

Marine (189.9) Department.

G.O., No. 444 Mar.
445

DATED 23rd May 1898

[Despatch Abstract.]

Lighting of the Southern portion of the Red Sea.

Ordered that the Govt of India be addressed on the subject of the urgent necessity of protecting with lights the southern portion of the Red Sea.

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Forwarding a renewed representation from the Madras Chamber of Commerce on the subject of the inadequate — and expressing the hope that the matter may be pressed by the Govt of India on the attention of the Right Hon'ble the Secretary of State.

25/5/99

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No. 445, MARINE, 23RD MAY 1899.

MARINE DEPARTMENT.

LETTER—from

W. B. DEWINTON, Esq.,
Secretary to the Government of Madras,
Marine Department,

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
FINANCE AND COMMERCE DEPARTMENT.

SIR,

In continuation of the correspondence quoted in the margin, I am directed to forward, herewith, a renewed representation from the Madras Chamber of Commerce on the subject of the inadequate lighting of the southern portion of the Red Sea. His Excellency the Governor in Council has already expressed his full concurrence in the views of the Chamber of Commerce as to the urgent necessity for properly protecting this portion of the route to and from India, and can now only express the hope that the matter may be pressed by the Government of India on the attention of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Secretary to Government.

OOTACAMUND,
23rd May 1899.

Exd. A. F. Eccleston.

Government {1899} of Madras.
MARINE.

Recd.

Regd.

} 1899.

Enclosures

Spare copies

G.O., No. 444, 23rd May 1899.

MAY.

Lighting of the Southern portion of the Red Sea

Ordered that the Government of India be addressed on the subject of the urgent necessity of protecting with lights the southern portion of the Red Sea.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

MARINE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper:—

From C. E. P. VANS AGNEW, Esq., Chairman, Chamber of Commerce, Madras, to the Secretary to Government, Marine Department, dated 2nd May 1899.

In June 1897, the Chamber addressed the Madras Government on the subject of the necessity of establishing a complete system of lighthouses on the southern portion of the Red Sea, and from the papers that were subsequently communicated to it, the Chamber ventured to hope that something would be done at an early date to meet the requirements of the case. The subject, however, seems to have been allowed to lie dormant as nothing has yet been done in the direction indicated.

In view, therefore, of the urgent importance of the Red Sea being properly lighted, the Chamber has the honour to request that the Madras Government will again address the Government of India in support of the proposals that have been laid before it, and which are referred to in the accompanying copy of a letter which has been addressed to the Bengal Government by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce.

ENCLOSURE.

From W. PARSONS, Esq., Secretary, Bengal Chamber of Commerce, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Marine Department, dated Calcutta, 30th March 1899, No. 458-99.

I am directed by the Committee of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce to again address you with reference to the inadequate lighting of the lower portion of the Red Sea. It will no doubt be within the recollection of Government that a representation on this important subject was made by the Committee of the Chamber in May 1897, and in this connection I would refer you to my letter No. 790-97 of the 19th May 1897. In this letter the Committee pointed out that the subject was by no means a new one, as the necessity for additional lights had been long acknowledged, and forcible attention had been drawn to it from time to time whenever a casualty occurred. The Committee urged very strongly upon Government the necessity for prompt and decided action, in view especially of the fact that the preponderating majority of vessels passing through the Red Sea carry the British Flag.

2. The representation of the Committee was strongly supported not only by the other Indian Chambers of Commerce, but also by the Chamber of Shipping of the United Kingdom, and in your letter No. 1288, Marine, of 14th July 1897, an intimation was conveyed that a copy of the Chamber's letter had been submitted to the Government of India, who had passed it on to the Secretary of State with a request that the matter might be pressed on the consideration of the authorities concerned. Subsequently, under cover of your letter No. 1911, Marine, of 8th November 1897, the Committee were favoured with copy of a despatch of 9th September 1897 from the Secretary of State for India, accompanied by copies of official correspondence which had taken place between the Secretary of State for India, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and Lord Cromer, Her Majesty's Minister Plenipotentiary in Egypt. From these papers the Committee noted with satisfaction that there was no financial obstacle to the provision of new lighthouses in the Red Sea, as Lord Cromer was in possession of ample funds for the purpose, but that the main difficulty lay in the opposition of the Ottoman Government.

