Devil Island, Apostle Group, Lake Superior. The Association† asks that a red flash light be established here. The Inspector reports it as indispensable. The Engineer recommends it and estimates its cost at.....$15,000

Appropriation Act approved 2 Mar. 1889.

† Cleveland Ves. Owners, Hon. R. B. Parsons, 26 Janu. 1888

—. *Devil's Island, the most northerly of the Apostle group, Lake Superior, Wisconsin.*—The Board recommended the appropriation of $15,000 for the establishment of a light at Devil's Island. The establishment of this light is deemed to be a pressing necessity for the commerce and navigation of Lake Superior. An act has been passed authorizing the establishment of this aid to navigation, but no appropriation has been made for doing the work. The Board therefore renews its recommendation for this purpose. 1888

An. Rep. 1889.

—. *Devil's Island, Apostle Group, Lake Superior, Wisconsin.*—The act of March 2, 1889, makes an appropriation for the construction of a much-needed light-station on the island, which is the most northern of the Apostle Group. It will be erected at an early day.

1890

1175. *Devil's Island, Apostle Group, Lake Superior, Wisconsin.*—An appropriation of $15,000 was made for a light on Devil's Island, and the station will be built as soon as title to the site can be procured. A fog-signal is as necessary as the light. It can be built at an estimated cost of $5,500. The Board recommends that an appropriation of that amount be made therefor.

1891.

1224. *Devils Island, Apostle Group, Lake Superior, Wisconsin.*—The act approved March 2, 1889, appropriated $15,000 for building a light-station, and the act approved March 3, 1890, appropriated $5,500 for establishing a fog signal to complete the station to be erected on Devils Island. The appropriation for the light was insufficient. Devils Island is an isolated station with no adequate harbor. The light, which is to be flashing and of the third order, will become one of the most important turning-points in Lake Superior. In addition it is to have a fog signal, and provision must be made, therefore, for not less than three keepers. The station, exclusive of the fog signal, is estimated to cost $35,000, leaving an additional appropriation of not less than $22,000 to be made after paying for the land and other contingent expenses. In view of the improbability of securing the additional amount needed at the current session of Congress it was decided that, pending action in this regard, a temporary skeleton-frame tower should be built to prevent further delay in exhibiting the light and, while awaiting the arrival from France of the third-order flashing lens required, to exhibit a fixed red light of the fourth order. The building of the duplicate fog-signal boilers and machinery was in progress under contract at the end of the year. An addition of $22,000 is needed for furnishing the station with a permanent tower, and it is recommended that this amount be appropriated for that purpose.*

* A fixed red light of the fourth order was shown from a temporary structure at this station on the night of September 30, 1891, for the first time. The light is 87 feet above the lake level, and it can be seen in clear weather about 13 miles. The fog signal is a 10-inch steam whistle.

1892

1169. Devils Island, Apostle Group, Lake Superior, Wisconsin.—The following statement made in the Board's annual report for last year is repeated:

The act approved March 2, 1889, appropriated $15,000 for building a light-station, and the act approved March 3, 1890, appropriated $5,500 for establishing a fog signal to complete the station to be erected on Devils Island. The appropriation for the light was insufficient. Devils Island is an isolated station with no adequate harbor. The light, which is to be flashing and of the third order, will become one of the most important turning points in Lake Superior. In addition it is to have a fog signal, and provision must be made, therefore, for not less than three keepers. The station, exclusive of the fog signal, is estimated to cost $35,000, leaving an additional appropriation of not less than $22,000 to be made after paying for the land and other contingent expenses. In view of the improbability of securing the additional amount needed at the current session of Congress it was decided that, pending action in this regard, a temporary skeleton frame tower should be built to prevent further delay in exhibiting the light, and, while awaiting the arrival from France of the third-order flashing lens required, to exhibit a fixed red light of the fourth order. The building of the duplicate fog-signal boilers and machinery was in progress under contract at the end of the year.

