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Light-House Establishment

Office of the Light-House Inspector, First District

Three Inclosures

Portland, Me. 29 April, 1899.

Subject: Report on condition of West Quoddy Head Light Station, Maine.

The Lighthouse Board,

Washington, D. C.

Sirs:

At my inspection of West Quoddy Head Light Station, Maine, on the 14th instant, I found the station in an unsatisfactory condition.

In the whistle house the boilers were stained with dirt and dusty, the steel rods of the engines were somewhat rusty and covered with dust.

The paint work of the interior of the tower showed neglect, and in the lantern room the lens was dusty, brass work greasy, and greasy rags about. The walks, and fence about the grounds, were in poor condition.

During the past year the dwelling was enlarged, but neither the keeper or assistant occupy their parlors, except the assistant who uses his as a store-room for unused furniture.

I desire to bring to the notice of the Board that West Quoddy Head is the only station in the district which seems to be neglected. Moreover, the station is a most desirable one, being on the main land and within easy communication of South Lubec, which may possibly account for the keeper's neglect.

I consider that West Quoddy Head station should have a keeper

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who would be a good example to his assistant, and under the circumstances, I respectfully suggest the following change:

That John W. Guptill, Keeper of West Quoddy Head, be transferred to Avery Rock, and that Warren A. Murch, Keeper of Avery Rock, be transferred to West Quoddy Head, as Keeper.

Mr. Murch has had experience with steam boilers of fog signals at Libby Islands, and is a good carpenter, and also neat and careful about his duties.

I enclose herewith a statement in explanation, which I required of Mr. John W. Guptill, Keeper of West Quoddy Head Light Station, also two copies of Form 73, transfer of keepers.

Respectfully yours,

J. K. Cogswell

Lieut. Commander, U. S. Navy,

Inspector 1st L. H. District.