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LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR
PORTLAND, ME.

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

AUG 24 1916
HOUSES

RL-TAL

Hydrog.
Engr. Cons.
Mar. Engr.
Personnel
Accounts.
Contracts
Chf. Clk.
Dep. Comsr.
Comsr.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR, 1ST DISTRICT
PORTLAND, ME.

Building protected
from "Big gun fire"
Portland Head L. S Me.

August 22, 1916.

Commissioner of Lighthouses, Washington, D. C.

In reply to the Bureau's letter of the 15th inst:

The buildings at Portland Head Light Station, Me., are directly in range of some of the guns in the batteries, a few yards in the rear at Fort Williams.

The structures at the station have sustained considerable damage in the past from practice with the big guns - windows forced out - finish ripped off - roof torn open, etc. But the most serious trouble usually came from injury to the three chimneys of the double dwelling where the brick work was exposed in the attic.

The bricks were broken up - some being forced out clean from the mortar and on one occasion two of the chimneys were broken off at the bottom and forced several inches out of place.

After each gun practice it was necessary to make an examination of the entire chimneys from cellar to roof before allowing fires to be made in the dwelling stoves and of course make repairs.

The trouble was wholly prevented at the last gun practice by previously making several large scuttle openings in the roof and portable casings of wood around the chimneys. The casings provided for an air space of about five inches around the brick work and while not air tight they appeared to prevent a too rapid expansion of air and the large openings in the roof permitted quick adjustment. Though the last gun

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practice was not as prolonged as on some previous occasions, it would appear that the steps taken were in the right direction and no further serious damage is anticipated.

The expense of the experiment cost considerably less than it did to make repairs after the last previous gun practice.

Inspector.