I

V 56

Light-House Establishment

Office of the Light-House Inspector, First District

None. Enclosures

Portland, Me. 19 Jan., '98.

Subject: Firing of guns endangering Portland Head Station.

The Lighthouse Board,

Washington, D. C.

Sirs:

I have the honor to report that the battery of high powered guns now being mounted in the emplacements at Portland Head by the United States Military Authorities for the defence of Portland Harbor is so far advanced that it is expected to have all finished and ready for use early next summer.

As it will be desirable then, and is probably anticipated by the army officials, to have target practice with these guns and to continue it at intervals, it becomes necessary now in the interests of the Light House Establishment to consider what effect the firing of these guns will have upon the lantern, lens, etc., of the Portland Head Light House, which stands so near any possible line of fire from this battery to a target at sea, that it appears possible serious injury would be done to the lantern and lens unless some provision is made to prevent it.

I therefore request that an examination be made into the situation, and that such arrangements be made as may be found necessary for the preservation of whatever is likely to be damaged at this

68

this station by the firing of the guns.

Respectfully yours,

Thomas Perry

Commander, U. S. Navy,

Inspector 1st L. H. District.