This station was put in operation September 30, 1891. The Board sent all the papers relating to the title to this island, with a letter from the Attorney-General advising that the premises be acquired by condemnation, to the United States attorney, with request that proceedings in condemnation be instituted. The first meeting of the commissioners appointed by the United States circuit court at Madison, Wis., for the purpose of appraising the island, was to be held at Ashland, Wis., on April 11, 1892. Since that date no further information has been received from the United States attorney. Work was continued. The tower was built and the lantern was placed in position. The dwelling was completed. Some 100 feet of sewer leading from cellar to lake for drainage was blasted. A brick oil house and a fog-signal house were built. The boathouse, ways, and landing crib were completed. The duplicate fog-signal machinery and boilers were completed and delivered under contract. The blasting for cistern was completed and the brickwork was finished. The blasting for pump house was done and pump house built, and a covered way leading down the bank to the north of the signal house was constructed. The construction of the keeper's dwelling and the temporary tower was completed on October 8. A plank walk was laid in tramway. Ten acres in the vicinity of the station were cleared of trees and brush, in order that the light might be more clearly seen.

The tower is a square pyramidal skeleton frame structure 24 feet square at base, 9 feet 6 inches square at top, four stories in height, the uppermost being inclosed for a watchroom. The tower is surmounted by a square lantern gallery and an octagonal fourth-order lantern. The keeper's dwelling, located some 100 feet south of the tower, is a one-and-a-half story red brick building and extension, with roofs shingled and painted red. The fog-signal building, located some 500 feet northwest of the tower, is a one-story frame structure covered with heavy sheathing and corrugated iron outside and smooth iron inside. The oil house is a brick house with a pitched roof. The framed outbuilding, used during construction as quarters for the working parties, is one and a half stories high and has a pitched roof. For the permanent station it is proposed to duplicate the present dwelling for the assistant keepers, and connect them with a covered way, which will also lead to the tower. The tower is to be a substantial structure, bearing a third-order lantern, and measuring 70 feet from base to focal plane.

1893

1245. Devils Island, Apostle Group, Lake Superior, Wisconsin.—As reported to the Board under date of June 5, 1892, this island was appraised in the sum of $1,600 by the commission appointed for that purpose, and the necessary proceedings were taken to have the findings of the commissioners confirmed and decree made.

The completing of the light-station here, at a cost not to exceed $22,000, was authorized by the act approved February 15, 1893, but no appropriation therefor has yet been made. The Board recommends that the amount named be appropriated.

1894

1270. Devils Island, Apostle Group, Lake Superior, Wisconsin.—The condemnation of this island for light-house purposes has at last been perfected, and the title to it is now in the Government. The following recommendation, which was made in the Board's annual report for last year, is therefore renewed:

> The completing of the light-station here, at a cost not to exceed $22,000, was authorized by the act approved February 15, 1893, but no appropriation therefor has yet been made. The Board recommends that the amount named be appropriated.

NOTE.—An appropriation of $283.94 was made by the sundry civil appropriation act approved August 18, 1894, to pay the taxed costs in the matter of the proceedings in condemnation of Devils Island which was needed as a site for this light-house station.

1895

1329. Devils Island, Apostle Group, Lake Superior, Wisconsin.—The title papers to this island were recorded in the proper office. Cession of jurisdiction was obtained from the State of Wisconsin. The completing of this light-station, at a cost not to exceed $22,000, was authorized by the act approved February 15, 1893, but no appropriation was then made. The act approved March 2, 1895, appropriated $22,000 "for constructing a permanent tower." As the completion of the station demands, in addition to the permanent tower, the building of additional quarters for keepers, and the purchase of a third-order lens to fully carry out the design, it is feared that under the wording of the act the work can not be done, as in order to do it economically the tower and dwelling should be built at one time. Recommendation is therefore made that the appropriation available for the completion of the station be made to include the erection of an additional keeper's dwelling.

1896

1442. Devils Island, Lake Superior, Wisconsin.—The amount of the award for this island, $1,600, was paid in August, 1895. A quit-claim deed to the United States for the extinguishment of the outstanding

tax title against Devils Island, Wisconsin, was duly recorded. A design was made for an iron tower.

By the sundry civil appropriation act approved June 11, 1896, authority was given that $4,000 of the unexpended balance, or the appropriation of $22,000, made in the act approved March 20, 1895, for constructing a tower at Devils Island light-station, be applied to the construction of a light-keeper's dwelling at Devils Island light and fog-signal station. This will be done as soon as practicable.

1897

1442. Devils Island, Lake Superior, Wisconsin.—Material for the construction of a keeper's dwelling was obtained and transported by the tender *Amaranth* to the station. Boiler tubes and pipes and fittings were purchased for making repairs to the fog-signal plant. Plans and specifications for a cylindrical steel tower are being prepared.

