

Marine (1897) Department.

G.O., No. 889 *has*

DATED 1st November 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

Lighting of the Red Sea, Endorsement
from the Govt of India for forwarding Copy
of certain papers relative to the — Com.
municated to the P.P. Officer and the Madras
Chamber of Commerce.

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H. M. S.

1/11/97

Endorsement from the Government of India forwarding copy of certain papers relative to the —, communicated to the Presidency Port Officer and the Madras Chamber of Commerce.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

MARINE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper :—

Proceedings of the Government of India, Finance and Commerce Department, dated Simla, 20th October 1897, No. 4620 S.R.

Read—the following paper :—

Despatch from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for India, to His Excellency the Right Honourable the Governor General of India in Council, dated 9th September 1897, No. 152 Rev.

With reference to previous correspondence terminating with the letter of your

To Foreign office, dated 5th August 1897 (2067).

From Foreign office, dated 12th August 1897 (2263).

To Foreign office, dated 2nd September 1897.

Excellency's Government in the Finance and Commerce Department, No. 169, dated 29th June 1897, I forward herewith, for your information, copy of the papers noted in the margin relative to the lighting of the Red Sea.

ENCLOSURES.

From Sir A. GODLEY, K.C.B., Under Secretary of State for India, to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, dated 5th August 1897, No. 2067 R. & S.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India to forward copy of a letter from the Government of India, with enclosures, concerning the urgent necessity for additional lighthouses in the Red Sea.

Sir Henry Anderson's letter, dated the 6th April 1896, stated that Lord Cromer had procured funds for three or four new lighthouses in the Red Sea, but that arrangements had to be made with the Turkish Government and with the Red Sea Concessionaire, M. Collas. Lord George Hamilton directs me to enquire whether the project for erecting these four additional lights has made any further progress since April 1896, and whether Her Majesty's Government see their way to pressing the matter on the Egyptian and Turkish Governments.

From the Honourable F. H. VILLIERS, Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, to the Under Secretary of State for India, dated 12th August 1897.

In reply to your letter of the 5th instant, inclosing copy of a despatch from the Government of India with regard to the necessity for additional lights in the Red Sea, and inquiring what progress has been made with regard to the scheme for erecting three or four additional lights. I am directed by the Marquess of

Sir P. Currie, No. 46, Commercial.
Lord Cromer, No. 31, Commercial.
Board of Trade, July 23rd.

Salisbury to transmit to you, herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State for India, copies of correspondence, as marked in the margin, which shows the present position of the matter.

From Sir P. CURRIE, to the Marquess of Salisbury, dated 27th May 1897, No. 46, Commercial.

On the receipt of your Lordship's despatch, No. 36, Commercial, of the 2nd April, requesting to be informed whether my colleagues had expressed any opinion respecting the contemplated construction of lighthouses in the Red Sea, I addressed to them a second circular pressing for an answer to the proposals made by me under instructions from your Lordship.

I have now been informed by the German Ambassador that his Government are prepared to support the representations suggested in my circular.

I have not received any answer from my other colleagues.

From Lord CROMER, to the Marquess of Salisbury, K.G., etc., dated 9th June 1897, No. 31, Commercial.

I have the honour to enclose a copy of a letter which I have received from Morice Pasha on the subject of the construction of lights in the Red Sea. Your Lordship will observe that Morice Pasha suggests that two lightships should be located—one near Mocha and the other near Abu Ali. A light is, as your Lordship is aware, required on or near the Zubayer Island. It appears however that, owing to the depth of the water, a lightship cannot be moored in this locality.

In view of the delays which have already occurred and the difficulty in the way of coming to any other satisfactory solution of this question, I venture to think that the suggestion made by Morice Pasha is well worthy of consideration. I conceive that, if the lights are placed outside the three-mile limit, the Government of the Sultan would have no right to complain of a violation of territorial rights.

Your Lordship will observe that Morice Pasha estimates the cost of three light-vessels (i.e., two in use and one in reserve) would be about £E. 37,000, or say £E. 40,000. The cost of maintenance is estimated at £E. 4,120 a year.

