

tends from the boundary line, above Montreal, to Port Neuf, a distance of 200 miles. An important part of their work is to lay the buoys in the river and mark the channel, and keep it in an efficient state, and the steamer *Richelieu* is kept in constant readiness to proceed to any portion of the district to replace any buoys that have been carried away. There are, in this district, 45 lights, including 3 floating lights in Lake St. Peter and 104 buoys. These were managed by 33 keepers and 3 assistants. There were 34 licensed pilots under the supervision of the Board. The total expenditure for the year on this branch was \$22,453, a slight increase over the preceding year. The placing of a few lights and buoys in the *Richelieu* river, is recommended.

QUEBEC TRINITY HOUSE.

The duties of this Board relate chiefly to pilotage on the Lower St. Lawrence, Harbor Masters' duties, and other minor matters. The number of pilots on the active list was 233 and the number of decayed or infirm pilots, 39. The total expenditure of the Branch was \$11,925.

LIGHT HOUSE AND COAST SERVICE ON LOWER ST. LAWRENCE.

There were, on 30th June, 1871, in this division 27 lights, but before the close of navigation these had increased to 38. Three of these are minor lights above Quebec. A new light has been built on Egg Island in the N. W. part of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, near the entrance of the rivers. It is a white revolving light on the *Catoptric* principle. A new iron Light ship has been placed at Red Island Reef, a fixed white *Catoptric* light; and there is also a steam fog whistle on board. A new floating light has been placed on the Upper Traverse, a small *dioptric* light. A floating light has been established on Sandy Beach Spit, Gaspé harbor. The number of keepers employed in this division was 39, besides 18 assistants and gunners. The total cost of maintenance for this service, was \$31,582, and for construction was \$100,821. A new iron Light ship for the Maricougan shoals is under contract. A minor Lighthouse is being built on Coudres Island, and another at the entrance of the Saguenay. A new Lighthouse has been erected at Carleton Point, Bay Chaleurs, a fixed red light. There are 51 buoys and 47 beacons in the division.

NEW BRUNSWICK DIVISION.

There were, at the close of navigation, last year, 33 lights in this division; 20 sea lights, and 13 minor or river lights. There were also 2 steam Fog whistles in the Bay of Fundy, and 169 buoys. The total cost of maintenance for the division was \$27,416; number of persons employed, 38. A new Lighthouse has been built on Wolf Island, in the Bay of Fundy. It is a powerful white revolving light with two faces. A new Lighthouse, showing a fixed red light, has been built on Bliss Island. Another is under construction at Cassie's Point, near the entrance of Shediac harbor. Minor lights are being built at Shippegan Gully and Alnwick.

NOVA SCOTIA DIVISION.

The number of lights in operation is 65. There are 4 powerful steam fog whistles and

3 more are to be in operation during the summer of 1872. It is also proposed to place a steam fog whistle on Sambro Island, and a second one on Sable Island, so as to have a lighthouse, steam fog whistle and House of Refuge at each end of the Island. There will then be 6 stations on the island for the purpose of rendering assistance to shipwrecked crews. When these are completed there will be 9 steam fog whistles on the coast of Nova Scotia, all erected since Confederation; 27 new lights have been exhibited since that period. The expense of construction during the year was \$10,736, and the number of persons employed, 67. The cost of maintaining buoys and beacons, \$2,061. The cost of maintaining the humane establishments on Sable Island employing 24 persons, was 8,033, to which the Imperial Government contributes £400 stg. No wrecks occurred there during the summer of 1871. There were two wrecks at Scatterie Island. The total expenditure in Nova Scotia during the year, was \$84,864. 70,000 gallons of oil will be required for the Lighthouse service for 1872; an increase of 28,000 gallons over 1871. This has been contracted for at an average rate of 19.40 cents per gallon.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

There are only 3 lighthouses in British Columbia. On Race Rocks in the Straits of De Fuca, with a Fog Bell, a Floating Light, visible 18 miles in clear weather; a *Dioptric* light of the 2nd order.

The Fl-gard light at the entrance to Esquimault Harbor; a fixed red *Dioptric* light of the 4th order, visible 12 miles.

Fraser river Light vessel; a fixed *Catoptric* light at the entrance to Fraser river; visible 9 miles.

STEAMERS.

There are three sea-going steamers and two River steamers. The "*Napoleon III*" is used chiefly for supplying Light Houses in the Gulf, laying buoys and assisting vessels in distress. The "*Oneida*" is much smaller, and is used for laying buoys and supplying Light Houses in the River. The screw steamer "*Lady Head*" is employed in Marine Police duties at Halifax and Pictou and visiting Sable and St. Paul's Island. The "*Richelieu*" is in the service of the Trinity House, Montreal, laying buoys and attending to the lights. And there is a small steamer in the service of the Harbor and River Police at Quebec. The total cost of maintaining and repairing these vessels during the fiscal year was \$78,030.

The steamer "*Sir James Douglas*," carrying the mails along the east coast of Vancouver's Island, is also employed in Light House service; but is not able to perform it effectually.

OBSERVATORIES.

Arrangements have been made for commencing a system of meteorological observation throughout the Dominion, and stations are to be established at Toronto and Woodstock, Ont.; Montreal, Q.; St. John and Fredericton, N. B.; Halifax, N. S., and Winnipeg, Manitoba. It is also proposed to make a chief station at Ottawa.

The system is under the gratuitous direction of Professor Kingston, of Toronto. The observations at Montreal are conducted by Dr. Smallwood. Observations are also re-