

(1) Number of pages _____

(2) Date of repair _____

(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	2196-97	Press
~~B.P.~~ No.		~~Mis~~
Dated	10 - 8 -	1955 1874

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
10th August 1874.*

No. 183. Read the following endorsement of the Marine Department, dated Ootacamund, 20th July 1874:—

From Captain J. H. TAYLOR, R.N.R., Acting Master Attendant, Administrative Department, Madras, to the Honorable D. F. CARMICHAEL, Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Marine Department, dated Fort St. George, 3rd July 1874, No. 3,987.

I HAVE the honor to forward, for the consideration of His Excellency the Governor in Council, a statement setting forth the great advantage that would accrue to the mercantile public by the erection of a lighthouse on the island of Minicoy. That island, I believe, is attached to the collectorate of Malabar, rendering it the duty of the Madras Government, if it seem fit, to initiate any steps in this direction. Though the fact of its being equally interesting in a nautical point of view to Ceylon, Calcutta, Bengal, China, and the East generally, may furnish a good reason for the expense being ultimately shared between Indian and Imperial funds.

2. When the Peninsula and Oriental Company's ship *Colombo* was wrecked on this island in 1862, this subject was much and favorably discussed, and it has been revived from time to time since that period, though as yet no action has been taken on the matter. The island lies directly in the course from and to Aden and Ceylon, and, being very low, and with a hazy atmosphere, it is at present very dangerous to navigation; but with a good bright light, it would prove a most valuable assistant in directing the courses of steamers, which have in this particular place to encounter most variable and perplexing currents, which are constantly operating to disturb their calculated positions.

3. The arguments that in 1862 proved the great utility of such a light have, since the opening of the Suez Canal, and the consequent rapid increase of steam traffic in these seas, acquired greater force, and what was then described as a useful measure may now be almost termed a necessity. To be enabled to steer a direct course boldly, and realize an exact position after the long run from Aden, would be a great boon to shipping, and I would therefore, in that important interest, respectfully urge upon His Excellency in Council the adoption of this most praiseworthy undertaking.

4. The island being low and of small dimensions, a good first-class light of 125 feet elevation, giving ordinarily from ships' decks a radius of eighteen miles, would amply suffice. I have heard that there is a coral stone on the island that might be cheaply quarried, but I do not know if it would be possible to use stone of that nature in building a column; and when the peculiar shape of the island and the adjacent reef are taken into consideration, a central position, which would be the best for the purpose, would require the erection of the lighthouse to be on the sandy shore or in shallow water. I append a rough sketch of the island and reef to illustrate my meaning.

5. In the event of this work recommending itself to His Excellency in Council, I would recommend an open work, iron, lighthouse, identical with the one recently erected by Mr. Parkes on Ashraffi Island in Red Sea, which also is coral

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
10th August 1874.*

formation. This building would well meet all requirements of light and establishment, and the cost, with every item, including freight, labor and contingencies, could be easily and reliably ascertained from that gentleman, and the building could not fail to prove both cheap and durable.

6. Dues upon this light could, if necessary, be easily collected in a similar manner to those of Basset light, and as regards the original outlay, if His Excellency in Council decides upon one light only for the southern promontory of India, the funds released by that alteration might perhaps be satisfactorily applied to this beneficial work. Trade is so rapidly increasing in the ocean high road in the centre of which Minicoy Island is placed, that this almost appears its destined use, and a similar misfortune to the Colombo, at any moment, might be attended with more disastrous results than was happily the case on that occasion, and be the cause of regret that steps had not been commenced to obviate the possibility.

TRANSFERRED to the Public Works Department for consideration and disposal.
(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Acting Chief Secretary.

No. 190.

ORDER THEREON, 10th August 1874, No. 2,196.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 9.

ORDERED that this letter and its enclosure (in original) be forwarded for the consideration of the Government of India in continuation of the papers noted below:—

Docket No. 2,128, of 26th August 1873.
Letter No. 1,229, dated 8th May 1874.

(True Extract.)

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

No. 191.

(Docket No. 2,197, dated 10th August 1874.)
Copy of the above forwarded to the Government of India.
(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

Spare Copies

Administrative Department

*No. 3987. Madras
Marine Office
3 July 1874.*

From

*Captain J. H. Taylor R. N. R.
Acting Master Attendant
Administrative Department*

To

*The Honorable D. F. Carmichael
Acting Chief Secretary to Government
Marine Department
Fort Saint George*

Sir

*I have the honor to forward
for the consideration of His Excellency
the Governor in Council, a statement
setting forth the great advantage
that would accrue to the Mercantile
Public by the erection of a light house
on the Island of Minicoy. That Island,
I believe, is attached to the Collectorate
of Malabar, rendering it the duty of the
Madras Government, if it seem fit, to
initiate any step in this direction. Though
the fact of its being equally interesting
in a nautical point of view to Ceylon,
Calcutta, Bengal, China and the East
generally.*

generally, may furnish a good reason for the expense being ultimately shared between Indian and Imperial funds.

