

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

MARINE DEPARTMENT.

6th January 1882, No. 4.

Lighthouses.

Read again—

From J. E. O'CONOR, Esq., Assistant Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Finance and Commerce (Separate Revenue, &c.—Commerce), to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Simla, 22nd October 1881, No. 3663 [Current No. 667].

With reference to the accompanying copy of a despatch from the Secretary of State, No. 135, dated 25th August 1881 (with enclosures), regarding the construction of a lighthouse on the Island of Minicoy, I am directed to state that Her Majesty's Secretary of State has been informed that such negotiations as are required with Native Chiefs should be carried on by local officers under the direction and control of Local Governments.

2. I am accordingly to request that His Excellency the Governor in Council will be good enough, on the arrival of the representative of the Board of Trade, to take such steps as may seem necessary in view to the conduct of the proposed negotiations with the Raja of Cannanore.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

Despatch from the Most Honorable the Secretary of State for India, to His Excellency the Most Honorable the Governor-General of India in Council, dated India Office, London, 25th August 1881, No. 135 (Statistics and Commerce).

In continuation of my despatch, No. 121, of 9th September 1880, and of other correspondence on the subject of the proposed Minicoy Lighthouse, I now transmit, for the yearly consideration of your Excellency, a copy of a letter,*

* Dated 30th July 1881.
† „ 25th August 1881.

with accompaniment, from the Board of Trade, and of my reply† thereto.

ENCLOSURES.

No. 1.

From C. CECIL TREVOR, Esq., to the Under Secretary of State for India, dated Board of Trade, 30th July 1881, No. H.-5261.

Referring to previous correspondence in connection with the proposed erection of a lighthouse on the Island of Minicoy, and more particularly to your letters of the 3rd December 1880 and 23rd December of the same year, I am directed by the Board of Trade to transmit, herewith, a copy of the clause which has been inserted in the Public Works Loan Bill, now before Parliament, and I am to request that you will move the Marquis of Hartington to cause the necessary steps to be taken to signify the consent of the Indian Government to the levying of dues for this light, as required by Sections 2 and 3 of the Merchant Shipping Act Amendment Act, 1855.

The Board of Trade direct me, at the same time, to point out that the effect of the clause is to cancel the authority to lend 25,000*l.* on account of the Basse Lights under the Basse Lights Acts, 1869 and 1872, which has not been acted on, while the Public Works Loan Commissioners are empowered to advance 20,000*l.* for the construction of the new lighthouse at Minicoy, the dues levied for which are to be carried to and form part of the Basse Light Funds. It will be seen that 13,000*l.* of the Basse loan has been repaid.

The Board have been in communication with the Corporation of the Trinity House with the view of arranging for the personal inspection of the site and report thereon by an Engineer, and it is proposed that this duty should be undertaken by one of the Engineers' staff at the Trinity House.

The latest information which the Board possess as to the island is contained in a report (published by the Geographical Society in 1872) by Captain Basevi, R.E. It is to the effect that Minicoy (or Minakai) is a low coral island, of about $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles total length, with a breadth of about half a mile, inhabited by a Mahomedan population of over 2,000, described as intelligent and hospitable. Cocoanuts, fowls, fish, and turtle are said to abound, also fresh water, but this is somewhat brackish.

The island is stated to be under the authority of the Raja of Cannanore, and I am to suggest that it would be an advantage if the Indian Government would cause such preliminary negotiations as may be necessary to be entered into with him. The Board have requested the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to assist them, if practicable, by allowing one of their Naval Officers to visit the island, convey the Engineer thither, and make a short stay during the selection of the site. Under these circumstances, it has occurred to the Board that the negotiations to which they have referred might be conveniently undertaken, should Lord Hartington see no objection, by such Naval Officer, when furnished, of course, with the necessary authority from the India Office. On this point, I am to suggest communication with the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, to whom a letter of the same general tenor with this has this day been addressed.

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Clause.

