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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1228-29	Press
B.P. No.		~~Mis.~~
Dated	8-5-	4874 195

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
8th May 1874.*

No. 179. Read the following Resolution of the Government of India, Public Works Department, (Buildings and Roads—Civil Miscellaneous,) dated Fort William, the 23rd December 1873, No. 508.

Proposed erection of a Lighthouse on the Island of Minicoy.

Read:—

Despatch from Secretary of State, No. 98 P. W., dated 20th November 1873, and accompaniments.

Read again:—

Public Works Proceedings, B. and R.—Civil Miscellaneous, July 1871, Nos. 4/6.

Letter from Chief Secretary to Government, in Marine Department, No. 210, of 21st July 1871.

Letter from Board of Trade, dated 6th November 1873, and accompaniment.

ORDER.—Ordered that copy of the Despatch read and of its enclosures marginally noted be forwarded to the

Government of Madras in the Marine Department, in continuation of Public Works Department No. 238 B. C., of 7th July 1871, for favour of an early expression of its views with reference to paragraph 2.

(Signed) G. T. SKIPWITH, Captain, R.E.,

Asst. Secy. to the Govt. of India.

Public Works.

INDIA OFFICE,

London, 20th November 1873.

No. 98.

MY LORD,—Referring to my despatch, No. 39, of the 31st May 1871, and to a despatch to the Government of Madras, No. 14, of the 31st July 1872, (of which a copy is herewith enclosed,) on the subject of lighting the southern extremity of India, I have now to forward, for your Excellency's consideration, copies of a further communication from the Board of Trade,

Dated 6th November 1873.

and of its enclosure, relative to the proposed erection of a lighthouse on the Island of Minicoy.

2. I shall be glad to be furnished, at an early date, with the views of your Government as to the expediency of placing a lighthouse at Minicoy, and especially with reference to the suggestion contained in the final paragraph of the enclosed letter from the Board of Trade, as to the cost of its erection and maintenance being borne by the Indian Government. It appears to me that the Imperial Government might fairly be expected to bear a portion of the expense.

I have, etc.,

(Signed) ARGYLL.

His Excellency the Right Honorable,
The Governor-General of India in Council.

BOARD OF TRADE, (HARBOUR DEPARTMENT,)
Whitehall Gardens, S. W., 6th November 1873.

No. 4,757.

SIR,—I am directed by the Board of Trade to request that you will invite the attention of the Secretary of State for India to previous correspondence on the subject of the establishment of lighthouses in the vicinities of Crocodile Rock off the coast of Travancore and of Cape Comorin, and especially to my letter of the 15th July 1872, No. 3,296.

2. In the communication, copy of which was forwarded with that letter, the Corporation of Trinity House expressed the opinion that to complement the scheme of lights in this neighbourhood, the erection of a lighthouse on the Island of Minicoy, situated about 250 miles west of Cape

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
8th May 1874.*

Comorin, and midway between the Maldive and Laccadive groups, would be "an immense advantage to the rapidly increasing trade between Europe and India," and this opinion was shared by Rear Admiral Bedford, the Professional Officer of this department, and further supported by the experience and knowledge of the waters in question of Captain Taylor, late of the Indian Navy.

3. I am now to transmit an extract from a communication which has been addressed to this department by Lieutenant C. F. Wilson, late of Her Majesty's Indian Navy, calling attention to recent casualties in the same vicinity, which would in all probability have been avoided if the passage between the Laccadive and Maldives had been lighted from the Island of Minicoy.

4. In requesting that the same may be laid before the Duke of Argyll, I am to state that if His Grace concurs in the opinion of the Nautical advisers of this department, that the proposed lighthouse would be an important boon to navigation, the Board presume that, looking to the fact that Minicoy is in the direct route of commerce frequenting Ceylon and the Bay of Bengal from the Red Sea, the Indian Government would undertake the cost of the erection and maintenance of the light.

I have, etc.,
(Signed) C. CECIL TREVOR,

EXTRACT NO. 4,757.

Lighthouse on Minicoy Island.

SIR,—I desire to call your attention to the wreck of the steam-ship *Arracan* on the Maldive Islands in August last during the south-west monsoon, and whilst on her homeward voyage. Last year the *S. S. George Reid* was lost on the Maldive Islands, on her outward voyage.

