I 120

Light-House Establishment

Office of the Light-House Inspector, First District

No. Inclosures

Portland, Me. 1 September, 1898.

Subject: Report on firing of the 10" guns at Portland Head.

The Lighthouse Board,

Washington, D. C.

Sirs:

I have the honor to report that the firing of the 10" guns at Portland Head took place on August 30, 1898. The two most southerly guns of the fort are about 550 feet from the light house tower.

The Engineer of the District had caused the lens to be wrapped with bed clothing, and the pedestal wedged with wood. Two panes in the lantern, arranged for opening, tower windows and doors, and windows and doors of signal house, dwelling and outhouses were open during the firing.

As the result of the firing the lantern, lens, or tower were not disturbed in the slightest degree. Seven panes of glass in the dwelling were shattered; sixteen panes of glass in the barn were forced from the sashes, taking the putty with them, and in some cases the glass not breaking in the fall to the ground.

I conclude that given tight fitting window sashes, with strong glass set with points and pure putty, with further precaution of wedging the opened sashes at each corner with chips of wood, there may

128

be no apprehension of damage to window glass in the future.

Respectfully yours,

Smith W. Nichols

Commander, U. S. Navy,

Inspector 1st L. H. District.