1896

Public Works (~~1900~~) Department.

Marine Cn. 616.

G.O., No. 2156 W.

DATED 27th July 1896

[Despatch Abstract.]

Light-house improvements.

Directing that Mr A. W. Ashpitel be placed on special duty on relief of the charge of the Coimbatore Dt. in view to the details being worked out and a separate division organised for giving effect to the scheme of — already approved and requesting the Financial Dept to settle the question of raising the requisite funds for carrying out the scheme as soon as possible

[P. W. 26.
1,000—22-1-00.]

T.C. 227.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

No. 2156 W., 27th July 1896.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Buildings and Roads.
Civil Works.

Read—the following papers :—

Memo. No. 119 D.

Adverting to paragraph 21 of G.O. No. 245, Marine, dated 8th April 1896, the undersigned has the honour to request that Mr. Ashpitel will be so good as to submit any suggestions he may have to offer as to the exact nature of the work which should devolve upon him in regard to lighthouses.

(Signed) D. McNEIL CAMPBELL, Col., R.E.,
Chief Engineer.

6th May 1896.

From F. W. ASHPITEL, Esq., A.M.I.C.E., Executive Engineer, Coimbatore Division, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Ootacamund, 21st May 1896.

With reference to your memo. No. 119 D., dated 6th May 1896, I have the honour to inform you that there are several ways in which the proposed construction and improvement of lighthouses can be carried out, but it is difficult to make suggestions as I do not know what standard of efficiency is aimed at. If the present practice of having lighthouses repaired sometimes by a Port officer and sometimes by the Executive Engineer of the division in which the light is located and manned by keepers who have not been properly trained and whose pay is not sufficient to ensure discipline, I do not think it matters much what my duties are, as, in the absence of control, I can have no responsibility of any shape or form either for designs for new constructions or for improvements to existing lights. Lighthouse work elsewhere is considered to be highly technical, and I do not believe [illegible] will be any more advantageous in the future than it has been in the past for every lighthouse to be converted into a training school in lighthouse matters at the expense of Port funds. As you are aware, Executive Engineers and subordinates are frequently transferred, and if the arrangements sketched in G.O., Marine, No. 245, dated 8th April 1896, are given effect to, the practical result will be that the construction of towers will be left to subordinates (Executive Engineers have not time to give much attention to individual works) and the experience gained at one lighthouse will not be made use of at another. I personally am of opinion that the scheme sketched in the Government Order above referred to will tend to prevent any real efficiency in lighthouse illumination and construction in this Presidency.

2. In Great Britain and elsewhere, as you are probably aware, the lights are maintained by Boards, each of which has its engineering establishment responsible for the construction, maintenance and repair of all buildings and apparatus connected with lighthouses. These men spend their whole time at this work, and the result is constant improvement in design and efficiency accompanied by a constant decrease in cost of maintenance per unit of light. Nearly every maritime country except India has, I believe, Engineers specially employed in looking after the lights, and the result of the policy of the Indian Government will, I fancy, be fully evident when the new

light list appears, if Government has not already been convinced by my recent report. The Lighthouse Engineers in Great Britain, I may remark, are responsible to the Trinity Board for the training of keepers and for all details of the service.

3. The system, I would suggest, is somewhat on the lines of the English system. Government of course take the place of the Board of Trade, and the Marine Department, with an Engineer and staff of subordinates, that of Trinity House and its establishment. There will be no additional expense if this is done, as the ordinary Public Works Department establishment charges, now payable by the Marine Department, will cover the cost of the proposed separate establishment which could also be employed on other Marine works.

4. To carry out the scheme sanctioned in G.O., Marine, No. 245, dated 8th April 1896, in (say) 50 months, I estimate that I should require a staff of three experienced upper subordinates who would live at the sites of proposed towers, and the ordinary office and petty establishment. My idea, in fact, would be to move the skilled supervision and labour from work to work until the whole scheme is completed, so that the experience gained at one would be available at the next. The men will have, it is true, to live at out-of-the-way places, and one difficulty will be to keep them on the work which must be considered as more irksome than ordinary Public Works Department work. From conversations I have had with subordinates on this subject I am convinced that it will be necessary to make it worth their while to stay on this duty, and strongly recommend the grant of deputation allowance; and as the men will be organized as a separate establishment outside the Public Works Department, there would seem to be no objection under the Civil Service Regulations to the grant of the proposed allowances. The establishment would, in fact, be attached to the Marine Department, though under the control of the Chief Engineer, who is also Secretary to Government in the Marine Department. I would start at first any three lighthouses the Presidency Port officer considers to be most urgently required, and would place under each subordinate a small staff of petty establishment which would, under his supervision, carry out the proposed alterations and improvements to other lights in the neighbourhood which do not require constant supervision. The upper subordinates should, in my opinion, be selected Europeans accustomed to large building works as I anticipate that as the work proceeds it will be possible to reduce the cost considerably by improved methods if selected Europeans are employed.