2. In all probability other instances of wrecks have occurred in the same locality during the south-west monsoon, but I can only mention the case of the *Peninsular and Oriental Steamer Columbo* in 1862 on Minicoy Island.

3. It appears to me that a light on Minicoy is most requisite for the safe navigation of the passages between the Laccadive and the Maldive Islands. The danger however is not considerable during the interval from September to the end of April, but is decidedly great from April to the end of August, during this season the south-west monsoon prevails with much thick weather, and steamers, especially outward bound ones, have to run for the passage between the Laccadive and the Maldive Islands, which is divided in two by the Island of Minicoy, often without observations for days previously, and subject to the influence of varying currents, the direction and force of which are greatly affected by the force and direction of the monsoon. The loss of the *George Reid* is, I understand, clearly attributable to these causes.

(Signed) C. F. WILSON, Lieut.,
H. M. late Indian Navy.

No. 180. ORDER THEREON, 8th May 1874, No. 1,228.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 22.

ORDERED that the following letter be sent:—

(Here enter No. 1,229, dated 8th May-1874.)

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. W. WALKER, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

Exd. S. T. Austin.
Spare Copies

Resolution No. 508
Government of India
Public Works Department
Buildings and Roads
Civil Miscellaneous
Fort William, the 23rd December 1873.

Proposed erection of a Light House on the Island of Minicoy.
Read:

Despatch from Secretary of State No. 98 P.W. dated 20th November 1873 and accompaniments.

Read again
P.W. No. B. & R. July 1871 No. 4/6.
Civil Mis.

Letter from Chief Secretary to Madras Govt. in Marine Department No. 210 of 21st July 1871.

Order - Ordered that copy of the Despatch read, and Letter from Board of Trade of 6th Nov 1873 and accompaniments of its Enclosures being fully noted, be forwarded to the Government of Madras in the Marine Department in continuation of Public Works Department No. 238 B. C. of 7th July 1871.
For

Got favor of an early expression of its views
with reference to paragraph 2.

Frank B. Smith Capt. R. E.
Assistant Secretary to the Govt. of India,

India Office
London, 20th November 1873.

Public Works
No. 98.

My Lord,

Requests
that the ad-
vantage of
placing a
light house
in Minicoy
may not be
overlooked.

Dated 6th November 1873.

Referring to my despatch No. 39
of the 31st May 1871, and to a despatch to the
Government of Madras No. 14, of the 31st July
1872, (of which a copy is herewith enclosed) on
the subject of lighting the Southern extremity
of India, I have now to forward, for your Ex-
cellency's consideration, copies of a further com-
munication from the Board of Trade, and of its
enclosure, relative to the proposed erection of a
Lighthouse on the Island of Minicoy.

I shall be glad to be furnished,
at an early date, with the views of your Govern-
ment as to the expediency of placing a Light-
house at Minicoy, and especially with reference
to the suggestion contained in the final para-
graph of the enclosed letter from the Board of
Trade, as to the cost of its erection and mainte-
nance being borne by the Indian Government.
It appears to me that the Imperial Govt.
might

bright fairly be expected to bear a portion of
the expense.

Ndy

Shave Vee
Aggylb

His Excellency
The Right Honorable
The Governor General of India
in Council,

19th 4/57.

Board of Trade
(Harbour Department)
Whitehall Gardens S.W.
6th November, 1873.

Sir,

I am directed by the Board of Trade
to request that you will invite the attention
of the Secretary of State for India to previous corre-
spondence on the subject of the Establishment
of Lighthouses in the vicinities of Crocodile Rock
off the Coast of Travancore, and of Cape Comorin,
and especially to my Letter of the 15th July 1872,
H.C. 3296.

In the communication copy of
which was forwarded with that Letter, the Corpora-
tion of Trinity House expressed the opinion that,
to complement the scheme of Lights in this
Neighbourhood, the erection of a Lighthouse
on the Island of Minicoy, situated about 250
miles west of Cape Comorin, and midway be-
tween the Maldive and Laccadive groups would
be "an immense advantage to the rapidly
"increasing Trade between Europe and India,"
and this opinion was shared by Rear Admiral
Bedford.

Bedford, the Professional Officer of this Department
and further supported by the experience and
knowledge of the Waters in question, of Captain
Taylor, late of the Indian Navy.