1898

1500. Devils Island, Lake Superior, Wisconsin.—A working party arrived at the island July 1, 1897, and the building was begun and it has been partially completed. A contract was made for the construction, delivery, and erection of the light-tower. In September the site for the foundation of the tower was begun. A contract for the third-order lantern was made. In June, 1898, structural metal work of the tower, under contract, was completed, inspected, and shipped to the light-station. A crib for extension to the boat landing was built, sunk in place, and filled with ballast stone and a superstructure was built thereon to 3 feet above the water line and filled with stone to 1 foot above the water line. Some 36 feet of the old landing that was out of level were raised 26 inches on the west side and 8 inches on the east side and refilled with ballast stone. The center truss of the boathouse was repaired and the roof was painted.

1899 *357. Devils Island, Lake Superior, Wisconsin.*—The construction, delivery, and erection of this light tower by contract were completed on October 17, 1898. The hoisting engine was repaired and 160 feet of steel hoisting rope was provided.

1901 *381. Devils Island, Lake Superior, Wisconsin.*—The illuminating apparatus for the new light tower was received in April at the light-house depot. A hoisting engine and derrick, together with a lot of material of various kinds for repairs, were taken to the station by the tender *Amaranth*, June 22, 1901. A working party was landed at the same time. About 1,000 feet of the roadway to connect the boathouse with the tower and other buildings of the station was cleared of timber and underbrush, a woodshed for the storage of fuel for the fog-signal plant was built, the stone for a small building for the protection of the hoisting engine at the north end of the island was quarried and dressed, the engine was removed, and work on the foundation of the new structure was commenced. The foundation for the derrick was commenced, two sections of portable track, each 20 feet long, were built, and the work of installing the third-order flashing lens in the new tower was commenced. This work is being paid for from the unexpended balance of the appropriation for Devils Island (Wisconsin) light station.

1902 *409. Devils Island, Lake Superior, Wisconsin.*—The improvements in progress at the close of the last fiscal year were continued until September 20, 1901, when the work was suspended for lack of funds.

1904 *422. Devils Island (one of the Apostle Islands), Lake Superior, Wisconsin.*—The old frame tower and the lantern from which the temporary light was exhibited were taken down and the material stored. Various repairs were made.

1907 *426. Devils Island, Lake Superior, Wisconsin.*—A rubble sea wall was built, 8 feet high and 78 feet long, extending from the inner end of the main boat harbor pier to the rear face of the boathouse. A landing crib was built on the east side of the boatways, and connected to the boathouse by a platform. A gap near the outer end of the northeasterly breakwater was closed by a stone-filled crib. Various repairs were made.

Written by F.R. Eldridge.
U.S.C.G. Historical Sec
1/51

HISTORY OF

DEVIL ISLAND

LIGHT STATION

WISCONSIN

The Cleveland Vessel Owner's Association on January 26, 1888, asked that a red flash light be established on Devil's Island, Apostle Group, Lake Superior, Wisconsin. The light house inspector reported it as indispensible and the lighthouse Board engineer recommended it at a cost of $15,000. An act was passed in 1890 authorizing the establishment of this light but no appropriation made until March 2, 1889. In 1890 the Board reported that a fog signal to cost $5,500 "is as necessary as the light." This sum was also appropriated on March 3, 1890.

In 1891 the Board reported: "The appropriation for the light was insufficient. Devil's Island is an isolated station with no adequate harbor. The light, which is to be flashing and of the third order, will become one of the most important turning points in Lake Superior. In addition, it is to have a fog signal, and provision must be made, therefore, for not less than three keepers. The station, exclusive of the fog signal, is estimated to cost $35,000, leaving an additional appropriation of not less than $22,000 to be made after paying for the land and other contingent expenses. In view of the improbability of securing the additional amount needed, at the current session of Congress, it was decided that, pending action in this regard, a temporary skeleton-frame tower should be built to prevent further delay in exhibiting the light and while awaiting the arrival from France of the 3rd order flashing lens required. The temporary tower is to exhibit a fixed red light of the 4th order. The building of the duplicate fog signal boilers and machinery was in progress under contract at the end of the year. An additional $22,000 is needed for furnishing the station with a permanent tower and it is recommended that this amount be appropriated."

A fixed red light of the 4th order was shown from a temporary structure at this station on the night of September 30, 1891, for the first time. The light was 87 feet above lake level, and could be seen in clear weather 13 miles. The fog signal was a 10-inch whistle.