5. As regards my own duties, I should of course be attached to the Marine Department and be responsible for the engineering of the scheme, including the training of light-keepers and all other matters entrusted to me. This training of light-keepers I believe to be of the greatest importance, as it is of no use building good towers and installing costly apparatus unless the keepers are competent to make the best use of them and keep them in good order. I would, in fact, select expectants soon after a tower has been commenced and employ them for a time on construction in order that they may gain experience in building work and the erection of lighthouse apparatus, as well as the use and maintenance of optical apparatus and the management of burners and lamps. If this is done, all petty repairs after a tower has been completed can be carried out by the light-keepers or under their supervision, and one great difficulty in the future maintenance of lighthouses will disappear. The extended course during which a man will be under observation will also make it possible to judge a man's character before he is permanently employed.

6. An advantage of this system of carrying out the scheme in the Marine Department will be the great saving in correspondence between the Engineer and Presidency Port officer and a saving of the whole of the accounts and a large part of the clerical establishment which would be necessary in an ordinary Public Works division, as I presume that the accounts can be kept in the Port office. I see no reason why the engineering work of the Marine Department cannot be carried out within the ordinary Public Works percentage for establishment and at no additional cost to Government, as, whatever scheme is sanctioned, it will be absolutely necessary to have a competent man in charge of each tower during construction, and some one to look after him. It also seems impossible to over-estimate the importance of employing the same staff continuously if efficiency in the construction of lights is to be aimed at.

From F. W. ASHPITEL, Esq., A.M.I.C.E., Executive Engineer, Coimbatore Division, to the Secretary to Government, Marine Department, dated 3rd June 1896.

With reference to your No. 282, dated 23rd May 1896, I have the honour to forward herewith statements showing the probable financial effect of the proposals made in my letter, dated 21st May 1896. The estimated cost of establishment necessarily varies considerably according to the grade of the upper subordinates employed.

2. You will observe that I have allowed in statement No. 1 for three Sub-Engineers, and in statement No. 2 for one Sub-Engineer and two overseers. In the first statement which may be regarded as a maximum, the cost of establishment is Rs. 21,350, and in the second Rs. 41,550 less than the amount available, and the saving will be increased to Rs. 47,550 if no one above the rank of an overseer is employed. In any case there is ample margin available for Presidency allowance and Presidency house-rent should head-quarters be fixed at Madras, and for travelling allowance.

3. The pay of the Executive Engineer has been entered as Rs. 850 per mensem, as in the ordinary course of events I presume that I shall receive promotion about April next.

4. The statements have been prepared on the assumption that those who are employed on this duty will receive the pay and allowances which they would have received in the Public Works Department, and, in addition, a deputation allowance of one-fifth of their pay in accordance with Civil Service Regulations, article 98. In return each man will have to engage not to take furlough for a term of years.

Flag B

5. In the statements no credit is taken for the training of light-keepers and other similar duties which, it may be presumed, will form part of the duties of the proposed establishment; neither is provision made for petty works establishment, the cost of which will be met from the ordinary percentage for establishment allowed in estimates.

6. The upper subordinates I would prefer might be selected from the following:—Conductor C. Smith, R.E., Sub-Engineer, 3rd grade, Sergeants G. E. Brand and E. Price, Overseers, 1st grade, and Mr. C. J. W. Plummer, Overseer, 2nd grade, provided that they volunteer for duty in the Marine Department. I should like one senior man, as I anticipate considerable difficulty in putting in foundations at certain towers, but would rather have three overseers who volunteer than any number of unwilling seniors.

7. The establishment will not be required at once as I require certain information regarding lanterns and apparatus for which I have written to manufacturers in Europe. All that can be done is to select sites, and possibly carry out certain preliminary works.

ORDER—No. 2156 W., dated 27th July 1896.

The papers recorded above relate to the arrangements to be made for giving effect to the scheme of lighthouse improvement, approved generally in G.O. No. 245, Marine, dated 8th April 1896.

2. His Excellency the Governor in Council considers that the details will best be worked out under the personal supervision of Mr. Ashpitel, acting in close concert with the Presidency Port officer as head of the Marine Department, and corresponding with the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, through the Presidency Port officer.

3. Mr. Ashpitel will accordingly, on relief of the charge of the Coimbatore division, be placed on special duty; and will, after the requisite preliminaries have been settled, plans and estimates prepared, and construction is about to commence, organize a separate Lighthouse division on the scale proposed in his letter, dated 3rd June 1896. It will be necessary in the first instance to fix the exact sites for new constructions, and for this purpose Mr. Ashpitel should visit the localities, accompanied either by the Presidency Port officer or the local Port officer, as may be decided by the head

of the Marine Department. The Superintending Engineer of the circle concerned will place at Mr. Ashpitel's disposal an upper subordinate to take levels and make borings, &c., and Mr. Ashpitel will be authorized, while engaged on this particular work, to engage a clerk and three peons on the proposed rates of pay. The draftsmen may be added when required, and the upper subordinates will be made available by the Chief Engineer when their services are shown to be necessary.

4. The head-quarters of the new division will be fixed at Madras, and when the work of actual construction commences, His Excellency the Governor in Council will, in consideration of the importance of the charge, recommend to the Government of India the grant to Mr. Ashpitel of the position and local allowance of a Superintendent of Works.

