

for permission to establish a lighthouse station there. After some correspondence they agreed to take the necessary steps to place a sum in the estimates to be submitted to their Legislature, for the purpose of erecting a lighthouse at the place referred to. We have now a very superior light on that island, with a steam fog-whistle alongside of it, which adds very much to the usefulness of the light. While the vote was under the consideration of the Legislature at Washington, a condition or rider was attached to it, viz., that the Canadian Government should erect a lighthouse on Colechester Reef, Lake Erie, a dangerous place both to Canadian and United States shipping. The condition was accepted by the Canadian Government, and tenders were invited for the work. Owing to stormy weather, however, the contractor has not been successful in laying the foundation, and he has abandoned the contract, but it is now in the hands of another contractor, and it is probable a light will be in operation there next year.

It is due to the lighthouse authorities at Washington to state that in all matters affecting the improvement of our lighthouse system I have invariably found them most courteous, and both ready and willing to give all the information in their power, as well as the benefit of the experience which they have gained in the management of the lighthouse service required to light up their extensive coasts, both in the Atlantic and Pacific, and it is scarcely necessary for me to say that they have succeeded well in the performance of their important duty, as I think it would be difficult to find better lighted coasts than those of the United States of America, in any part of the world.

A brief reference to Sable Island, which is not only one of our principal lighthouse stations but is also the principal life-saving station in the Dominion, might not be out of place here, as it has recently been brought prominently before the public notice by discussions in the newspapers, both of Canada and New York, in connection with the wreck of the Netherlands steamer "Amsterdam," which went ashore on the east bar of the island on the 31st July last, about thirteen miles eastward of the lighthouse.

The Island is situated in the Atlantic Ocean, about eighty-five miles from Whitehead Island, Nova Scotia, and about 150 miles north-east of Halifax. Although little known to the outside world, it is familiar to mariners as a long, narrow, white, sandy elevation, formed of two nearly parallel ridges, somewhat in the form of a crescent, concave to the northward, and meeting at a point at either end, with sand bars or spits running out from them a distance of some fifteen miles at the east end and probably six miles at the west end, over which the sea breaks with great fury during stormy weather. In the middle of the island and between the ridges is a narrow salt water lake, about fourteen miles long. In very heavy gales the sea sometimes washes over the land on the south side of the island into the lake, and seals, which abound on the shores of the island, have been carried over the land into the lake along with the heavy seas breaking over the beach. The continued action of the sea during stormy weather is having consider-