Whereas by "The Merchant Shipping Amendment Act, 1855," provision is made for the levying and recovery of dues to be paid by any ship which passes or derives benefit from a lighthouse erected on or near the coast of any British possession, and the Public Works Loan Commissioners are authorized to advance loans for the purpose of constructing such lighthouse:

And whereas by "The Basses Lights Act, 1869," and "The Basses Lights Act, 1872," the Public Works Loan Commissioners were directed to advance sums not exceeding in the whole one hundred and forty-five thousand pounds, repayable in fifty years as therein mentioned, for the purpose of constructing the Great Basses Lighthouse and the Little Basses Lighthouse, and the dues levied in respect of that lighthouse are declared to form one fund (in this section referred to as the Basses Lights Fund) to be applied for the purpose of paying the expenses incurred in erecting and maintaining such lighthouses, and for no other purpose whatever, and the priority of the charges on such fund is declared by Section 6 of "The Basses Lights Act, 1872:"

And whereas sums amounting in the whole to one hundred and twenty thousand pounds have been advanced in pursuance of the said Acts, of which thirteen thousand pounds have been repaid, and the annual receipts of the Basses Lights Fund, during the year ending on the thirty-first day of March one thousand eight hundred and eighty, exceeded the annual charges thereon by upwards of three thousand two hundred pounds:

And whereas it is expedient to provide for the remainder of the loan authorized by the said Acts being applied towards the erection of a lighthouse on the Island of Minicoy, between the Maldivé and Laccadive Islands.

Be it therefore enacted as follows:—

- (1.) The existing power of the Public Works Loan Commissioners to advance a further loan of twenty-five thousand pounds under "The Basses Lights Act, 1872," shall cease.
- (2.) In the event of provision being made by Order in Council and otherwise for the levy of dues in respect of any lighthouse to be erected on the said island of Minicoy, the Public Works Loan Commissioners may, in lieu of the loan before in this section declared to cease, and in pursuance of "The Merchant Shipping Act, 1854," and "The Merchant Shipping Amendment Act, 1855," advance, for the purpose of constructing such Minicoy Lighthouse, any sum or sums not exceeding in the whole twenty thousand pounds, which shall be repayable as to each portion thereof, within a period not exceeding fifty years from the date of the advance of such portion, and shall bear interest at the rate of four and a quarter per centum per annum.
- (3.) The sums advanced in pursuance of this section shall be advanced in accordance with "The Public Works Loans Act, 1875," and be secured on the Basses Lights Fund.
- (4.) So long as any money is due to the Public Works Loan Commissioners on account of any loan under this section, the dues payable in respect of the Great Basses Lighthouse and the Little Basses Lighthouse or the Minicoy Lighthouse shall be allowed only with the consent of the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury.

- (5.) The dues received in respect of the Minicoy Lighthouse shall be carried to and form part of the Basses Light Funds, and Section 6 of "The Basses Lights Act, 1872," shall be construed as if the Minicoy Lighthouse were one of the lighthouses therein mentioned, and the expense of maintaining the Minicoy Lighthouse shall be defrayed accordingly, and the principal and interest of any loan under this section shall be charged on the said fund next after the sums charged thereon by the said Section 6.

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No. 2.

From Sir LOUIS MALLET, Under Secretary of State for India, to the Assistant Secretary, Harbour Department, Board of Trade, dated India Office, 25th August 1881, No. S. & C.-845.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. H.-5261, dated 30th ultimo, on the subject of the erection of a lighthouse on the Island of Minicoy, and to request that you will inform the Board of Trade that a copy of your letter, and its accompaniment, will be immediately transmitted for the consideration of the Government of India, whose reply shall be communicated to you as soon as received.

With reference to the first point in your letter, that of the dues for the light, I am to state that the Government of India have already, by their letter of 5th October 1880, expressed their willingness to collect dues at Indian ports from ships deriving benefit from the light. But your letter under reply does not specify either the amount of the dues proposed, or the course or voyage which is to make a ship liable to them, and unless therefore the Board desire to leave these two points to the determination of the Government of India, further information regarding them is desirable.

