

others in Spain and Africa. Our last prodigal was returned to us from Turks Island, in the West Indies, after being absent for about three years. This buoy must necessarily have made a long journey to have reached its destination. The only way in which it could possibly have reached the West Indies is by following the Gulf stream nearly to the coast of Ireland, down through the Bay of Biscay, past the Azores, the Cape Verde islands, and the African coast, and back to the coast of America through the equatorial ocean.

There are many other aids to navigation, such as hydrographic surveys, surveys of tides and currents, and the connection of lighthouses by telegraph with centres of commerce, which have been of great benefit to mariners, and of which an account might be interesting, but they can scarcely be classed as danger warnings, and are thus foreign to my subject. All the large naval powers are at the present moment experimenting with the Marconi system of aerial telegraphy, which the inventor claims will warn a vessel of the existence of danger more efficiently than any of the methods that are at present in use, but it remains to be seen whether the invention can be utilized in this way.

You may have noticed in the public press, during the year, many vigorous attacks on the lighthouse system of Canada. To read them one would think that all our lights and fog alarms were obsolete. If you make allowance for the immense extent of sea coast that we have to cover, for the youth of the country, and for the fact that all our aids to navigation are absolutely free to shipping, you will admit that Canada has accomplished a wonderful work, and one that should receive praise instead of censure, when I tell you that, since Confederation, the number of our lighthouses has been increased from 227 to nearly 900, and of steam fog alarms from 2 to 64. This large number of aids to navigation, besides thousands of buoys and other minor aids that have not been mentioned, are maintained at an annual expenditure of about half a million dollars.