones.

The staff, with their families, number about forty-six persons, and no one is allowed to reside on the island without the authority of the marine department.

No wrecks can take place on the island at a greater distance than 6 miles from some one of these posts; and in the event of one occurring the outposts report to the superintendent at the principal establishment.

Life-saving Apparatus.—Life-boats are stationed at the east end, and at the main station, besides the surf boats. There is also a rocket apparatus at the main station, and a life car at the east end.

During fogs and snow storms mounted men patrol the beach to ascertain if any wrecks have taken place.

The West Flagstaff, which points out the position of the principal establishment, stands on a sand hill 40 feet high, and with its crow's nest, or lookout, 100 feet above the sea, is a conspicuous object on the north side of the island.

The East Flagstaff, 40 feet high, is also a conspicuous object, standing on a sand hill on the north side of the island.