And as regards the question of the authority under which the Island of Minicoy is, I am to refer you to my letter of 23rd December last, informing you that the island is at present under the jurisdiction of the Government of India. Should any negotiations with the Chief of Cannanore, who resides on the mainland of India in the district of Malabar, be necessary, they would be conducted by the official authorities of that district. The Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty have not therefore been addressed, as suggested in the last paragraph of your letter under reply.

—
No. 527.

Referred to the Collector of Malabar for early report.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
7th November 1881.

(Signed) R. DAVIDSON,
Chief Secretary.

Read also the following papers:—

From J. E. O'CONOR, Esq., Assistant Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Finance and Commerce, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Simla, 9th November 1881, No. 4124 [Current No. 712].

In continuation of my letter, No. 3663, dated the 22nd ultimo, I am directed to forward a copy of the despatches from the Secretary of State noted on the margin, and to request that, under the orders of His Excellency the Governor in Council, the necessary arrangements may, as desired by the Secretary of State, be made for facilitating the inspection of the Island of Minicoy by Mr. Matthews, in view to the selection of a site for the proposed lighthouse.

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ENCLOSURE No. 1.

Despatch from the Most Honorable the Secretary of State for India, to His Excellency the Most Honorable the Governor-General of India in Council, dated India Office, London, 6th October 1881, No. 150 (Statistics and Commerce).

In continuation of my despatch, dated the 25th August, No. 135, relative to the proposed erection of a lighthouse on the Island of Minicoy, I now forward, for such action as your Excellency may deem expedient, a copy of a further letter* received from the Board of Trade on the same subject.

* Dated 6th September 1881.

From C. CECIL TREVOR, Esq., to the Under Secretary of State for India, dated Board of Trade (Harbour Department), Whitehall Gardens, 6th September 1881, No. 6106.

I am directed by the Board of Trade to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th ultimo on the subject of the erection of a lighthouse on the Island of Minicoy, and I am to request that you will state to the Marquis of Hartington that it is proposed that a due of 1s. 4d. a ton should be levied as follows:—

- "upon every ship in any voyage to or from any place in the Laccadive or Maldive Islands that crosses either the eighth or ninth parallel of North Latitude;" and
- "upon every ship which in any voyage shall or may pass between the Laccadive and Maldive Islands."

With reference to the final paragraph of your letter, I am to request that, should the Secretary of State see no objection, the Indian Government may be asked to enter into negotiations without delay with the Chief of Cannanore, with a view to permission being granted to the Engineer who is about to visit Minicoy to select a site and erect the lighthouse and necessary buildings.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

Despatch from the Most Honorable the Secretary of State for India, to His Excellency the Most Honorable the Governor-General of India in Council, dated India Office, London, 13th October 1881, No. 161 (Statistics and Commerce).

In continuation of my despatch of 6th instant, I now transmit, for your information, and for any steps which may be necessary, copy of letter and accompaniments from the Board of

Trade, stating that Her Majesty's Ship *Ready* will convey to Minicoy, the Engineer selected to inspect the site of the proposed lighthouse.

From C. CECIL TREVOR, Esq., to the Under Secretary of State for India, dated Board of Trade (Harbour Department), Whitehall Gardens, S.W., 1st October 1881, No. H.-6623.

With reference to previous correspondence on the subject of the erection of a lighthouse on the Island of Minicoy, I am directed by the Board of Trade to transmit herewith, for the information of the Marquis of Hartington, extract from letter from the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, from which it will be perceived that Her Majesty's Gun Vessel *Ready* will be at Galle on the 24th November to convey to Minicoy the Engineer selected to inspect and report upon the site of the proposed lighthouse.

From ROBERT HALL, Esq., to the Assistant Secretary, Harbour Department, Board of Trade, dated Admiralty, 19th September 1881, No. H.-6623.