The Lighthouse Board sent all the papers relating to the title to the island with a letter from the Attorney General advising that the premises be acquired by condemnation, to the U. S.Attorney, with a request that proceedings in condemnation be instituted. As reported to the Board under date of June 5, 1892, the island was appraised by the commissioners appointed by the U. S. Circuit Court at Madison, Wisconsin, in the sum of $1,600 and necessary proceedings were taken to have the findings of the commissioners confirmed and decree made.

The dwelling was completed in 1892 and some 100 feet of sewer leading from cellar to lake for drainage was blasted. A brick oil house and fog signal house were built, the boathouse, ways, and landing crib were completed. The duplicate fog-signal machinery and boilers were completed and delivered under contract.

Completing of the light station at a cost not to exceed $22,000 was authorized by the act approved February 15, 1893, but no appropriation was made.

By 1894 the Board reported that condemnation of the island for lighthouse purposes had at last been perfected and the title to it was then in the Government. In 1895 the title papers were recorded and cession of jurisdiction obtained from the State of Wisconsin.

The act of March 2, 1895, appropriated $22,000 "for constructing a permanent tower." The Board recommended that the wording of the appropriation act be changed making the appropriation available for the erection of an additional keeper's dwelling, at the same time, for economy's sake. In August 1895 the amount of the award for the island, under condemnation proceedings, $1,600, was paid and a quit claim deed to the United States for the extinguishment of the outstanding tax title against the island duly recorded. A design was made for an iron tower.

The sundry civil act of June 11, 1896, authorized $4,000 of the unexpended balance in the $22,000 appropriated be applied to the construction of a light keeper's dwelling. Material for the keeper's dwelling was obtained in 1897 and transported to the station by the tender ANAMOOSE. Boiler tubes and pipes and fittings were purchased to make repairs to the fog signal plant. Plans and specifications for a cylindrical steel tower were being prepared.

A working party arrived at the island July 1, 1897, and the building of the keeper's dwelling was begun. By the end of June 1898, it had been partially completed. A contract was made for the construction, delivery and erection of the light tower. In September 1897, the site for the foundation of the tower was begun and a contract for the 3rd order lantern made. By June 1898 structural metal work of the tower was completed, inspected and shipped to the light station. A crib for extension to the boat landing was built, sunk in place, and filled with ballast stone and a superstructure built on it 3 feet above the water line and filled with stone one foot above the water line. Some 36 feet of the old landing was raised and refilled with ballast stone. The erection of the light tower was completed on October 17, 1898. The illuminating apparatus was received in April 1901.

A working party was landed on the island on June 22, 1901, and about 1,000 feet of roadway to connect the boathouse with the tower and other buildings of the station was cleared of timber and underbrush, and a woodshed for the storage of fuel for the fog signal plant built. The work of installing the third order flashing lens in the new tower was commenced.

On September 20, 1901, work was suspended for lack of funds. In 1904 the old frame tower and lantern from which the temporary light was exhibited were taken down and material stored.

At the present time (1951) the station consists of a white cylindrical steel tower, 100 feet above low water and 80 feet from the top of the lantern to the ground, situated on the north end of the island at 47° 04.8' N., - 90° 43.7' W. The light, a 3rd order electric, flashes alternately white and red, and the candlepower of the white light is 400,000 and of the red light

250,000. The white light flashes .6 second and is eclipsed 9.4 seconds, followed by the red light with the same characteristic. A 200 millimeter acetylene winter light of 110 candlepower flashes white for .5 second and is eclipsed for 4.5 seconds.

The air diaphone fog signal gives a group of 3 blasts every 60 seconds; 3 blasts of 2 seconds each, followed by 2 silences of 2 seconds each; then one silence of 50 seconds.

The radio beacon transmits on 286 kilocycles groups of 3 dashes. There is also a distance finding station.

Rob

(Copy)

Devil's Island, Lake Superior.

The bill proposes to appropriate $15,000. for the establishment of a red float light at Devil's Island, Apostle Group, Lake Superior.

A red flash light is probably meant instead of a float light. It is recommended, however, that the words "red float" in line 53 of page 3 of the bill be omitted, as it may be possible that the Board will find that to give the light this color would tend to confound it with some neighboring light.

The establishment of this light is deemed to be a pressing necessity for the commerce and navigation of Lake Superior.

The Board is of opinion that the amount named in the bill is sufficient for the purpose.

Approved 2 March. 1889.

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