

the island, few complaints have been brought against any of them; but in the event of liquor finding its way there from wrecked vessels, it is possible some misconduct might take place, as irregularities sometimes occur in the best regulated families, and the staff on the island is simply a large Government family, with the Superintendent at the head of it.

With reference to the complaint made by some of the passengers and crew, that it took too long time to obtain provisions for them after being landed at the lighthouse station, it may be mentioned that the principal stock of provisions is kept at the main station, fifteen miles away, the road being over heavy, soft sand, and some time must necessarily elapse before meals could be prepared, under such circumstances, for a crowd of people numbering 250. But there are plenty of provisions kept by the Government on the island, besides forty or fifty head of cattle, and upwards of 200 wild horses or ponies. It is not probable, therefore, in the event of a large number of emigrants being wrecked on the island, that they would suffer any great inconvenience for the want of provisions, and in the case of the emigrants referred to, their complaints had no substantial foundation.

During fogs and snow storms, when the whole extent of the shore of the island cannot be seen from the look-out stations, some of the men patrol the beach on horseback, at stated intervals, for the purpose of ascertaining whether any wrecks have taken place.

In 1870, a schooner was sent by the Marine Department to the island with supplies and provisions, and after delivering her cargo she left, with the view of returning to Halifax, but was never seen nor heard of afterwards. It is supposed that she either foundered or capsized, as a heavy gale sprang up after she left, but not a soul survived to tell the tale and no trace of her, or anything belonging to her, was ever found.

Although great loss of life has occurred, from time to time, on the shores or bars of the island, still many poor shipwrecked people have been assisted in their misfortunes, and have partaken of Government hospitality at some of the stations on that bleak bank of sand.

The British Government contribute annually £400 towards the maintenance of the humane establishment kept up on this island, but nothing towards the construction or maintenance of the two large lighthouses erected there in 1873. The total cost of maintaining the lighthouses and humane establishments referred to, during last fiscal year, was \$6,115.

Previous to 1873, no lights had ever been exhibited on Sable Island, as it was a disputed point for many years, as to whether the establishment of such would not be more dangerous to shipping than if there were none, the opinion being held, on the one hand, that vessels ought to give the island so wide a berth that the lights would not be visible to them, and that even if they came within sight of them, it might tend to draw them too near the sand bars in the hope of making the lights and defining their position, thereby incurring a risk and danger which might be avoided if there was no