With reference to my letter of the 8th ultimo, No. M.-1700, in reply to the request conveyed in your letter of the 30th July, No. H.-5261, that arrangements might be made for the conveyance of Mr. Thomas Matthews, one of the Engineering Staff of the Corporation of Trinity House, in one of Her Majesty's ships to make the necessary preliminary inspection and report with the view of a lighthouse being erected on the Island of Minicoy, I am commanded by My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request you will state to the Board of Trade that the Commander-in-Chief, East Indies, to whom the matter was referred, has reported that Her Majesty's Gun Vessel *Ready* (Commander H. H. Edwards) will be at Galle on the 24th November to take Mr. Matthews to Minicoy.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

Despatch from the Most Honorable the Secretary of State for India, to His Excellency the Most Honorable the Governor-General of India in Council, dated India Office, London, 13th October 1881, No. 162 (Statistics and Commerce).

With reference to previous correspondence I forward, herewith, a copy of a letter received from the Board of Trade requesting that Mr. Thomas Matthews may be afforded the requisite facilities for inspecting the Island of Minicoy, with a view to the selection of a site for a light-

house, and I desire that your Excellency will cause the necessary measures to be taken for this purpose.

2. With reference to the first paragraph of the Board's letter, it has not been found practicable to give Mr. Matthews the desired letter of introduction, as it is not known who the authorities on the island are. I request that your Excellency will cause the needful steps to be taken in the matter.

From H. G. CALCRAFT, Esq., to the Under Secretary of State for India, dated Board of Trade (Harbour Department), Whitehall Gardens, S.W., 7th October 1881, No. H.-6945.

With reference to Mr. Trevor's letter of the 1st instant, No. 6623, on the subject of the erection of a lighthouse on the Island of Minicoy, I am directed by the Board of Trade to request that you will move the Marquis of Hartington to be good enough to cause a letter of introduction to the Indian authorities on the island to be sent to this department for the Engineer, Mr. Thomas Matthews, who will very shortly be leaving England for Minicoy with a view of inspecting and reporting upon a site for the lighthouse.

2. I am also to request that you will move His Lordship to cause such immediate arrangements to be made as may ensure the necessary permission to proceed with the work being obtained from the Chief of Cannanore and forwarded to the Captain of Her Majesty's Ship *Ready* at Galle to arrive not later than the 24th November (proximo), on which day it is intended that the Engineer shall proceed on board that vessel for his voyage to Minicoy.

Telegram from the Collector of Malabar, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Calicut, 17th November 1881 [Current No. 722].

Ali Raja consents to erection of lighthouse, Minicoy.

Telegram to Mr. THOMAS MATTHEWS, care of Captain, H.M.'s Ship "*Ready*," Galle, dated 18th November 1881.

Telegram from the Collector of Malabar, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Calicut, 19th November 1881 [Current No. 727].

Underwood started Minicoy yesterday proposed to render every assistance.

Telegram to Mr. THOMAS MATTHEWS, care of Captain, H.M.'s Ship "*Ready*," dated 21st November 1881.

In continuation my telegram eighteenth, Mr. Winterbotham, a Covenanted Civilian, left for Minicoy eighteenth, and will render all assistance.

(Signed) R. DAVIDSON,
Chief Secretary.

Telegram from Collector of Malabar, dated 22nd November 1881.

Margaret Northcote missed Minicoy and returned Cochin. Starts again to-morrow after coaling. Afraid Captain inexperienced and trip risky.

Telegram to Mr. THOMAS MATTHEWS, care of Captain, H.M.'s Ship "*Ready*," Galle, dated 23rd November 1881.

You had better proceed on Minicoy Survey without waiting for Civilian from Malabar. Doubtful if he will reach island.

(Signed) R. DAVIDSON,
Chief Secretary.

From G. McWATTERS, Esq., Acting Collector of Malabar, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Calicut, 2nd December 1881, No. 4188 [Current No. 761].

I have the honor to return the papers connected with the proposed new lighthouse at Minicoy, referred to me with your endorsement, No. 527, dated 7th ultimo.

2. From the last paragraph of the Board of Trade's letter, dated 30th July 1880, it seems that the Board of Trade were under the impression that the island of Minicoy is under the authority of the Raja of Cannanore, and that therefore preliminary negotiations were necessary to be entered into with him before building the lighthouse.

3. Minicoy is, however, not under the Raja but under British administration, and I do not well see what negotiations are required. Ali Raja is not in a position to communicate with Minicoy or to issue orders to the people there. If he were to issue orders they would not be obeyed. In case the island is ever handed back to him, he says he will raise no objection to the lighthouse.

