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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works DEPARTMENT.

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Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department.
22nd December 1866.

No. 522. Read the following Proceedings of the Government of India, in the Public Works Department, (Civil Works—Miscellaneous), dated Fort William, 19th November 1866, No. 061C:—

Wreck Chart for India for the year 1864-65.

Read—

Report submitted by Mr. C. W. Hope, Executive Engineer of British Burmah, to accompany the Wreck Chart for 1864-65.

OBSERVATIONS.—In April 1864, Lieutenant-Colonel (then Captain) Fraser, Superintendent of Lighthouses, suggested to the Government of India the desirability of preparing an Annual Indian Wreck Chart, in which should be shown all wrecks that occurred within the year on the Coasts of India, which should be accompanied by a table showing the loss of life, cargo, and ships, and a report on the causes of the wrecks. Lieutenant-Colonel Fraser was of opinion that the work would, probably, be better done in the Marine Department, but he offered to undertake it if he were supplied with monthly reports of all wrecks that occurred.

2. The proposal was agreed to, and orders were issued to the various local Governments to supply the required information.

3. Monthly Wreck Reports were, in consequence, regularly sent, from 1st May 1864, to Lieutenant-Colonel Fraser, till his departure from India in June 1865, and from that time to the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah.

4. The Chart for 1864-65 has, under the orders of the Chief Commissioner, been prepared and submitted by Mr. Hope, with various abstracts and tables, and a report reviewing the facts deducible from the returns furnished. The report notices the irregularity in the submission of the returns, the imperfect nature of the information afforded in many, and offers suggestions in view to rendering the returns more practically useful in future.

5. With reference, first, to the agency to be employed in the preparation of future charts of the kind. His Excellency in Council has determined that the work shall be done in the Public Works Department under the Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, until the return from leave of Colonel Fraser, when the subject can be re-considered. Mr. Hope, or any other duly qualified Officer, might be employed by the Chief Commissioner.

6. Before proceeding to notice the several points in the report which call for orders, the Governor General in Council observes that it is desirable that the Calendar, and not the Financial, year should be adopted for future charts and reports. In preparing the next chart, therefore, all wrecks from the 1st January 1865 to 31st December 1865 should be included, although the present report and chart contain all wrecks up to 30th April 1865.

7. The various points noticed in the report which appear to call for remarks or orders are—

(1).—Mr. Hope points out the difficulties he has had to contend with from the

Paragraph 3 of Report.

want of proper charts of the coasts, and calls attention to a suggestion made by

Lieutenant-Colonel Fraser, that an outline chart of the whole of the coasts, from the

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Indus to Singapoer, should be prepared in the Marine Department, to a scale suitable for this particular purpose, and be lithographed in the Surveyor General's Office. Mr. Hope offers an opinion that, if enlarged plans of harbours, and those narrow and dangerous estuaries and arms of the sea which are much frequented, were given, the general chart might well, and most conveniently, be on a small scale.

8. This point will be referred for consideration in the Home Department.

(2).—Incompleteness of, and inaccuracies in, returns. See paragraphs 4, 11, 13, 18, 20, 21, 24, 25, 29, and 30 of the Report.

9. The attention of the Officers concerned in the preparation of the return should be drawn to the necessity for complete accuracy in the manner of filling in the various columns, and of giving as full information as possible under the various headings.

10. When incomplete returns are submitted, the local Government should return them for the necessary additional information, and the Officer entrusted with the preparation of the chart should himself call, through the proper channel, for any particulars which he may consider necessary.

11. With reference to paragraph 24, the Governor General in Council observes that the returns should include all wrecks reported to the local Government in any month. In cases in which an enquiry is pending, the results of the enquiry should be given in a subsequent report.

(3).—Mr. Hope's suggestions for modifications in the form of Wreck Returns.

12. A column should be added showing whether the wrecks occurred during darkness or during daylight; the latitude and longitude should be invariably given; and information as to the value of cargo lost should be supplied when practicable.

13. The present chart cannot be considered of much practical value, but the Governor General in Council considers that it should be published in connexion with these remarks.

ORDER.—Ordered that a copy of the Report, with the Tables and Chart, and of this Resolution, be forwarded to the Home Department for consideration of the point referred to in paragraph 8, and with a request that the papers may be published in the supplement to the *Gazette of India*.

Ordered also that copies of the Report, &c., be forwarded to the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah, and to the Governments of Madras, Bombay, and Bengal, the Governor of the Straits Settlements, and the Colonial Secretary at Colombo, for information.

Also that the matter be reported to the Secretary of State.

(Signed) W. McCLEERY, C. E.,

Offg. Asst. Secy.

for Secy. to the Govt. of India.

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22nd December 1866.*

No. 523.

ORDER THEREON, 22nd December 1866, No. 4,070.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 104.

Communicated to the Marine Department.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

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4070

Comm. to the
Mammie Dept.

W. W. W.

S.

W. B.

Fort St. George
22nd December 1863

to Mammie Dept
with 3 spare copies
of each of the enclosed

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Dec^r 26th December