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Department of Commerce and Labor

BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES

Washington

October 5, 1912.

Buffalo Breakwater
North End L. S., N. Y.

Commissioner.

The following brief report is submitted relative to my recent visit to Buffalo Breakwater North End Light Station, N. Y., now under construction:

The pier is completed up to the top of the deck; the forms have been removed from the part that curves, but those for the straight part are still in place.

The contractors are laying the brick partitions in the cellar, using a good grade of buff brick instead of the red brick specified, in order to make the lighting conditions in the cellar better. The contractor agreed to make the change without additional cost.

Owing to refusal of the U. S. Engineers to approve the rip rap U shaped breakwater protection, the 5 inch sewer pipe will be run out of the cellar on the northwest side in order not to foul the pocket made by the sheet piling proposed by them. I saw the plans for this sheet piling and do not approve of them, unless the rows of piles are separated and braced together.

The contractors are also smoothing up the marks made by the forms on the curved portions of the pier.

The structure is practically level, the inspector on the job stating that he believed it to be within 3/8 of an inch.

I saw some of the old 12 x 12 white pine timbers taken out of the crib, and they are in excellent state of preservation. The statement was made that when they bored the crib for the tierods, the chips sank. It is thought that the original crib rests directly on the rock bottom, if so, there should be no apprehension about its permanency - our records here should show what was done. They say there has been no subsidence.

I do not believe that the structure will be under cover before cold weather sets in - understood from the superintendent that they do not appreciate the fact that it is offshore work. So far, looks like a good solid job - the rounding at the curved corners is considered a good piece of work.

While at the office, Mr. Carlson, the representative of the AGA company, came in to see the Inspector in regard to the poor characteristics of the temporary light and the light on the extension at the South Entrance. He replaced both of the flashers with their latest improved flasher. He found acetone in the supply pipes at one of the lights. The accumulators at the temporary light had the office considerably exercised over the vagaries of the pressure. It continued to raise during the Spring and Summer for a period of three months or more, although the light was burning - think Carlson satisfied them on this point. In this connection Superintendent Gardner has purchased and installed "Sherrardized" steel piping for 10¢ a foot as against AGA coppered steel piping at 30¢.

Went over the depot and found it in fine condition. They have a good system of storage, bins, drawers, etc., that is nearing completion - Mr. Works having carried it out. There seems to be plenty room at the depot, and unnecessary stuff there now is about to undergo another survey. There is a pile of junk about ready for disposal by auction. There are

about 50 library cases piled up in the depot - saw about 60 or 70 at Detroit.

The present system of payment from Washington does not seem to affect them so much as it does in the 11th district. They feel it principally when purchasing materials.

Bowerman