4. In regard to rendering assistance for the prosecution of the work, I sent Mr. Underwood to Minicoy just to render what help was necessary and issue instructions to the Ameen. The Ameen will be over at Calicut with his accounts shortly, and any further orders that may be deemed necessary can be given to him personally. He is the only one on the island who can render assistance.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 29th November 1881, No. 2980 [Current No. 782].

Read the following letter from W. G. UNDERWOOD, Esq., Acting Special Assistant Collector, to the Collector of Malabar, Calicut, dated Cochin, 22nd November 1881:—

I regret to have to inform you that the *Margaret Northcote* failed to make Minicoy. The Captain attributes the failure to his chronometer being wrong. As we were supposed to be two days from land if near Minicoy, and had only three days' supply of coal, it was deemed advisable to start for the mainland. The officer in command told me that Captain Phipps had told him that if he did not hit the island off at once, he would not do it at all. That officer had also told me that the steamer would not sail. I was of opinion, judging from the courses by calculation and dead reckoning, that we were well to the west of the island, so we should not have much more than enough coal to reach the land, if a current had set us west. I thought by going for Cochin we might by chance bump up against the island.

2. There cannot be very much doubt but that we went much to the east and south of Minicoy looking to our course back. I hope by going *via* Kalpeni that we shall have no difficulty in getting to Minicoy. I shall start things going and leave a clerk there, and proceed at once to Minicoy and hope to arrive before the Government vessel leaves. It is very annoying losing a week's work, and it is not pleasant spending an extra few days on this steamer which is about as uncomfortable as it can be. I hope, however, there will be time to complete the work.

No. 4099.

True copy forwarded to the Board of Revenue for information.

2. The *Margaret Northcote* left Calicut on Friday last, the 18th instant, for Minicoy, and after two days' sailing failed to find the island and returned to Cochin to coal.

3. The Captain in charge is a Cochin East Indian with a local Mate's certificate, and is, it would seem, very inexperienced.

4. It has been reported over and over again that the *Margaret Northcote* is very unsuitable for going to the Laccadives, and I trust this time that no "disaster will have to be chronicled" (*vide* paragraph 13 of Board's Proceedings, dated 28th May 1879, No. 1446). She certainly ought to have had at least a competent commander.

5. I telegraphed to Government on Tuesday last that she failed to find Minicoy and had returned, and stated that I thought the Captain was inexperienced.

CALICUT,
24th November 1881.

(Signed) G. McWATTERS,
Acting Collector.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The Board would respectfully invite the attention of Government to the recommendation made in the last paragraph of their Proceedings, dated 28th May 1879, No. 1446, which was referred for consideration in the Marine Department G.O., dated 23rd February 1880, No. 72. No orders appear to have been passed on the subject.

3. The Collector of Tinnevely will, in communication with Captain Phipps, report as to the qualifications of the man sent in charge of the *Margaret Northcote*.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) G. A. GALTON,
Secretary.

Miscellaneous No. 3540.

Transferred to the Marine Department.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
7th December 1881.

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Secy. to Govt., Rev. Dept.

Copy to the Political Department for information.

ORDER THEREON, 6th January 1882, No. 4.

Recorded.

2. It is after all doubtful if Mr. Underwood will be on the spot, but the Government understand that Mr. Matthews will have no difficulty in making the survey in the absence of a Government officer.

(True Extract.)

R. DAVIDSON,
Chief Secretary.

To the Collector of Malabar.
" Master Attendant, Madras.
" Public Works Department.

Exd J. Wright and T. O'Connor.

Govt. of {1882} Madras.

MARINE.

To THE COLLECTOR OF MALABAR,
 &c., &c., &c.

Dated January, 6th.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 6th January 1882, No. 4.

JANUARY.

B. N. M. W. 14th January 1882.

Comm¹ to the SE & Circle

(S.) Lat. SW

S.E. 4 'Cocle'

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

MARINE DEPARTMENT.