3. In a letter, dated 9th June 1897, addressed by Lord Cromer to the Marquis of Salisbury, which forms part of the correspondence above referred to, a reference is made to a letter, dated 5th June 1897, from Morice Pasha to Lord Cromer, containing a suggestion for the placing of light-ships instead of lighthouses at the points in the Red Sea where lights are acknowledged to be necessary. In passing on this letter to the Marquis of Salisbury, Lord Cromer expressed his opinion that the suggestion made by Morice Pasha was well worthy of consideration in view of the delays which had already occurred, and the difficulty of coming to any satisfactory solution

of the question. His Lordship also added that if the lights were placed outside of the 3-mile limit, the Government of the Sultan would have no right to complain of a violation of territorial rights. Lord Cromer's despatch, together with its accompaniments, was placed by the Foreign Office before the Board of Trade for consideration, and was laid on the 13th July 1897 before a Conference consisting of representatives of the British India Steam Navigation Company, Limited, the Oriental Steam Navigation Company, Limited, the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, Limited, with representatives of Lloyd's and of Trinity House. This Conference was unanimously of opinion that a light-vessel off Mocha was the most pressing need, and that if it proved impossible to overcome the difficulties attaching to the selection of a site on shore, a light-vessel should be also placed in a position 3½ miles north-east by east of Abu Ail. In a letter which the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, addressed to the Government of Bombay on the 10th June 1897, the necessity for lights in the above positions was strongly pressed upon Government. The Committee of the Bombay Chamber also suggested that a light should be placed upon the Island of Jebbul Tier, the depth of water in the neighbourhood of this island being too deep to allow a light-ship to be moored there.

4. The Committee were hoping at the time they were placed in possession of the above official correspondence, that a solution of the difficulties, which had hitherto stood in the way of adequate lights for the protection of navigation in the southern portion of the Red Sea, was near at hand, but they regret to find that up to the present no practical result of any kind has been achieved, and, so far as they can ascertain, no steps have been taken by the British Government in the direction of carrying out the proposals of Lord Cromer. I am directed by the Committee to again request the Government of Bengal to urge upon the Government of India the crying necessity for speedy and decisive action being taken in connection with this matter. The Committee fail to see, in the face of Lord Cromer's letters, what obstacles can now possibly exist to the placing of light-vessels at the points above referred to, as, provided the 3-mile limit is observed, the consent of the Ottoman Government would not appear to be a factor in the question.

5. It has been pointed out to the Committee that the Balfe Point Light on the Island of Perim requires improvement, and to be given some distinctive character for the guidance of vessels of heavy draft using the wider passage in the Straits of Bab-el Mandeb. This light, the Committee have reason to believe, is the property of the Perim Coal Company, but it is at the same time recognised by the Admiralty and advised by them to mariners as a guide to navigation. If the fact of the light in question being private property is in any way an obstacle to its improvement, the Committee would suggest that it should be at once acquired by the British Government and the necessary improvements carried out.

ORDER—No. 444, Marine, dated 23rd May 1899.

Ordered that the Government of India be addressed accordingly.

[Here enter No. 445, Marine, dated 23rd May 1899.]

(True Extract.)

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

To the Chairman, Chamber of Commerce.
" Presidency Port Officer.

Exd. A. F. Eccleston.

Read the following:-

Letter from the Chairman, Chamber of Commerce, Madras,
dated 2nd May 1899.

3P

Light in the Red Sea

Circulated to

His Excellency the Governor

ORDER.

No 444 dated 23 May 99

Ordered that the Government
of India be addressed accordingly.

The Chairman, Chamber of Commerce
a Deputy Port Officer.

2.94
22.5.99

No. 445 dated 23 May 1899

The Secretary to the Government of India
Finance and Commerce Department

Sir,

Letter to the Govt. of India, No. 588. Marine/1st July 1899
Proc. of the Govt. of India No. 46205. R. 2/20. Octr 1899.

Flag A

Flag B

2.94

In continuation of the Correspondence quoted in the margin, I am directed to forward herewith a renewed representation from the Madras Chamber of Commerce on the subject of the inadequate lighting of the Southern portion of the Red Sea. His Excellency the Governor in Council

has already expressed his full
Concurrence in the views of the Chamber
of Commerce as to the urgent necessity
for properly protecting this position
of the route to and from India,
and can now only express the hope
that the matter may be pressed by
the Government of India on the
attention of the Right Honourable
the Secretary of State.

R.S.

I have &c

W. H. L.
12.5.88

*sent with copy to
10 No 444
21/5/89*

W. H. L.

(1899) Department.

CURRENT No. 589

From

*The Chairman
Chamber of Commerce
Madras*

No.

Dated 2-5-99

Received 35

Registered

Enclosures

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

*Lighthouses on the Southern
portion of the Red Sea*

*Requesting that the
Govt of India may be addressed
regarding the necessity of es-
tablishing a complete system*

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BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
	889 ^{hnd} 587-8 ^{hnd}		1-11-97 1-7-97.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

ROYAL EXCHANGE BUILDING,

Calcutta, 30th March 1899.

