

The hull of the vessel is painted red, with the words "Lower Traverse" in white letters on each top side. A red ball is hoisted on the main mast in day time; if the vessel moves from her station the ball or main mast light will not be shown.

During the continuance of thick weather a steam fog-whistle on the ship gives blasts of 12 seconds' duration, with intervals of 48 seconds between the blasts.

It was deemed advisable in July last to give directions that the fog-gun at the Father Point light station, on the south shore of the River St. Lawrence, in the County of Rimouski, which had hitherto been fired only in answer to steamers' signals for pilots, should be fired every half hour during thick weather, and also in response to signals, if made between regular intervals for firing.

The range lights at Oak Point, on the Restigouche River, in the County of Bonaventure, being no longer required for navigation, it was decided to discontinue them from 1st November last.

The steamship "Montreal," of the Dominion Line, was unfortunately lost on Belle Isle, Strait of Belle Isle, in August last, during a thick fog, and it was deemed advisable in the interests of the shipping traffic between the St. Lawrence and Europe *via* the Strait of Belle Isle to make arrangements for the erection of a steam fog-horn at Cape Norman on the Newfoundland coast of the strait. An effort was made to establish this fog-horn in the latter part of the season, but it was found too late to perfect the arrangements and the horn cannot be put in operation till next season.

During the past season a wooden can buoy was established off Alcide Rock, south-west from Bic Island, in the Lower St. Lawrence. The buoy is moored in 9 fathoms, to the northward of the rock, and is in the line of the two white beacons erected on the south shore, with the white diamond beacon on the west end of Bic Island just open to the northward of the white cross beacon on the same island.

The back tower of the lower range at Isle Ste. Thérèse was totally destroyed by fire on the 24th August last, owing to one of the lamps exploding. A temporary light on a pole was immediately established, and tenders invited for a new building. The contract was awarded to Messrs. Rousson Bros., of Williamstown, Ont., for \$820, and the building has lately been satisfactorily completed.

The following is a synopsis of the principal repairs and improvements made at the lighthouse stations in this division during the past season, exclusive of the ordinary painting, which was done wherever required:—

Amherst Island.

Mammoth flat wick lamps replace the circular wick lamps, and the interior of the dwelling has been repaired.

Bird Rocks.

The dwelling clapboarded and the interior thoroughly repaired, and a wharf built at the landing.

Bicquet.

At the opening of navigation last spring the fog gun at this station was discontinued and a steam fog-horn established in its place.