WORK ON THE LIGHT HOUSE TO BEGIN NEXT MONTH.

Ram Island Ledge Light Will Be One of the Most Exposed on the Coast.

IT WILL LOOK LIKE MINOT'S LEDGE.

Steamer and Large Lighter Will Be Necessary In the Work. Cost Will Be About $166,000.

Work will probably begin on Ram Island Ledge lighthouse next month, and the construction of the tower will proceed as rapidly as the weather will permit.

The light will be almost identical with famous Minot's ledge off Cohasset, on the Massachusetts coast, and it is said that with the exception of the off-shore winds, will be one of the most exposed lighthouses on the Atlantic coast. When completed it will probably project at high tide, directly out of the water, and will have to be constructed strong enough to bear the buffeting of the terrible gales, especially from the southeast, for which this coast is noted.

Powerful Foundation.

The base of the tower will be dovetailed into the ledge, and will be made as strong as it is possible to make it. The foundation will be 40 feet in height, above low water mark, and will be 40 feet in diameter. It will be constructed of solid granite, with—if anything—only a small air space through the center.

The lighthouse will start from the top of this foundation, and will project up about 60 feet, making the entire tower about 100 feet in height. This will also be made of granite, and will be divided into rooms one above the other. The first room will probably be used for stores, and in this apartment will be the entrance to the tower. This main entrance is, therefore, 40 feet high at low tide, and a long ladder will be constructed for the keepers to get in and out by. Above the stores' room will probably come the keeper's quarters, and above that the assistant keeper's room, etc., up to the top of the tower where the light is.

Will Look Like Minots Ledge.

In general appearance the light will look like Minot's ledge, and it is expected that it will be fitted with a lamp of the second order. It has been talked around that the lighthouse is to be what is called a second-class structure. This has been taken to mean that it is not to be the best to be made. On the contrary, however, the "second order" simply means the power of the light. A first order is intended for long range, sea coast work, while a "second order is intended for shorter range. As there is a first order light on Seguin, and one at Cape Elizabeth, there is no need of another on Ram Island ledge that can be seen for more than about 15 miles. This will be the brilliancy of the latter light.

Work will probably be commenced in March, and be continued until into December, or as long as the weather will permit, and then work will have to be suspended until spring again.

Steamer and Lighter Necessary.

In order to do the work a steamer and a large lighter will be necessary. The steamer must be large enough to carry 40 or 50 barrels of cement and 12 men. The lighter, which will have to take the place of a wharf, as, of course, none can be built on the ledge, will also have to be of good size, for it must hold the granite, and will be a place where considerable work will be done.

The light will cost about $166,000 and will take at least two years, and perhaps more, to construct.

It will be one of the finest on the Atlantic coast, and when the lightship arrives, and the lighthouse is in operation Portland will be as easy to enter as any harbor around.

A CLOSE VOTE.

Prohibition Strongly Upheld by Smaller Vermont Towns.

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION, Vt. Feb. 4.—Returns from three little towns in yesterday's vote on the local option law were received today, leaving four still more remote communities to be heard from. The result announced last night was not changed in any marked degree by these additions and the majority for the law stands at 1,623; the vote being yes, 30,671; no. 29.048. The remaining towns of Dover, Glastonbury, Sherburne and Somerset had a total vote last fall of about 250 so that they can change the present figures but little. Of 246 cities and towns in the state 152 voted against the law and 86 were in favor, while in four the result was a tie, leaving four still to be heard from. It will be seen, therefore, that the ratio by cities and towns was about five to three in favor of prohibition.

The 152 little towns gave in round figures a majority of 10,209 against local option, while the 86 other large communities rolled a majority of 11,800 for the law.

DELAYED BECAUSE OF COAL SHORTAGE.

New York Transatlantic Steamers Unable To Sail.

NEW YORK, Feb. 4.—The transatlantic steamers scheduled to sail today