

11/12/05

Recd.

No 215 Wd/ Jan: 26. 1886

Communicated to
the S.E.T. Circle
the S.E.T. Circle

29/1/86

23.1.86

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S.E.T. Circle 26-1-86

Gobt. of {1886} Madras
MARINE.

23 JAN 1886
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Issued

Recd. 23/1/86

Encl.

G.O., &c., 16th January 1886,
Nos. 30, 31.

No 215 Wd/ Jan: 26. 1886

JANUARY.

Seven Pagodas Light.

Communicating, with remark, to the G
ment of India, copy of the Master Atter
letter recommending the erection of
directing him to report on the best site for

one copy only
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16TH JANUARY 1886, Nos. 30, 31, MARINE.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

MARINE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper :—

From J. H. TAYLOR, Esq., Lieut., R.N.R., Master Attendant, Madras, to the Acting Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 24th December 1885, No. 10999.

Administrative department.

With reference to the several shipping disasters that have occurred lately on the Tripasore reef in the neighbourhood of the Seven Pagodas, I would beg respectfully to recommend that a light be placed on the spot, in the most convenient situation, to warn vessels off this danger. The *Hindustan*, the *Karamania* and the *Tangier*, though they offer distressing examples of the neglect of ordinary seamanship on the part of those in charge of them, are yet most severe losses to all those "owners," "consignees," "underwriters" and "ships' companies" concerned.

2. Sanction having been granted for a new second order light for Santopilly, which may at any time be expected, we shall then have a very excellent fourth order light available for Seven Pagodas, and meanwhile, if Government approve of the suggestion, I might avail myself of the services of the tug *Madras* now attending the wrecks, and proceed in her to choose a site which will be most suitable for the purpose. There are several high rocks in the neighbourhood, and probably only a very moderate turret or lighthouse will be necessary, the structure of which could be commenced in anticipation of the arrival of the light; such a light being only serviceable to the port of Madras itself, all the expense, upkeep, &c., &c., should be borne by the Port Fund of Madras as distinguished from the General Fund.

ORDER—dated 16th January 1886, No. 30, Marine.

Copy of the Master Attendant's letter will be communicated to the Government of India, Military (Marine), with the remark that this Government are strongly in favor of the establishment of the beacon suggested; that an estimate for the construction of the lighthouse has been ordered to be prepared as soon as the site has been definitely decided on; and that, if the Government of India approve, the work will be proceeded with as early as possible, the cost being defrayed from Port funds.

2. Meanwhile, the Master Attendant will report on the best site for the proposed light.

(True Extract.)

L. L. L.
Acting Chief Secretary.

To the Public Works department.
" Master Attendant, Madras.

ENDORSEMENT—dated 16th January 1886, No. 31, Marine.

Copy to the Government of India, Military (Marine) department.

J. D. REES,
Under Secy. to Govt.

Exd. A. Raitt.

Govt. of 1886 Madras.

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Acting Chief Secretary.

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" Master Attendant, Madras.

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Govt. of (1886) Madras.

MARINE.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 1st February 1886, No. 59.

FEBRUARY.

Lights.

Ordering that a letter from the Master Attendant, regarding the removal to the Seven Pagodas of the light indented for for the Santopilly reef, be forwarded to the Government of India, and that the Public Works department be requested to effect the change as soon as possible.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

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J. D. REES,
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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

MARINE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper :—

From J. H. TAYLOR, Esq., Lieutenant, R.N.R., Master Attendant, Madras, to the Acting Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 20th January 1886, No. 385.

Administrative department.

I have the honor to report my return from the Seven Pagodas after a careful inspection of the various sites offered by the adjoining rocks for the exhibition of a light, and I am glad to find that the one most remarkable of all from the sea is also the most conveniently situated for the purpose. It stands a quarter of a mile from the sea, and commands an uninterrupted view of the coast on both sides. It is exactly in the centre of the dangerous reef that has been so fatal to ships carelessly navigated of late. The remains of the *Hindustan* are still to be seen three miles south of the situation, and the *Tangier* and *Karamania* struck about four miles north. The water can be seen to break on several submerged rocks in the neighbourhood of both wrecks. The boulder itself is of immense size, and has at its base a small excavated temple to Siva, the carving in good preservation, and on the summit is a square turret-like mass of rock with florid ornamental carving on it, but not used or intended for religious ceremonies; in fact it is inaccessible without cutting steps in the main boulder; it has evidently been a rock placed fantastically by nature in its present position, and resembling in that respect great numbers of others in the immediate neighbourhood. I do not think that the elegant little light-room placed on the top would violate any aesthetic conditions, at all events not in anything like the degree that the erection of a tower or column of thirty or forty feet of modern design (which attitude would be required in any other situation) would cause in such a neighbourhood. The saving of expense also is a great consideration. I would therefore respectfully recommend that the Secretary of State be asked to expedite the shipment of the second order light for Santopilly, and that all expedition be used in the Department of Public Works to effect the change in that quarter, and have the present Santopilly light transferred to Madras to be placed on the proposed site.

2. If the above proposition meets with the approval of Government, I would suggest that the Director of Indian Marine be informed, through the Government of India, that it is intended to place a fixed white light on the Seven Pagodas, and as Captain Creagh has satisfied himself of the existence of patches of rocks far outside any described in the imperfect chart of the coast, the attention of the Director be drawn to the advisability of a new survey, as soon as a party can be spared for the purpose.

3. Considering the number of ships that have traversed this particular spot, and recalling the fact that, during the half century of wars between the French and English, great fleets of either nation were in constant motion between Fort St. David, Covelong, and Madras, generally line of battle-ships of great draught of water, who, in close order, or tacking about with foul winds, must have, one would imagine, passed over every portion of this water space, it is most extraordinary that more mention has not been made of any outlying danger. In an old Directory of Horsburgh, who, with the imperfect means at his disposal, was, *par excellence*, the

hydrographer of eastern seas, it is mentioned that the Honorable Company's ship *Rockingham* in the year 1776, one hundred and ten years ago, struck on a shoal much about the same position described by the *Tangier's* Commander, and supported by Captain Creagh, the distance, however, though called by the *Rockingham's* bearings four miles off shore, was discovered to be really only $1\frac{1}{2}$ or 2. Why this accident has been omitted in modern nautical notices, and the danger removed from the charts, I cannot explain, however the subject demands investigation. The Commander of the *Tangier* informed me that he had occasion to warn several steamers of their danger when approaching the coast opposite his ship. I propose issuing a notice to mariners warning them not to come under 13 fathoms water when passing this reef.

ORDER—dated 1st February 1886, No. 59, Marine.

Ordered that the Government of India be addressed.

2. The attention of the Public Works department will be solicited to the request contained at the end of paragraph 1 of the Master Attendant's letter.

(True Extract.)

W. WILSON,
Acting Chief Secretary.

To the Master Attendant, Madras.
„ Public Works department.

Exd. T. O'Connor.