I am now to transmit an Extract
from a communication which has been
addressed to this Department by Lieutenant
The C. F. Wilson, late of Her Majesty's Indian
Navy, calling attention to recent Casualties
in the same vicinity which would in all
probability have been avoided if the passage
between the Laccadive and Maldives had been
lighted from the Island of Minicoy.

In requesting that the same may
be laid before the Duke of Argyll, I am to
state that if His Grace concurs in the opinion
of the Nautical Advisers of this Department
that the proposed Lighthouse would be an
important boon to navigation, the Board
presume that, looking to the fact that
Minicoy is in the direct route of commerce
frequenting Ceylon and the Bay of Bengal
from the Red Sea, the Indian Government
would undertake the cost of the erection
and maintenance of the Light.

Shane &
Extract - J. C. Cecil Secret.

Extract. H. 4757.

9
"Lighthouse on Minicoy Island"
Sir,

I desire to call your attention to the
Wreck of the Steam ship "African" on the Maldivian
Islands in August last, during the South
West Monsoon, and whilst on her homeward
Voyage. Last year the S. S. "George Reid"
was lost on the Maldivian Islands, on her out-
ward Voyage.

In all probability other instances
of Wrecks have occurred in the same locality
during the South West Monsoon, but I can
only mention the case of the Peninsular and
Oriental Steamer "Columbo," in 1862 on
Minicoy Island.

It appears to me that a Light
on Minicoy is most requisite for the safe
navigation of the Passages between the Laccadive
and the Maldivian Islands. The danger
however is not considerable during the inter-
val from September to the end of April, but
is decidedly great from April to the end of
August.

August, during this season the South West Monsoon prevails with much thick weather, and steamers especially outward bound ones have to run for the passage between the Laccadive and the Maldive Islands, which is divided in two by the Island of Minicoy, often without observations for days previously, and subject to the influence of varying Currents, the direction and force of which are greatly affected by the force and direction of the monsoon. The loss of the "George Reid" is I understand clearly attributable to these causes.

x x x x x

J. C. F. Wilson
Lieut. R. M. late Indian Navy.

Oct 1874
C. F. Wilson
Lieut. R. M. late Indian Navy

Mr. 1874
Lieut. R. M. late Indian Navy
The following notes
made 23rd Dec 73
Dec 5th Jan 74
No 508
Q.O. No 1228 8-5-74
forwarding copy
of correspondence
regarding the pro-
posed erection of a
light house on the
Island of Minicoy
and regarding the
on the subject.



Alibabad
20 Feb 1874

My dear Walker.

I find your letter of 18th Jan 74 and there is a question in it unanswered - viz. when I am going to the Red Sea. My trip is deferred, as Govt wish me to stay here at present.

If you want me to do any thing about the Minicoy light you might suggest the same.

I beg to draw the attention
of the Council to the
position in which we are
placed in respect of these
Light Houses & Marine
Charges generally.

The ~~the~~ "Marine" Service
has ~~not~~ one of the Services
originally transferred
to "Provincial" - and ^{neither} the
original Provincial staff.

went for the portrait
on which it was framed
containing a single picture
of Marine & her sister.

"Marine was subsequently
transferred - with a grant
of Rs 9974 - the charge of
the establishment & maintained
at 4 Light Houses! This charge
he still in care.

But in addition
he has assumed very heavy liabilities

which he has no means of
meeting & is being by drawing
on ^{the} Provincial Assignment
for other purposes.

The two Light Houses
at Cape Comorin & Cardia
patam / alone will cost
Rs. 100000 - During the Aug
Michigan job will be some 60,000
more - & so on.

The Draft proposed that
should I then be set forth the
State of affairs, clearly &

claim an enhanced grant
if none is to be done ~~there~~ to
work for which he received
£997.

The Mexican Light House
is clearly Imperial & we
should I think be under no
obligation to any liability con-
nected with it.

D.S.

Dec 12/4

Note.

9

The amount of the
Marine Assignment is £997.
The data on which
it was framed were from the
estimated provisions for

Light Houses at—
Santofily ———— No 2,630
Point Divi ———— No 2,272
Armagh or
Monopolism. } ———— No 1,886.
Pulicat ———— No 1,300
————— No 9,974
£ 997

The details of the
charges for the Santofily
Light House are,
Superintendent ———— No 840
Aest — do ———— 180
Light keepers ———— 360
Other items (not detailed) 1,250
————— No 2,630

These details apply
to the other items as well, only
varying in amount.
18/3/72

OK

submitted with
reference to note
recd from the
Hon. Secy.

