

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
9th September 1875.*

No. 214. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Marine Department, dated 26th August 1875, No. 301:—

From A. O. HUME, Esq., C.B., Secretary to the Government of India, (Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce,) to the Hon. D. F. CARMICHAEL, Officiating Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Simla, 11th August 1875, No. 217.

I AM directed to forward copy of a note drawn up in this office embodying the opinions of several authorities as to the necessity of providing lighthouses at Cape Comorin and Muttum, and to request that the Government of India may be favored with an expression of the opinion of His Excellency the Governor in Council on the following points, viz.:—

- (1.) Are two first-class lights really necessary for the southern extremity of the Peninsula? or
- (2.) Would one first-class and one third or fourth class light suffice? or
- (3.) Would a single first-class light suffice?
- (4.) The exact locality or localities where the light or lights should be placed; and
- (5.) The height of the light or lights above mean sea level, necessary to secure fully the objects which should be attained.

2. I am to beg that the reasons for the answers given in each case may be fully stated.

COMMUNICATED to the Public Works Department and to the Master Attendant, who will submit his views in detail, on the points on which information is now sought by the Government of India.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) CHARLES MACLEAN,
Acting Under Secretary.

No. 215. ORDER THEREON, 9th September 1875, No. 2,591.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 14.

ORDERED to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

Major-General, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the District Engineer, Tinnevely, with one enclosure to be returned.

Exd. S. T. Austin.
Spare Copies.

585-2
055-114
1681

Light-houses at Cape Comorin and Muttum.

MR. ROBERTSON, who was appointed by the Secretary of State to report on the harbours of India, recommended in 1871 in connection with the approaches to Paumben from the south, that two light-houses should be erected, *viz.*, one at the Crocodile Rock, 17 miles to the west of Cape Comorin, and 2½ miles from the shore at (Muttum or) Cudiapatam Point; and another on the north side of Paumben on Point Calimere. His recommendation was couched in the following terms: "In connection with the approaches to Paumben from the south, it may not be out of place to draw attention to the great necessity there is for a light at the Crocodile Rock. * * * This rock is much dreaded by the captains of steamers trading round the south of India and Ceylon, and by native craft making for Paumben. It would not be easy to put a light on the rock itself, as it is barely a-wash at low water, and is much exposed; but there are too small islands between it and the shore, on either of which a light could be placed. The shore is also high at this point, and well suited for a light-house.

"On the north side of Paumben, I would strongly advise that a light should be put on Point Calimere, where there is at present only a pillar. Vessels using the pass are liable to get embayed and into danger at Point Calimere. When the wind permits, they have to leave Paumben at night, so as to make the Point by day. In our little steamer drawing only five feet, we experienced the want of a light at this place."

Letter from Master Attendant of Madras, to Government of Madras, No. 2267, dated 13th April 1871.

In April 1871, the Master Attendant at Madras reported that he had conversation with the Maharajah of Travancore and His Highness' Dewan regarding the proposed light at Cape Comorin, and they both held that instead of only one light on the southernmost point of the Continent of India, two lights were required, *viz.*, one first class light on Cape Comorin, and a fourth class light on Point Cudiapatam, the expense of the latter being borne by the Travancore Government. The Master Attendant thereupon strongly recommended, after further consultation with the commanders of coasting steamers and sea-going ships, that a first class fixed light should be provided for Cape Comorin, and the fourth class revolving light, now lying at Tuticorin, be set up on the point at Cadiapatam; and that as the rocky cliffs at this point rose from 80 to 90 feet above the sea level, the light should be set up on a short column of say, 30 feet in height, and at a moderate cost, any quantity of stone required being available on the spot.

Despatch from Secretary of State to Madras Government, No. 10 (Public Works), dated 31st May 1871.

On the 31st May 1871, the Secretary of State forwarded to the Madras Government a letter from Captain A. D. Taylor (late of the Indian Navy, and now holding the appointment of Superintendent of Marine Surveys), in which he explained that it was true that Cape Comorin was the most southern point of India; but Cudiapatam Point, which bears from it a very little to the northward of west, and is distant only 14 miles, was in reality the most

1875

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE,
AGRICULTURE, AND COMMERCE.

COMMERCE AND TRADE.

*Précis on Light-houses at Cape Comorin
and Muttum.*

126755/95.

enclosure in a
letter from the
Off^r Dist Engineer
Dinnerly dated 29th
September 1875 No 80.

For

The Secretary to Govt
D. P. W.

90 of September 75
in B. 214

206500 - 1-1-1
Precis on Light
houses at Cape
Bonnie & Mutton

17.600/25

1894
474-5

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE,
AGRICULTURE, AND COMMERCE.

No: 5755

COMMERCE AND TRADE,

Secy: of the Marine Dept.

No. 1

Dated Simla, the 11th August 1875.

Dated 26 Aug. 31895.
Recd. 7 Sept. 31895.

No: 301

Put up for C. 21/193
9/11/75

SUBJECT.

Request for opinion on certain points connected
with the construction of light-houses at Comorin
and Muttum.

N 214/5

With Order

Annexed to note 1 No. 6 to be used
SC. 214/5-27-9-75

27 Sept 75

Signature

26/2/75-27-9-75

4-002-16 9-48.

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Solnt. of 1875 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

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[Handwritten signature]

Minerally

Dated

Issued

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Reed.

Encl.

G. O.,

1975, No.

25-0

Nos. 214-215-

Construction of light-houses
at Comorin & Muttam

Proce: of the Marine
Dept: containing
letter of the Govt:
of India asking for
opinion on certain
points connected
the _____, record

✓ 26004-2.5-25