6th January 1882, No. 4.

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FORT ST. GEORGE,
7th November 1881.

(Signed) R. DAVIDSON,
Chief Secretary.

Read also the following papers:—

From J. E. O'CONNOR, Esq., Assistant Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Finance and Commerce, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Simla, 9th November 1881, No. 4124 [Current No. 712].

In continuation of my letter, No. 3663, dated the 22nd ultimo, I am directed to forward a copy of the despatches from the Secretary of State noted on the margin, and to request that, under the orders of His Excellency the Governor in Council, the necessary arrangements may, as desired by the Secretary of State, be made for facilitating the inspection of the Island of Minicoy by Mr. Matthews, in view to the selection of a site for the proposed lighthouse.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

Despatch from the Most Honorable the Secretary of State for India, to His Excellency the Most Honorable the Governor-General of India in Council, dated India Office, London, 6th October 1881, No. 150 (Statistics and Commerce).

In continuation of my despatch, dated the 25th August, No. 135, relative to the proposed erection of a lighthouse on the Island of Minicoy, I now forward, for such action as your Excellency may deem expedient, a copy of a further letter* received from the Board of Trade on the same subject.

* Dated 6th September 1881.

From C. CECIL TREVOR, Esq., to the Under Secretary of State for India, dated Board of Trade (Harbour Department), Whitehall Gardens, 6th September 1881, No. 6106.

I am directed by the Board of Trade to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th ultimo on the subject of the erection of a lighthouse on the Island of Minicoy, and I am to request that you will state to the Marquis of Hartington that it is proposed that a due of 1s. 4d. a ton should be levied as follows:—

“upon every ship in any voyage to or from any place in the Laccadive or Maldivé Islands that crosses either the eighth or ninth parallel of North Latitude;” and
“upon every ship which in any voyage shall or may pass between the Laccadive and Maldivé Islands.”

With reference to the final paragraph of your letter, I am to request that, should the Secretary of State see no objection, the Indian Government may be asked to enter into negotiations without delay with the Chief of Cannanore, with a view to permission being granted to the Engineer who is about to visit Minicoy to select a site and erect the lighthouse and necessary buildings.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

Despatch from the Most Honorable the Secretary of State for India, to His Excellency the Most Honorable the Governor-General of India in Council, dated India Office, London, 13th October 1881, No. 161 (Statistics and Commerce).

In continuation of my despatch of 6th instant, I now transmit, for your information, and for any steps which may be necessary, copy of letter and accompaniments from the Board of Trade, stating that Her Majesty's Ship *Ready* will convey to Minicoy, the Engineer selected to inspect the site of the proposed lighthouse.

From C. CECIL TREVOR, Esq., to the Under Secretary of State for India, dated Board of Trade (Harbour Department), Whitehall Gardens, S.W., 1st October 1881, No. H.-6623.

With reference to previous correspondence on the subject of the erection of a lighthouse on the Island of Minicoy, I am directed by the Board of Trade to transmit herewith, for the information of the Marquis of Hartington, extract from letter from the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, from which it will be perceived that Her Majesty's Gun Vessel *Ready* will be at Galle on the 24th November to convey to Minicoy the Engineer selected to inspect and report upon the site of the proposed lighthouse.

From ROBERT HALL, Esq., to the Assistant Secretary, Harbour Department, Board of Trade, dated Admiralty, 19th September 1881, No. H.-6623.

With reference to my letter of the 8th ultimo, No. M.-1700, in reply to the request conveyed in your letter of the 30th July, No. H.-5261, that arrangements might be made for the conveyance of Mr. Thomas Matthews, one of the Engineering Staff of the Corporation of Trinity House, in one of Her Majesty's ships to make the necessary preliminary inspection and report with the view of a lighthouse being erected on the Island of Minicoy, I am commanded by My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request you will state to the Board of Trade that the Commander-in-Chief, East Indies, to whom the matter was referred, has reported that Her Majesty's Gun Vessel *Ready* (Commander H. H. Edwards) will be at Galle on the 24th November to take Mr. Matthews to Minicoy.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

Despatch from the Most Honorable the Secretary of State for India, to His Excellency the Most Honorable the Governor-General of India in Council, dated India Office, London, 13th October 1881, No. 162 (Statistics and Commerce).

