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5 September, 1899.

Transfer of Keeper of
Pemaquid Point Light Station, Me.

The Lighthouse Board,

Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

I herewith acknowledge the receipt of the petition in favor of the retention of C. A. Dolliver, Keeper of Pemaquid Point Light Station, Maine, dated August 29, 1899, by Board's indorsement.

In reply I have to state as follows:

In February, 1899, the expenditure of oil at this station was, in my opinion, excessive, 175 gallons being supplied, and in about three weeks a request was made by Mr. Dolliver for more oil, and 150 gallons were furnished with orders to explain the excessive expenditure. His explanation was vague and unsatisfactory.

In conferences with Major Stanton, the Engineer of this District, my attention was called to the apparent inefficiency of Mr. Dolliver, particularly in regard to the fog signal apparatus. Later, I received a written complaint from Major Stanton, stating that the Pemaquid Point Station required more machinists' labor than all the stations of a similar character combined. (Copy enclosed marked "A".)

On July 18th I inspected this station, (Pemaquid), and by a coincidence, I met the machinist, Mr. Somes, who had been sent to remedy a defect, reported by Mr. Dolliver, in the fog signal. The defect was

most trifling character, and could have been remedied by a drop
...lder.

The bedrooms were in an untidy condition, two of which could not
... inspected, as they were closed by one sick patient and another dress
...ng.

There were a number of strange people about the premises, and the
...keeper, Mr. Dolliver, informed me that they were neighbors.

I learned incidentally that the late assistant keeper, Mr. Her-
...an E. Brewer, was required to pay Mr. Dolliver the sum of $20 for loss
... services while incapacitated, owing to injuries sustained in line
of duty at the fog signal, which necessitated the amputation of sev-
...ral fingers. Mr. Brewer has corroborated the report and I enclose
his statement, which also states that he, Brewer, furnished a sub-
stitute. I enclose Mr. Brewer's letter, marked "B", and Mr. Dolliver's
explanation, marked "C", in which he admits the truth of the report.

On receipt of a telegram from the Board dated August 28, 1899,
giving me discretion to postpone the order of transfer, and a letter
from Senator Frye, stating that a suspension of Mr. Dolliver's trans-
fer had been ordered by the Board, I granted Mr. Dolliver a post-
ponement, and notified Senator Frye also. On the receipt of Mr. Dol-
liver's reply or explanation to the charge of exacting $20 from Mr.
Brewer, his assistant, I was convinced that his ideas of justice and
propriety were such, that, aside from his neglect and apparent inef-
ficiency, it was doubtful whether his retention in the service was
desirable.

In view of the fact that he has been some twenty-eight years in

service, and has a large family, I will not recommend his discharge, but have ordered him to proceed at once to Goose Rocks, and carry out his original order of transfer.

Respectfully yours,

J. A. Colwell

Commander, U. S. N.,

Inspector, 1st L. H. District.