

consequence of the care taken in manufacturing them. The cost must be somewhat in proportion to the weight, and all my estimates are only approximate.

Telegraphic communication with the Magdalen Islands is of great importance to the Government, not only in the interest of navigation but in protecting the fisheries, and upholding the laws, as desperate characters frequent the neighborhood during the fishing season.

To give an idea of the amount of shipping visiting the Islands I may mention that I have seen fishing and other vessels in such numbers in Pleasant Bay that I could not count them correctly. Last season I counted over two hundred in sight at one time.

I am of opinion that a cable there would pay as a private enterprise, particularly as a feeder to other lines. But in a country like ours the system of telegraphs should be self-sustaining only, and not dividend paying—the more important lines sustaining the branches.

The Islands can be connected by cable with either the East Point of Prince Edward Island or with Cape St. Lawrence, Cape Breton.

There would be very little difference in the expense of the two routes. The cable from Cape Breton, if made to connect with East Island, would be two miles longer; but there would be only ten miles of land line needed on Cape Breton, and thirty on Prince Edward Island.

The rates for messages from Prince Edward Island are so high that it would be better to lay the cable from Cape Breton.

A cable connection with Bird Rock would have to start from East Island.

The same length of line will be required on the Islands in both cases, and the same length of cable to Bird Rock.

The cost of cable and land line from either Cape Breton or Prince Edward Island would be about \$78,000. Fifty miles of land line on Magdalen Islands \$10,000, and seventeen miles of cable to Bird Rock \$25,000; the whole amounting to \$113,000.

It is proposed to connect Cape Breton and St. Paul's Island with a cable 22 miles long. I have not been to the Island, and am not prepared to express any decided opinion, though I do not doubt the importance of the connection.

A telegraph line along the South Shore, between Matane and Fox River, I do not consider as important as either the Anticosti or Magdalen Islands lines. The coast is so bold, and is being so well lighted, that it does not seem as if vessels could get into difficulty.

I do not know that Sable Island comes under the head of your present enquiries, but telegraphic connection with that Island is very much needed.

Before closing my remarks, I would wish to impress upon the minds of those interested in the permanence of the marine cables, that a thorough and accurate survey of the landing places and the approaches to the coasts should be made by some person of experience in such matters, and that means should be taken to ascertain the nature of the bottom on which the cables are to be laid; so that they may be prepared and protected in a manner suitable for the kind of exposure they may be subjected to.

I feel deeply interested in having lighthouse keepers sufficiently acquainted with electricity to make telegraph operators; and the time is certainly very near when the electric light will supersede all other kinds in first-class lighthouses.

A brilliant electric light can now be maintained at less than one-tenth the expense of an equally powerful light from any other source.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed,)

J. TOMLINSON,
Gen. Supt. of Lighthouses.

Hon. Dr. ROBITAILLE, M.P.,
Chairman of the Select Committee
on Submarine Telegraph System
in the St. Lawrence.