Should Her Majesty's Government approve of this plan, I would suggest that a circular be addressed to the Powers inviting their co-operation to carry out the following proposals :—

(1) The Egyptian Lighthouse Administration to be entrusted with the establishment of two lightships—one off Mocha and one off Abu Ali. Both lightships to be placed outside the three-mile limit. A third lightship to be held in reserve.

(2) The cost of these operations, amounting to about £E. 40,000 to be borne by the fund, amounting to about £E. 70,000 which has accumulated in consequence of the provisions of the decree of 25th December 1894 (see enclosure to my despatch No. 1, Commercial, of 2nd January 1895).

(3) The unexpended balance of the fund, amounting to about £E. 30,000, to remain invested and held in trust by the Egyptian Government with a view to the construction of further lighthouses at some later date.

(4) As regards the cost of maintenance, the precedent set forth in article 7 of the decree of December 25th, 1894, may advantageously be followed; that is to say, it should be provided that in settling the accounts between the Egyptian Government and the Caisse de la Dette at the close of each year, the portion accruing to the Egyptian Treasury should be increased by £E. 4,120 a year. I am informed that the Egyptian Government will be ready to adhere to this proposal.

From MORICE PASHA, Alexandria, to Lord Cromer, G.C.B., etc., dated 5th June 1897.

I have for a long time seen the great necessity which exists for an increase in the lights in the Red Sea, and I know that your Lordship shares my opinion, and you have brought this subject on many occasions before Her Majesty's Government, but difficulties have arisen owing to the fact that it is proposed to erect lighthouses on Turkish Territory.

Having studied this question, I have come to the conclusion (seeing the above-mentioned difficulties) that, under the circumstances, there is nothing to be done but to substitute floating lightships in place of fixed lights on shore. I consider these would answer all purposes and allow of the free and safe conduct of ships through the difficult channel between Mocha and Abu Ali Island.

I have communicated with the Elder Brethren of the Trinity House, London, and find we can get similar lightships to those in use on the English coast for £st. 12,050 in England, complete, and we should require three of these—one for Mocha, one off Abu Ali, and the third would act as a spare lightship. I should say that we would be perfectly justified in placing these vessels in the positions indicated, provided we go outside of the three-mile limit from the shore.

I have given you a table explaining the cost and maintenance of these vessels, as well as a tracing showing the position I would propose placing them, and should your Lordship obtain from the Powers the necessary sanction for these lightships, you would confer a great boon on ships of all nations.

If these vessels are to be constructed in Europe, it would be necessary that I should go to see about the building, etc., say for 2 or 3 weeks.

P.S.—

Zubayer Island, South part of Red Sea.

I cannot recommend the placing of a lightship off here, the water being too deep to moor a vessel; but I would recommend (when it can be done) that a lighthouse be placed on Rishah Island off the main land and south of Ras-el-Bayadh.

G. M.

MEMORANDUM.

Cost of Lightship for Red Sea from estimate obtained from the Trinity House, London.

	Est.
Trinity House, London—	
Hull composite ..	9,000
Lighting apparatus, outfit and moorings ..	1,550
Try signal (steam screw) ..	1,500
Cost of one vessel ..	12,050
Three vessels ..	3
Cost of three vessels ..	36,150
Probable cost of bringing out the three ships and taking them to their position ..	1,800
Total ..	37,950
£E.	37,001,250

Maintenance.

	£E. mm.
1 Master, European (monthly) ..	17,000
1 Mate do. (do.) ..	14,000
1 Seaman do. (do.) ..	11,000
1 Sarang, Indian (do.) ..	3,500
1 Tindal do. (do.) ..	2,500
6 Lascars £E. 2 a month each ..	12,000
Money in lieu of rations at 10d. a day each for Indians only ..	11,000
For wages for one vessel ..	71,000
Do. three vessels ..	213,000
£E.	
Stores.	
Oil and wick, monthly ..	10,000
Repairs to lamps ..	5,000
Repairs to light-vessels each ..	12,000
Total, monthly, for one vessel ..	27,000
Do. for three vessels ..	81,000
Total ..	294,000
£E.	
Yearly ..	3,528,000
Extra cost of visiting steamer ..	5,92,000
	4,120,000

(Signed) MORICE PACHA.

