

are placed at the following places: Mirimachi, Caraquette, Richibucto, Shediac, St. George, Bathurst, St. Andrews, Shippegan, Buctouche, Campbelton, Cocaigne, Bay Verte and St. John. The cost of this service for the fiscal year was \$3,711. Previous to Confederation it was defrayed by tonnage duty on shipping; but now, no dues are exacted.

A Signal station is maintained at Partridge Island, entrance of St. John harbour, for communicating the arrival of vessels.

The Light House service in New Brunswick is managed by an agent resident in St. John, under the direction of the Department. There are now thirty-five lights in operation in New Brunswick, of which nineteen are sea lights.

The new light at Jourimain is visible sixteen miles. The new Light House on Machias Seal Island, together with the repairs to the old light house tower at this station, and the application of new lights are important improvements.

A new Fog Whistle at Le Preau has been found exceedingly useful.

The old light at Escaminac, at the entrance of Mirimachi Bay, has been replaced by a powerful Dioptric light of the third order.

In this district there are now Dioptric lights at six stations, namely, Escaminac, Richibucto, Cape Enragé, St. John Beacon, Gannet Rock, and Machias Seal Island.

At Richibucto and Gannet Rock more powerful lights are to be exhibited. It is also proposed to improve the light at Partridge Island.

NOVA SCOTIA LIGHT HOUSES, &C.

The number of Lights in Nova Scotia now in operation is sixty-five, including four new ones, namely, at Main-a-Dieu, Scatterie Island, Ingonish Island, St. Ann's Harbour, and Pugwash. The total expenditure on account of this service in Nova Scotia was \$62,650, during the last fiscal year; the cost of maintaining the light houses, &c., \$49,058; ditto humane establishments, including Sable, St. Pauls, Scatterie, Mud and Seal Islands, \$10,727. This item includes \$2,128 for new buildings and repairs at St. Pauls.

The Minister of Marine recommends the erection of a powerful steam Fog Whistle on St. Paul's Island, and a discontinuance of the bell rung there by machinery, on account of its inefficiency. This island is lit by two good Dioptric lights, which were erected by the British Government in 1839. It is a dangerous locality, and no less than five wrecks occurred there during the last year. In addition to the lights, the Government maintains a humane establishment, consisting of a superintendent and four men, with accommodation for shipwrecked crews. A humane establishment at Sable Island, consisting of a superintendent and fourteen men, as also one on a more limited scale at Scatterie Island.

SABLE ISLAND.

The Deputy Minister reports that parts of Sable Island are being washed away by the action of the sea, and it is the intention to plant trees or other shrubs suitable for the sandy soil. There are about 300 or 400 wild horses on the island; these have no shelter during the violent storms, or the winter months; they get their living by scraping the snow off with their feet, and feeding on the dry herbage on the ground. The Minister thinks it is in the interest of humanity to

take them off, as soon as convenient, and supply their place with cattle, which may be available for food for shipwrecked crews. Three wrecks took place at this island during last year.

The sum of \$5,000 has been voted by Parliament for constructing a Light House on Sable Island. It is proposed to place, in the spring, a powerful Dioptric light, to be visible thirty miles. Sand bars run out a long distance from the island, and it is important to give vessels timely warning. It is also proposed to place powerful steam Fog Whistles on this Island.

OIL SUPPLIES.

The quantity of Oil required for the Light House service of the Dominion for the last financial year, was 32,000 gallons, which was supplied in bond at 22½ cents per gallon; the kind used is the best quality of refined petroleum oil, of Canadian manufacture.

It is anticipated that the quantity of oil required for the fiscal year, 1872, will be in excess of that of last year, the probable required quantity will be 42,000 gallons. Metal tanks have been provided for keeping the oil.

STEAM SERVICE.

The Department has three steamers in its service: the "Napoleon III," "Lady Head," and "Druid." The amount voted by Parliament for their maintenance was \$55,000; the amount spent was \$54,850. There are two other small steamers in the service of this Department. The total cost of this service was \$60,847 for the last fiscal year.

OBSERVATORIES.

There are two Observatories under the supervision of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, for maritime purposes, namely, one at Quebec, and one at St. John, N. B. Commander Ashe, R. N., is in charge of that at Quebec, George Hutchinson director of that at St. John. Both Observatories give the time every day (except Sunday). When the time ball drops at one o'clock, at the St. John Observatory, the mean time at Greenwich is 5h. 24m. 15s.; when the ball drops at one o'clock at Quebec, the mean time at Greenwich is 5h. 44m. 49s.

There are three other Observatories in Canada, which receive assistance from the Dominion Government, one at Toronto, one at Kingston, and one at Montreal.

HARBOUR AND RIVER POLICE.

For the purpose of maintaining a Harbour and River Police, a tonnage duty of three cents per ton is imposed on all vessels visiting the ports of Quebec and Montreal.

The receipts and expenditure on account of this service, for the two last fiscal years, were as follows:—

	Receipts.	Expenditure.
Fiscal year ending 30th		
June, 1869.....	\$21,952 83	\$22,358 91
Do do do 1870..	23,996 68	18,461 83
	\$45,949 51	\$40,820 74
Excess of receipts over expenditure.....		\$5,128 77

SICK AND DISTRESSED MARINERS.

Under the Act 31 Vic., cap. 64, a duty of two cents per ton is levied on all vessels entering any of the ports in the Provinces of