With reference to previous correspondence I forward, herewith, a copy of a letter received from the Board of Trade requesting that Mr. Thomas Matthews may be afforded the requisite facilities for inspecting the Island of Minicoy, with a view to the selection of a site for a light-

house, and I desire that your Excellency will cause the necessary measures to be taken for this purpose.

2. With reference to the first paragraph of the Board's letter, it has not been found practicable to give Mr. Matthews the desired letter of introduction, as it is not known who the authorities on the island are. I request that your Excellency will cause the needful steps to be taken in the matter.

From H. G. CALCRAFT, Esq., to the Under Secretary of State for India, dated Board of Trade (Harbour Department), Whitehall Gardens, S.W., 7th October 1881, No. H.-6945.

With reference to Mr. Trevor's letter of the 1st instant, No. 6623, on the subject of the erection of a lighthouse on the Island of Minicoy, I am directed by the Board of Trade to request that you will move the Marquis of Hartington to be good enough to cause a letter of introduction to the Indian authorities on the island to be sent to this department for the Engineer, Mr. Thomas Matthews, who will very shortly be leaving England for Minicoy with a view of inspecting and reporting upon a site for the lighthouse.

2. I am also to request that you will move His Lordship to cause such immediate arrangements to be made as may ensure the necessary permission to proceed with the work being obtained from the Chief of Cannanore and forwarded to the Captain of Her Majesty's Ship *Ready* at Galle to arrive not later than the 24th November (proximo), on which day it is intended that the Engineer shall proceed on board that vessel for his voyage to Minicoy.

Telegram from the Collector of Malabar, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Calicut, 17th November 1881 [Current No. 722].

Ali Raja consents to erection of lighthouse, Minicoy.

Telegram to Mr. THOMAS MATTHEWS, care of Captain, H.M.'s Ship "*Ready*," Galle, dated 18th November 1881.

Telegram from the Collector of Malabar, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Calicut, 19th November 1881 [Current No. 727].

Underwood started Minicoy yesterday proposed to render every assistance.

Telegram to Mr. THOMAS MATTHEWS, care of Captain, H.M.'s Ship "*Ready*," dated 21st November 1881.

In continuation my telegram eighteenth, Mr. Winterbotham, a Covenanted Civilian, left for Minicoy eighteenth, and will render all assistance.

(Signed) R. DAVIDSON,
Chief Secretary.

Telegram from Collector of Malabar, dated 22nd November 1881.

Margaret Northcote missed Minicoy and returned Cochin. Starts again to-morrow after coaling. Afraid Captain inexperienced and trip risky.

Telegram to Mr. THOMAS MATTHEWS, care of Captain, H.M.'s Ship "*Ready*," Galle, dated 23rd November 1881.

You had better proceed on Minicoy Survey without waiting for Civilian from Malabar. Doubtful if he will reach island.

(Signed) R. DAVIDSON,
Chief Secretary.

From G. McWATTERS, Esq., Acting Collector of Malabar, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Calicut, 2nd December 1881, No. 4188 [Current No. 761].

I have the honor to return the papers connected with the proposed new light-house at Minicoy, referred to me with your endorsement, No. 527, dated 7th ultimo.

2. From the last paragraph of the Board of Trade's letter, dated 30th July 1880, it seems that the Board of Trade were under the impression that the island of Minicoy is under the authority of the Raja of Cannanore, and that therefore preliminary negotiations were necessary to be entered into with him before building the lighthouse.

3. Minicoy is, however, not under the Raja but under British administration, and I do not well see what negotiations are required. Ali Raja is not in a position to communicate with Minicoy or to issue orders to the people there. If he were to issue orders they would not be obeyed. In case the island is ever handed back to him, he says he will raise no objection to the lighthouse.

