DAMAGED THE LIGHTHOUSES

Reports Coming in of the Devastation Done by the Storm

Commander H. G. O. Colby of the second lighthouse district is slowly getting reports from the keepers of the different lighthouse stations within his jurisdiction, and all the information thus far received goes to show that never before have the employees at the different stations experienced such a gale and storm as the one of last Saturday night and Sunday. Nearly every report also states that buoys have been washed away, and it is evident that the lighthouse service is going to have all it wants to do in straightening out the damage done by the terrible storm. Naturally enough the reports of the keepers of the lights directly in Boston harbor came in first, and these gave a good idea of the damage done; but the additional reports from the stations away down the coast show that the storm was even worse than can be imagined.

The keeper of the little light at Deer Island, which is placed on a cylindrical structure of iron, filled with cement, reports that the windows of his kitchen were smashed and the room was flooded. The salt water spoiled the drinking water in the cistern and three feet of water collected in the "cellar." The keeper lost his dory and landing ladder. When the gale began, the keeper of the light on Spectacle Island hauled his dory high up on the bank, where he thought it would be safe, but the wind carried it off bodily and he is now wondering where it is.

Probably the worst experience of the storm was that of Stephen D. Rich and family, who live at Highland Light, on the end of Cape Cod. Both chimneys of the dwelling-house were blown off level with the roof. The smokestack of the engine house was also blown off at the roof. Patches of shingles were blown off the house, and glass was broken by flying sand.

Keeper Benjamin Ellsworth of the Ipswich station has sent in a report which states that during the terrific northeast gale he was unable to have a fire in the kitchen stove, and not until Sunday evening was he able to have a fire in his sitting-room. The heavy wind blew the smoke and soot down the chimney, making it dangerous to have a fire.

The keeper of the Narrows light (Bug light) reports that the ice-breaker, made of piles and timber, was entirely wrecked by the sea. Shingles were washed and blown from the sides of the house, with the result of bad leaks.

The experience of the men in the tower of Minots Ledge light has not been learned, but it is known that they came through all right. The shore station of Minots reports that the tide was never so high along the South Shore. The well water at the station was spoiled by the seawater flooding the well. Wreckage drifted in front of the station and covered all the shore. The boathouse was half-wrecked by the water, the floor being smashed, and the boat was saved only by great exertion on the part of Keeper Joseph E. Frates and his assistants. The oilhouse was flooded to the depth of eighteen inches.

Keeper George L. Lyon of Egg Rock off Nahant has furnished the information that the storm smashed in his poultry house on the south side and did other considerable damage; at Billingsgate Island Light at Wellfleet, James P. Smith, the keeper, says that his boat was wrecked and that considerable property belonging to the Government was lost; Mills Gunderson, keeper of the Duxbury Pier Light, reports that the woodwork of his piazza was wrecked, that his dory was smashed, that the spindle on Long Beach was destroyed and that fourteen vessels in the harbor were more or less damaged by the storm. According to keeper Charles J. Hooper of Ten Pound

Island Light, the spindle at Black Rocks is demolished, having been struck by a vessel during the storm.

At the Cape Poge Light station, Edgartown, the storm blew down the boathouse and carried away the boat and other property and in several places blew down the fences. According to keeper George E. Dolby it is the worst storm he has seen since being in the service. At the Sandy Neck Light station, Yarmouthport, it washed away the boathouse, which lies wrecked on the opposite shore on Barnstable. Tools and other Government property were lost.

The keeper of the Derby Wharf Light at Salem reports that the light tower "received an awful pounding by the sea; at times it felt as if something was going to give way, so hard did the tower rock. The oilroom was flooded and oil cans were set adrift. The keeper reported damage to shipping and buildings along the water front at Salem.

At the three tall towers of the Nauset station, down on Cape Cod, where the victims of the Portland are coming ashore, the wind was so severe that two of the light towers were moved on their foundations.

The keeper at Newburyport reported that the tower rocked so badly in the wind that the lens was unsteady from the vibration, and the cement of the lantern-room floor was cracked by the swaying of the structure.

The keeper at Sankaty Head, Nantucket, reported that the chimney of his house was blown down, making a hole through the roof, and that the walls were cracked.

The report from Long Point, Provincetown harbor, indicates another hard experience. Keeper Samuel S. Smith says: "The floor of the engine house was stove, walks are gone, the boathouse floor was washed away, the water in the cistern is salt and the bell machinery is out of order." He had to ring the bell all night by hand.