No. 458-'99.

288

From

THE SECRETARY,

BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL,

MARINE DEPARTMENT.

SIR,

I AM directed by the Committee of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce to again address you with reference to the inadequate lighting of the lower portion of the Red Sea. It will no doubt be within the recollection of Government that a representation on this important subject was made by the Committee of the Chamber in May 1897, and in this connection I would refer you to my letter No. 790-'97 of the 19th May 1897. In this letter the Committee pointed out that the subject was by no means a new one, as the necessity for additional lights had been long acknowledged, and forcible attention had been drawn to it from time to time whenever a casualty occurred. The Committee urged very strongly upon Government the necessity for prompt and decided action, in view especially of the fact that the preponderating majority of vessels passing through the Red Sea carry the British Flag.

2. The representation of the Committee was strongly supported not only by the other Indian Chambers of Commerce, but also by the Chamber of Shipping of the United Kingdom, and in your letter No. 1288-Marine, of 14th July 1897, an intimation was conveyed that a copy of the Chamber's letter had been submitted to the Government of India, who had passed it on to the Secretary of State with a request that the matter might be pressed on the consideration of the authorities concerned. Subsequently, under cover of your letter No. 1911-Marine, of 8th November 1897, the Committee were favoured with copy of a despatch of 9th September 1897 from the Secretary of State for India, accompanied by copies of official correspondence which had taken place between the Secretary of State for India, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and Lord Cromer, Her Majesty's Minister Plenipotentiary in Egypt. From these papers the Committee noted with satisfaction that there was no financial obstacle to the provision of new Light Houses in the Red Sea, as Lord Cromer was in possession of ample funds for the purpose, but that the main difficulty lay in the opposition of the Ottoman Government.

3. In a letter dated 9th June 1897, addressed by Lord Cromer to the Marquis of Salisbury, which forms part of the correspondence above referred to, a reference is made to a letter dated 5th June 1897 from Morice Pasha to Lord Cromer, containing a suggestion for the placing of light-ships instead of light-houses at the points in the Red Sea where lights are acknowledged to be necessary. In passing on this letter to the Marquis of Salisbury, Lord Cromer expressed his opinion that the suggestion made by Morice Pasha was well worthy of consideration in view of the delays which had already occurred, and the difficulty of coming to any satisfactory solution of the question. His Lordship also added that if the lights were placed outside of the 3-mile limit, the Government of the Sultan would have no right to complain of a violation of territorial rights. Lord Cromer's despatch, together with its accompaniments, was placed by the Foreign Office before the Board of Trade for consideration, and was laid on the 13th July 1897 before a Conference consisting of representatives of the British India Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., the Oriental Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., with representatives of Lloyd's and of Trinity House. This Conference was unanimously of opinion that a light-vessel off Mocha was the most pressing need, and that if it proved impossible to overcome the difficulties attaching to the selection of a site on shore, a light-vessel should be also placed in a position $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles North-East by East of Abu Ail. In a letter which the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, addressed to the Government of Bombay on the 10th June 1897, the necessity for lights in the

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G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
	889 ^h 587-8 ^h		1-11-97 1-7-97

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

ROYAL EXCHANGE BUILDING,

Calcutta, 30th March 1899.

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288

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I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

W. PARSONS,

Secretary.

ENCLOSURES:—Nil.

The Madras Chamber of Commerce.

Madras, 2nd May 1899.

FROM

C. P. Sans Agnew Esq.

CHAIRMAN, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

MADRAS.

TO

The Secretary to Government
Marine Department
Colaciamund

Sir,

In June 1897, the Chamber addressed the Madras Government on the subject of the necessity of establishing a complete system of light houses on the southern portion of the Red Sea, and from the papers that were subsequently communicated to it, the Chamber ventured to hope that something would be done at an early date to meet the requirements of the case. The subject, however,

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of Commerce.

I have the honour to be.

Sr.

Your most obed^t servant

W. H. D. S.

4 P

Paper taken out of the Records from the charge of the Referencer.

Press
Miscellaneous No. 4468 dated 23/5/28
Routine

Date taken out.	FOR WHAT PURPOSE.			Initials of clerk taking the paper or of attender.	Date returned.	Initials of attender.
	Department.	C. No.	Year.			
17/11/03	Mar	1226	for		25.3.04	A
30-4-04	Mar	Ref for	us.	us	22 2/05	us
7-10-05	to	1466	/05	us	1/2	us
22/5/07	Mar	664	of 7-12	us	21-6-07	us
9-9-11	Mar	1053				
	In R	3235	/11	us	16/4/12	us