Hon. Secy.

20.3.74

C. 20.3.74

1228
P. W. D.

Proceedings of the Madras Government,
Under date the April 1874.

Read the following:—

From
The Secretary to the Govt.
of India. S.W.O. } (H. E. Dec. 508 of 23rd Decr 73.)

Ordered that the
following letter be sent

To. The Secy. to the Government
of India. S.W.O.
1229

4-1. Copies despatched 16/5/74.

Sir,

In acknowledgment
of Resolution of the Go-
vernment of India Dec. 508
of 23rd December 1873. I am
directed to call attention
to a much later commu-
-nication from the Govern-
-ment of Madras, relative
to a Light House on the

MD
17/4

Island of Minicoy, than
that quoted at the head
of the Resolution. The
Government of India
would appear to have
overlooked the papers
forwarded with Docket
No. 2128 of 26th August 1873,
containing a summary
of opinions on the subject.

V. It can hardly, I am
directed to say, be in-
tended that the Local
Government shall con-
tribute towards the cost
of a Light House written
of by Commander A.D.

Taylor as required "to mark
the Ocean Highway between
Aden and Ceylon, a work
for Imperial, Colonial,
and Indian Governments
to carry out". Of which
the Elder Brethren of the

Trinity

Trinity House give their
opinion that "it would
be an immense advan-
tage to the rapidly in-
creasing trade between
Europe and India".
While Mr. Dalrymple
says that "now that the
bulk of the Indian trade
passes through the Suez
Canal all the ship-
owners at home should
urge the Government of
India to provide a
1st class Imperial
Light House on that Island.

The work bears (it is
submitted) the character of
an Imperial work, and
the question of providing
the ways and means
for its construction
seems to be one to be
decided by the Gov^t of
India

India in communication
with the Home Government.

The Government of
Madras, I am further
instructed to say, have
done more than their
^{They have commenced}
~~share~~ ^{share} in commencing
operations on the con-
struction of Light
Houses at Cape Comorin
and Point Calicut, which are
estimated to cost upwards
of Rs 60,000 without the
Lighting Apparatus;
a sum which is likely
to be exceeded, owing
to alterations of Plans
called for to adapt
them to the size of the
superimposed Lanterns.
In connection with this
subject I am to draw
the attention of the
Government

I had no idea that
we had commenced
these works. I think
having written previously
to the effect that the
1st of the Department
should not be
obliged to meet
the cost of the
1st of the Department
I had no idea that
we had commenced
these works. I think
having written previously
to the effect that the
1st of the Department
should not be
obliged to meet
the cost of the
1st of the Department
I had no idea that
we had commenced
these works. I think
having written previously
to the effect that the
1st of the Department
should not be
obliged to meet
the cost of the
1st of the Department

65

7
Government of India
to the position in which
the Madras Govern-
ment is placed in
respect to Light Houses
and Marine charges
generally. The Marine
service was not one
of the services originally
transferred to "Provincial"
and neither the original
Provincial assignment
nor the budget in which
it was framed contained
any provision for Marine
expenditure. When "Marine"
was subsequently trans-
ferred, a permanent
grant of Rs 99,400 only
was made over to main-
tain the Establishments
employed in connection
with the four Light Houses
at

at Santapilly, Point
Divi, Arneghow and
Palicat; and this charge
is still incurred. But
in addition to this the
Local Government, have
assumed very heavy
liabilities which there
are no means of meeting
except by drawing on
the Provincial assign-
ment for Miscellaneous
purposes, which was
framed, as pointed out
in para 2 of my letter
No. 1143, dated 23rd April
1843, without reference
to works of such mag-
nitude as those under
reference. Among ^{other} such
liabilities may be enu-
merated works in
connection with the
Harbours of Cochin,
Cocanada

The sentence
beginning "The
Government
operations" shall
be inserted here

8
Cocanada, Mangalore,
and others treated of
in Mr. Robertson's
Report; [the Light
Houses at Cape Com-
orin, Point Cadapattam
and Inticorin; and the
Madras Pier &c.; the
cost of which will be
considerable. I am
accordingly to urge
the claim of this
Presidency to be
relieved from all share
of the cost, not only
of the Minicoy Light
House, but of these
Light Houses at Cape
Comorin and Point
Cadapattam (last
mentioned); all pro-
gress with which has
now been suspended,
and
directed

and is not likely to be
resumed till special
funds are made
available. It may
be ^{practically} ~~as well~~ to remind
the Government of
India that the sites
of these Light Houses
are not even inclu-
ded within the Ma-
dras Presidency,
but are in foreign
Territory, and that
their erection has not
been called for in
connection with Local
Trade (except that of
the Travancore State)
but with reference to the
Panambur Ship Canal
a proposed national work.