4. In regard to rendering assistance for the prosecution of the work, I sent Mr. Underwood to Minicoy just to render what help was necessary and issue instructions to the Ameen. The Ameen will be over at Calicut with his accounts shortly, and any further orders that may be deemed necessary can be given to him personally. He is the only one on the island who can render assistance.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 29th November 1881, No. 2980 [Current No. 782].

Read the following letter from W. G. UNDERWOOD, Esq., Acting Special Assistant Collector, to the Collector of Malabar, Calicut, dated Cochin, 22nd November 1881:—

I regret to have to inform you that the *Margaret Northcote* failed to make Minicoy. The Captain attributes the failure to his chronometer being wrong. As we were supposed to be two days from land if near Minicoy, and had only three days' supply of coal, it was deemed advisable to start for the mainland. The officer in command told me that Captain Phipps had told him that if he did not hit the island off at once, he would not do it at all. That officer had also told me that the steamer would not sail. I was of opinion, judging from the courses by calculation and dead reckoning, that we were well to the west of the island, so we should not have much more than enough coal to reach the land, if a current had set us west. I thought by going for Cochin we might by chance bump up against the island.

2. There cannot be very much doubt but that we went much to the east and south of Minicoy looking to our course back. I hope by going *via* Kalpeni that we shall have no difficulty in getting to Minicoy. I shall start things going and leave a clerk there, and proceed at once to Minicoy and hope to arrive before the Government vessel leaves. It is very annoying losing a week's work, and it is not pleasant spending an extra few days on this steamer which is about as uncomfortable as it can be. I hope, however, there will be time to complete the work.

No. 4099.

True copy forwarded to the Board of Revenue for information.

2. The *Margaret Northcote* left Calicut on Friday last, the 18th instant, for Minicoy, and after two days' sailing failed to find the island and returned to Cochin to coal.

3. The Captain in charge is a Cochin East Indian with a local Mate's certificate, and is, it would seem, very inexperienced.

4. It has been reported over and over again that the *Margaret Northcote* is very unsuitable for going to the Laccadives, and I trust this time that no "disaster will have to be chronicled" (*vide* paragraph 13 of Board's Proceedings, dated 28th May 1879, No. 1446). She certainly ought to have had at least a competent commander.

5. I telegraphed to Government on Tuesday last that she failed to find Minicoy and had returned, and stated that I thought the Captain was inexperienced.

CALICUT,
24th November 1881.

(Signed) G. McWATTERS,
Acting Collector.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The Board would respectfully invite the attention of Government to the recommendation made in the last paragraph of their Proceedings, dated 28th May 1879, No. 1446, which was referred for consideration in the Marine Department G.O., dated 23rd February 1880, No. 72. No orders appear to have been passed on the subject.

3. The Collector of Tinnevely will, in communication with Captain Phipps, report as to the qualifications of the man sent in charge of the *Margaret Northcote*.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) G. A. GALTON,
Secretary.

Miscellaneous No. 3540.

Transferred to the Marine Department.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
7th December 1881.

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Secy. to Govt., Rev. Dept.

Copy to the Political Department for information.

ORDER THEREON, 6th January 1882, No. 4.

Recorded.

2. It is after all doubtful if Mr. Underwood will be on the spot, but the Government understand that Mr. Matthews will have no difficulty in making the survey in the absence of a Government officer.

(True Extract.)

A. H. Davidson
Chief Secretary.

To the Collector of Malabar.

" Master Attendant, Madras.

" Public Works Department.

Exd. J. Wright and T. O'Connor.

110 Way 14th January 1882

Communicated
to the Suptg. Engr.
& Circle


10.1.82

P. H. L. No 105
Govt. of 1882 Madras.
MARINE.

To
THE COLLECTOR OF MALABAR,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated January, 6th.

Issued

Recd. 10 Jan: 82 Encl.

G.O., 6th January 1882, No. 4.

P.S.C.

JANUARY.

Entd. in Receipt Regt.

Lighthouses.—Papers regarding the assistance
to be rendered to the representative of the Board
of Trade in connection with the construction of a
lighthouse on the Island of Minicoy, recorded.

B. No 110 Way 14th January 1882.

with order

S. E. L. Circle. 10/1
recd 14-1-82