Treasury Department,

Fifth Auditor's Office, March 21, 1836.

Sir,

223. 226

I have the honor to return herewith the letter of the Hon. J. Ruggles, with a letter from the Keeper of Pond Island Lighthouse enclosed, soliciting an increase of salary, and to state that when the salaries of the keepers generally were revised by the Secretary of the Treasury and myself, in the year 1828, an increase of salary claimed by the then Keeper, (Joseph Rogers) of this Lighthouse, was duly considered, and it was determined on comparing his case with that of others in his neighbourhood, not to increase the salary. With the view to do justice to the several Keepers,

Mr Winslow Lewis, who had frequently visited all the Light houses, was applied to for a report of the condition of all the Lighthouses, upon which report some of the Keepers were increased, but the great majority of them received no increased emolument.

In regard to Pond Island and Seguin Island Lights, he reports as follows:

"Pond Island Light, situated on a small Island at the entrance of Kennebec River – no wood or land for cultivation, but the keepers has some advantage, in entertaining the Company that resort there in the Summer."

"Seguin Island Light – Situated six miles from the main land. The Light house, with the Dwelling house, is located three hundred feet above the level of the sea. The ascent of the road from the landing is an angle of forty five degrees, up which all the supplies have to be conveyed. The Island contains about fifty acres of rocky land – no wood, and but very little land fit for cultivation, but produces sufficient grass to support several Cows and a few sheep."

Light-house with the Dwelling house, is located three hundred feet above the level of the sea. The ascent of the road from the landing is an angle of forty five degrees up which all the supplies have to be conveyed. The Island contains about fifty acres of rocky land – No wood, and but very little land fit for cultivation, but produces sufficient grass to support several Cows and a few Sheep."

On considering the situation of these Keepers, it was thought the last mentioned was entitled to fifty dollars a year more than the former, and he was allowed that increase. I am still of opinion that this is a proper distinction.

If we raise the Pond Island Keeper, it will be necessary to raise those of half a dozen other Islands on the coast of Maine, all of whom receive the same salary with him.

I am &c.

(Signed) T. Plowden

Fifth Auditor and Acting

Commissioner of the Revenue

Secretary of the Treasury