

I examined the sills of the lighthouse, which it was feared were decayed from the long exposure to wet from the defective hip roof at the base of the building. I have great pleasure in stating that I found the sills had not undergone the amount of decay it was feared from their long exposure from the bad roof referred to. I had some difficulty in reaching the sills, but did so, particularly on the north side of the building where they were most exposed, and could see the condition of the others on the south side, though I could not get to them, and would therefore report that no repairs are needed on that part of the building nor need be for years to come.

The hip roof I found very much decayed, the nails are completely rusted off, and the shingles loose, and it is from this source that water finds its way to the sills of the lighthouse. This part of the building requires renewing, but no serious damage will ensue if it should be deferred till another season, when it could be removed early in the season so as to allow the frame to become dry.

The granite wall surrounding the tower, and built for its protection, is a strong and formidable structure, and requires to be kept in good order, this I found has of late been very much shaken, and should be repaired without delay; the stones or blocks of granite have not been removed from their places, but are loose and require to be cemented anew, as all the old filling is completely gone. I landed the cement on the island for this purpose, and will direct to have it attended to; the expense will not be large, though the seams are very open.

The whole of the platform on the north side of the building, which is wood work has rotted and decayed, so as to be unsafe to land anything upon, and they have not been using the signal gun in consequence, and serious disaster might ensue from such neglect. The specification of lumber sent to me for this purpose was only in part what is required. I shall therefore send suitable scantling by some small vessel, and have this work done without delay, as it is unavoidable, and should not have been put off so long, as it endangers the other part of the work on the south side, which is now in good condition.

The cost of the work which I would propose having completed this fall at that Station will not be much, if any, over five hundred dollars, including material.

The illuminating apparatus is worked by delicate machinery. Some parts of it are considerably worn, and, if possible, should be duplicated. I have taken a sketch of the most important pieces, and will communicate direct with Messrs. Chance Bros. to see if they have the patterns, and can supply the parts most needed, from the description and sizes which I am able to give them.

No pains should be spared to have this light and Station kept up to the highest state of efficiency, as it is situated among the Murr Ledges, so dangerous to vessels entering the Bay of Fundy, and with reference to which I have, in all my Annual Reports, directed the attention of the Department, as scarcely a year passes without the loss of some vessel, and frequently great loss of life occurring on those dangerous ledges. A building of some description on the Yellow Murr Ledge might be found of great advantage in saving life and property. I beg to enclose part of a communication, cut out of the *Daily Telegraph*, referring to this wild and dangerous part of our coast.

“The well-known Gannet Rock Light, of which McLaughlin has been keeper 33 years, was erected in about the year 1832. This desolate rock, about nine miles to the north-west of Grand Manan, lies amongst the outermost of those dangerous shoals and ledges which surround the southern part of the island, and render the approach to the Bay of Fundy hazardous and dangerous, especially during those dense fogs which prevail on that part of our coasts. A great number of these ledges are uncovered only at low water, while the swift and stormy tides of Fundy sweep directly through them. The lighthouse is a plain wooden structure, painted white, with black, vertical stripes, and a basement formed of heavy blocks of granite, adding somewhat to its solidity, which is very necessary, as in many gales the sea sweeps over the whole surface of the rock. A light-keeper and his family reside here, a situation lonely enough, as during the prevalence of bad weather all communication