From T. H. W. PELHAM, Esq., Board of Trade, London, to the Under Secretary of State, Foreign Affairs, dated 23rd July 1897, No. 6936 H.

I am directed by the Board of Trade to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th ultimo, in which you inclose a despatch from Lord Cromer on the subject of the construction of lights in the Red Sea, in which His Lordship suggests that light-vessels, instead of lighthouses, should be placed off Mocha and off Abu Ali at the cost of the accumulated Egyptian Light Dues reserve fund, and that they should be maintained by the Egyptian Government.

In reply, I am to request that you will state to the Marquess of Salisbury that the proposals made by Lord Cromer were laid on the 13th instant before a Conference consisting of representatives of the Shipping Companies mentioned in the margin, together with representatives of Lloyds and of the Trinity House, with the following results:—

A light-vessel off Mocha was considered by all to be the most pressing need, and no objections were raised to the proposed position, southward of the town, on the Mocha shoal.

An unanimous opinion was expressed in favour of a lighthouse being erected on Abu Ali, or, if the site proved unsuitable owing to difficulties of building, etc., it was considered that a light-house on the East point of Jibbel Zugar would offer somewhat equivalent benefits to navigation generally. If, however, it should prove impossible to overcome the difficulties attaching to the selection of a shore site, the Conference approved a position $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles north-east by east of Abu Ali, and considered that a light-vessel in that position would offer a certain degree of aid to navigation, and would be, to that extent, preferable to having no light at all.

General disapproval was expressed of a light-vessel being moored off Ras Muteina, as it was thought that its proximity to the Avocet Rock rendered the position unsuitable and detrimental to safe navigation.

Lord Cromer's despatch is herewith returned.

From Sir HORACE WALPOLE, K.C.B., Under Secretary of State for India, to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, dated 2nd September 1897, No. 2263 R. & S.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Villiers' letter of the 12th ultimo, respecting the best means of lighting the Red Sea, and to inform you that Lord George Hamilton would be glad to learn in due course what further steps have been taken in this matter.

Ordered that copy of the despatch and of its annexures be forwarded to the Government of Bengal in continuation of the communication from this department, No. 2635 S.R., dated the 15th June 1897, and with the request that copy of the papers may be furnished to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce.

Ordered also that copy of the papers be communicated to the Government of Madras, with reference to the letter thence, No. 588, Marine, dated the 1st July 1897.

(Signed) J. E. O'CONOR,
Asst. Secy. to the Government of India.

ORDER—No. 889, Marine, dated 1st November 1897.

Communicated to the Presidency Port Officer and the Madras Chamber of Commerce with reference to G.O., No. 587, Marine, dated 1st July 1897.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. B. DEWINTON,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Presidency Port Officer.

Chairman, Chamber of Commerce, Madras.

Marine (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 1375

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Communicated to
the Presidency Lt office
and the Madras Chamber
of Commerce with
reference to G.O. 587 Marine,
of 1 July 1897.

From the Govt. of India.

W. H. C. 29.10.97

No. 4620 S.R.

The P.S.O.

Cham. C. of C. Madras

L.S.

Dated 20th October 1897

Received

Registered

Enclosures one

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Red Sea. Forwarding
copy of papers relative
to the lighting of the —

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
58788 1797	origl	Home	

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

No. 152 Revenue, dated 9th September 1897.

From—The RIGHT HONOURABLE LORD GEORGE HAMILTON, Secretary of State for India,

To—His Excellency the Right Honourable the Governor General of India in Council.

With reference to previous correspondence terminating with the letter of Your Excellency's Government in the Finance and Commerce Department, No. 169, dated 29th June 1897, I forward herewith for your information copy of the papers noted in the margin relative to the lighting of the Red Sea.

