

9. The working and supervision of the Steamboat Inspection Acts, which are administered by the Board of Steamboat Inspection.

10. The administration of the Act relating to the examination of Masters and Mates and granting certificates of competency and service. The examinations are held by the respective Boards of Examiners, and the certificates are granted and records kept by this Department.

11. The investigation into the wrecks on the coasts of the Dominion, and procuring the necessary wreck returns required by the British Government.

12. All matters relating to granting rewards for saving life at sea, or on the coast of the Dominion, and investigating the circumstances connected therewith.

13. The administration of all matters relating to the meteorological observations made in the Dominion, including the supervision of the Observatories and Time Balls at Quebec and St. John.

14. The supervision of all Shipping Masters in the Dominion and the administration of all matters relating to the shipping and deserting of seamen.

15. The payment of subsidies to steamers not coming under the administration of the Post Office Department.

16. The administration of the funds collected for the improvement of Harbours under the Canadian Act 32 & 33 Vic., Cap. 40.

17. The administration of the laws relating to the sea coast and inland fisheries and the supervision of the large staff of fishery officers maintained by the Government for the protection of the Fisheries, including during last year the management of seven Marine Police Schooners employed in protecting the sea coast fisheries. The development of fish-breeding establishments in the Dominion is also a subject of much interest to the Department.

In addition to the subjects before mentioned, this Department is charged with the administration of all matters relating generally to the Marine interests of the Dominion, including our valuable Fisheries.

Having thus alluded briefly to the business entrusted to the management of this Department, I will now proceed to report on the different branches of the business alluded to.

LIGHTS ABOVE MONTREAL.

This Division extends from the Lighthouse at Lachine on Lake St. Louis up to the Lighthouse at St. Ignace in Lake Superior, and includes at the present time seventy-five Lighthouses and four Light Ships, which are maintained by the Government under the management of this Department. In addition to these there is a Light Ship at Colchester Reef, Lake Erie, a few miles from the Canadian shore, kept by the Messrs. Hackett of Amherstburg, who have for the past few years depended on private subscriptions from masters and owners of vessels and under-writers' associations for their remuneration, but the contributions have not been sufficient to maintain it, and they