2. When the Peninsular and Oriental Company's ship *Colombo* was wrecked on this Island in 1862, this subject was much and favourably discussed, and it has been revived from time to time since that period, though as yet no action has been taken on the matter. The Island lies directly in the course from and to Aden and Beylaw, and being very low, and with a hazy atmosphere, it is at present very dangerous to navigation; but with a good bright light, it would prove a most valuable assistant in directing the courses of steamers, which have in this particular place to encounter most variable and perplexing currents, which are constantly operating to disturb their calculated positions.

3. The arguments that in 1862 proved the great utility of such a light have, since the opening of the Suez Canal, and the consequent rapid increase of steam traffic in these seas, acquired greater force, and what was then described as a useful measure

measure may now be almost termed a necessity. To be enabled to steer a direct course boldly, and realize our exact position after the long run from Aden, would be a great boon to shipping, and I would therefore, in that important interest, respectfully urge upon His Excellency in Council the adoption of this most promising undertaking.

4. The Island being low and of small dimensions, a good first class light of 125 feet elevation, giving ordinarily from ship's decks a radius of 18 miles, would amply suffice. I have heard that there is a Coral stone on the Island; that might be cheaply quarried, but I do not know if it would be possible to use stone of that nature in building a Column, and when the peculiar shape of the Island and the adjacent reef are taken into consideration, a central position, which would be the best for the purpose, would require the erection of the Lighthouse to be on the sandy shore or in shallow water. I append a rough sketch of the Island and reef to illustrate my meaning

meaning.

5

In the event of this work recommending itself to His Excellency in Council, I would recommend an open work, iron, Lighthouse, identical with the one recently erected by Mr. Parkes on Ashraff Island in Red Sea, which also is Coral formation. This building would well meet all requirements of Light and Establishment, and the cost, with every item, including freight, labour and Contingencies, could be easily and reliably ascertained from that gentleman, and the building could not fail to prove both cheap and durable.

Does upon this light could, if necessary, be easily collected in a similar manner to those of Laffers lights, and as regards the original outlay, if His Excellency in Council decides upon our light only for the Southern promontory of India, the funds released by that alteration might perhaps be satisfactorily applied to this beneficial work. Trade is so rapidly increasing in the Ocean high road, in the centre of which Minicoy Island is placed.

placed, that this almost appears its destined use, and a similar misfortune to the Island, at any moment, might be attended with more disastrous results than was happily the case on that occasion, and be the cause of regret that steps had not been commenced to obviate this possibility.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your Most Obedt Servant
J. H. Taylor
Acting Master Attendant
Administrative Department.

22

Oct 30/74

By Chief Secretary

27. Col. J. M. Smith
20 July 1874
His Public Works Department

With yours
affectionately
Wm. Lloyd Garrison.

Harini (1874/1875)

John

the Hg. heart's attention

Administration Department

23

The Great Beyond

Marie Perle

Fort de George

Route 34 } Aug 1874
Road 61 }

No 304 No. 3983

Guadalupe

Recommend the creation

It is highly probable

Recorded with reference to
S. No. 1228 dated 8th May 1874 and S. O.
1273 B, dated 11th May 1874.

Grant

Co. Marine Depo
with P. O. No. 1228
and letter No. 1229 dated
8th May 1894.

Thank You this letter will be submitted to
the Com- of India with reference to those letters
237

2877

St. Louis, Mo. 1892

P. W. 1874 Sept.
Pro: off for Aug.
No: 4807

From

The Chief Secy.

Dated 20 July
Recd. 1 August 1874

E. I.

Transferring letter
from the Ag. Master
Attendant, recom-
mending the erection
of a Light House
on Minicoy Island.

L. O. No: 2196/2197. 16-8-74.

21/8/74

2196

P. W. D.

Proceedings of the Madras Government,

Under date the

187 .

Read the following:—

From the Ag. Master Attendant
thru the Marine Department (H. E. No. 2987 of 3rd July 1874.)

Ordered that this letter
its enclosure (in original)
be forwarded for the
consideration of the
Government of India
in continuation of
the papers noted below
Docket No. 2128 of 26th Aug. 1874
Letter No. 1229 of 8th May 1874
~~Docket No. 1228 of 11th May 1874~~
~~17th July~~

The Marine Department
with H. E. No. 1228 and
letter No. 1229 of 8th May 1874.
H. E. No. 1229 dated
15/8/74.

Copy of the above
forwarded to the Govt. of
India.

L. O. No. 2196/2197. 16-8-74. The Engineer
and others.

4807

Govt. of 1874 India.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To
The Marine Dept.
Employment of India

Dated

Recd.

Enc.

G. O. 18 Aug. 1874, No.

2196

2197

No. 189-191.

Light House on Minicoy Island.

Letter from the Ag Master
Attendant, recommending
the erection of the
Light House ordered to be
forwarded to the Govt. of
India in continuation
of certain papers.

in continuation of certain
papers forwarded a letter
from the Ag Master
attendant, recommending
the erection
of a Light House
on Minicoy Island
in continuation of
certain papers.