No. R. and S. 2067, dated 5th August 1897.

From—SIR A. GODLEY, K.C.B., Under Secretary of State for India,

To—The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India to forward copy of a letter from the Government of India, with enclosures, concerning the urgent necessity for additional lighthouses in the Red Sea.

Sir Henry Anderson's letter, dated the 6th April 1896, stated that Lord Cromer had procured funds for three or four new lighthouses in the Red Sea, but that arrangements had to be made with the Turkish Government and with the Red Sea Concessionaire, M. Collas. Lord George Hamilton directs me to enquire whether the project for erecting these four additional lights has made any further progress since April 1896, and whether Her Majesty's Government see their way to pressing the matter on the Egyptian and Turkish Governments.

Dated 12th August 1897.

From—The HON'BLE F. H. VILLIERS, Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs,

To—The Under Secretary of State for India.

In reply to your letter of the 5th instant, inclosing copy of a despatch from the Government of India with regard to the necessity for additional lights in the Red Sea, and inquiring what progress has been made with regard to the scheme for erecting three or four additional lights, I am directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to transmit to you, herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State for India, copies of correspondence, as marked in the margin, which shows the present position of the matter.

No. 46-Commercial, dated 27th May 1897.

From—SIR P. CURRIE,

To—The Marquess of Salisbury.

On the receipt of Your Lordship's despatch No. 36-Commercial of the 2nd April, requesting to be informed whether my Colleagues had expressed any opinion respecting the contemplated construction of lighthouses in the Red Sea, I addressed to them a second circular pressing for an answer to the proposals made by me under instructions from Your Lordship.

I have now been informed by the German Ambassador that his Government are prepared to support the representations suggested in my circular.

I have not received any answer from my other Colleagues.

No. 31 Commercial, dated 9th June 1897.

From—Lord CROMER,

To—The Marquis of Salisbury, K. G., &c., &c., &c.

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that a Lighthouse on the East point of Jibbel Zugar would offer somewhat equivalent benefits to navigation generally. If however, it should prove impossible to overcome the difficulties attaching to the selection of a shore site, the Conference approved a position $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles north-east by east of Abu Ali, and considered that a Light-vessel in that position would offer a certain degree of aid to navigation, and would be, to that extent, preferable to having no light at all.

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From—SIR HORACE WALPOLE, K.C.B., Under Secretary of State for India,

To—The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Villiers' letter of the 12th instant, respecting the best means of lighting the Red Sea, and to inform you that Lord George Hamilton would be glad to learn in due course what further steps have been taken in this matter.

*Simla 1
Mar 13/95 (5)*

No. 4620-S.R.

Government of India.

FINANCE and COMMERCE DEPARTMENT.

Simla, the 20th October 1897.

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Read—

Despatch from the Secretary of State for India No. 152 Revenue, dated the 9th September 1897.

Ordered that copy of the despatch and of its annexures be forwarded to the Government of Bengal in continuation of the communication from this Department No. 2635-S.R., dated the 16th June 1897 and with the request that copy of the papers may be furnished to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce.

Ordered also that copy of the papers be communicated to the Government of Madras with reference to the letter thence No. 588 Marine dated the 1st July 1897.

J. R. Munn

Asstt. Secy. to the Govt. of India.

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No. 4520-S.R.

Government of India

FINANCE AND COMPTROLLER DEPARTMENT

Dated the 20 October 1937

Recd-

Despatched from the Secretary of State for India No. 152 Revenue
dated the 20 October 1937.

Ordered that copy of the despatch and of its annexes be
forwarded to the Government of Madras in continuation of the
communication from this Department No. 2535-S.R., dated 10 October
1937 and with the request that copy of the papers may be furnished
the General Chamber of Commerce.

Ordered also that copy of the papers be communicated to the
Government of Madras with reference to the letter dated 10 October
dated the 1st July 1937.

[Handwritten signature]

Attest. Secy to the Govt. of India