C.M.N.

Ministry of Marine
17-4-74

not on
reference made

17-4-74

expenses
incurred. Mr.

will then
be in

satisfactory

settled
D.M. 3000
taken from
cost of 1000
24-4-74

The accounts
have been
submitted
to the
Government
of India
for
approval
and
the
Government
of India
has
approved
the
same
on
29-4-74

29-4-74

11 Sept.

29

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 10 January 1874-

Read the following

From the Secretary to the
Govt of India.

(Here enter No 508 of 23 Decr
1873)

Ordered that the
following letter be sent.

To
The Secretary to the
Government of India

Sir,

In acknowledgement
of Resolution of the Govern-
ment of India No 308
of 23 December 1873, I am
directed

Md
2/3

11

directed to call attention to
a much later communica-
tion from the Government
of Madras, relative to
a Light House on the
Island of Minicoy, than
that quoted at the head
of the Resolution. The
Government of India would
appear to have overlooked
the papers forwarded with
Secret No 2128 of 25th August
1873, containing a summa-
ry of opinions on the
subject.

It can hardly,
I am directed to say, be
intended that the Local
Government shall contribute
towards the cost of a Light
House

House written of by
Commander A. S.
Taylor as required to
"mark the Ocean High-
"way between Aden
"and Ceylon, a work
"for Imperial, Colonial,
"and Indian Govern-
"ments to carry out."

Of which the Elder
Brethren of the Trinity

House give their opinion
that "it would be an
"immense advantage
"to the rapidly increas-
"ing trade between
"Europe and India"-
While Mr Dalrymple
says that "now that
"the bulk of the Indian
trade

"trade passed through the
 "Suez Canal all the Ship-
 "owners at home should
 "urge the Government of
 "India to provide a 1st
 "Class Imperial Light
 "House on that Island -
 Manifestly it must be
 an Imperial work, and
 the question of providing
 the ways and means for
 its construction is one to
 be decided by the Govern-
 -ment of India in com-
 -munication with the
 Home Government.

The Government
 of Madras, I am further
 instructed to say, have
 done more than their
 share

The work seems (it is
 submitted) The char-
 -acter of
 is submitted, the
 character of

seems to be

to adapt them
 to the size of the
 superimposed
 lanterns - in
 connection to a

share in commencing
 operations on the construc-
 -tion of Light Houses
 at Cape Comorin and
 Quik Cudia Patam,
 which are estimated
 to cost upwards of
 Rupees 60,000 without
 the Lighting Apparatus,
 a sum which is likely,
 if any thing to be ex-
 -ceeded, ^{owing to} And that in
 alternation of plan
 consideration of the cir-
 -cumstances ~~urgently~~
~~reference~~ from
 para 2 of my letter
 No 475 of 23rd April
 1873, and admitted in
 para 3 of your reply
 Hereto No 378 A B
 of 12th October May
 Confidentially

confidently ^{hope} expect that
the Government of India
will ^{be} ~~be~~ ^{be} pleased to cooperate
in the work with a
grant of at least half
its cost in 1875-76, if
funds are not available
in the previous year. +

It being under-
stood that Colonel A.
Fraser, C. B. is commis-
sioned to report on Light
be Houses in the East Sea
in the course of this year,
when doubtless his services
will be availed of for
inspection also of Min-
icoy Island, I am directed
to request that he be
instructed, if time permits,
to

to take the same oppor-
tunity, of inspecting
the Cadizpatan and
Cape Comorin works,
and reporting if any
changes are desirable.

G.M.

Govt. of 1874 Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

The Secy. to the
Govt. of India.

Dated

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. 8 May 1874, No. 1228

1229

Nos. 19 and 21.

Requesting that
the Provincial Funds
of the Madras Presidency
may be relieved of
the cost of the Minor
Light House & other
marine works of
an Imperial Character

Minor Light House

Passing orders on a
letter from the Secy. of India
relative to the source
from which funds
should be provided
to meet the cost of the
work.

RV