5. The officers and upper subordinates selected for this duty will be expected to devote continuous attention to it, and will thus not be liable to transfer; and save sick leave, if necessary, will be granted no leave of any kind during the continuance of the work.

6. The question of raising the requisite funds for carrying out the scheme will be settled in the Financial Department as soon as possible, as desired in paragraph 8 of G.O. No. 245, Marine, dated 8th April 1896, and in order that the requisite annual provision may be made, Mr. Ashpitel will now frame a financial forecast of the amount required during the current official, and future years.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) D. McNEIL CAMPBELL, Colonel, R.E.,
Joint Secretary to Government.

To F. W. Ashpitel, Esq., A.M.I.C.E.
" Superintending Engineers.
" the Consulting Architect to Government.
" the Marine Department.
" the Financial Department, with copy of note by the Honourable
Mr. Bliss, C.I.E., dated 15th June 1896, concurred in
by His Excellency the Governor.

Examiner P.W. Accts.

Exd. T. K. Narayana Aiyangar.
Spare Copies

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
CIVIL WORKS.

Govt. of {1896} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated July, 27th.

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O. No. 2156 W., 27th July 1896.

JULY.

Lighthouse Improvement

Directing that Mr. F. W. Ashpitel be placed on special duty on relief of the charge of the Coimbatore division, in view to the details being worked out and a separate division organized for giving effect to the scheme of — already approved, and requesting the Financial Department to settle the question of raising the requisite funds for carrying out the scheme as soon as possible.

D

Print

P. W. Dept

1 Rec

Memo.

No. 119 D & 4/6 May 1896

Adverting to para 21 of G.O. No. 245, Marine, dated 8th April 1896, the undersigned has the honour to request that Mr. Ashpitel will be so good as to submit any suggestions he may have to offer as to the exact nature of the work which should devolve upon him in regard to lighthouses.

4/5/96

F. W. Ashpitel Esqre

Reminder sent 15-5-96

6/5/96

EW

Comms
4-5-96.

245-6 Mar G 8-4-96-

No 119 D G/6th May 1896

Statement No 1.

Estimate form. Abstract.

Quantity	Description of work	Rate	Per	Amt	Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6	
	Engineer & Subordinate Establishment					
1	Executive Engineer	850	month	850		
1	Sub Engineer 2nd grade	300	-	300		
2	ditto - 3rd grade	250	-	500		
	Total				1650	
	Add deputation allowance				350	
	Total - -	-	-		2000	
3	Add Sub Dn allowance .	30	.	.	90	
	Total	-	-	.	2090	
	or for 50 months .	-	-	-	..	1,04,50
	Office Establishment					
1	Draftsman	100	-	100		
1	do Tracer	25	-	25.		
1	Clerk	40	-	40		
3	"	30	-	90		
6	peons	8	.	48		
	Total - -	- -	-	..	203.	
	or for 50 months.	-	.	.	.	10150
	Amount available for Establishment - Total Establishment					1,14,65
	New Works .. Rs 1,28,000					
	Repairs .. 8,000					
	Total .. 1,36,000					
	Deduct cost of Estabt .. 1,14,650.					

Saving Rs 21,350

Grand total of Estimate

Executive Engineer.

Station

Date

(E No. 123)

Circle

Division

District

Taluk (or Estate in case of Estate Works)

Estimate Form - Abstract.

Financial Head.

Budget Head.

Departmental Head.

Main Head.

Sub Head.

Project of which the work forms part.

Section

Name of work.

Amt of Estimate.

To be carried out by

Reference

Mar En 2
6/6/96.

Statement No. 2
Estimate Form. Abstract.

Quantity	Description of work.	Rate	Per	Amount	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
		Rs		Rs	Rs
	Engineer and Subordinate Establishment.				
	1 Executive Engineer	850	month	850	
	1 Sub Engineer, 3rd grade	250	"	250	
	1 Overseer 1st grade (Military)	150	"	150	
	1 ditto 2nd grade (Civil)	80	"	80	
	Total —			1,330	
	Add deputation allowance			266	
	" Sub division allowance			90	
	Total per month			1,686	
	or for 50 months				84,300
	Office Establishment as per statement No. 1				10,150
	Total				94,450
	Amount available for establishment.				
	New Works . Rs 1,28,000				
	Repairs — say " 8,000				
	Total Rs 1,36,000				
	deduct cost of Establt. " 94,450				
	Saving Rs 41,550				

Grand total of Estimate.

Station
Date June 1896.

W. Whitfield
3/6
Executive Engineer

(E. A-12-

Circle —
Division —
District —
Taluk (or Estate in case of Estate Works)

Estimate Form Abstract.

Financial Head —
Budget Head —
Departmental Head —
Main Head —
Sub-Head —

Project of which the work forms part —

Section —
Name of work —

Amount of Estimate Rs —
To be carried out by —

References

Mas Encl / 6.6/96

Print

2 P

From,

F. W. Ashpitel Esquire,

To,

The Chief Engineer P. W. D.
OOTACAMUND.

Sir,

With reference to your Memo No:119, D dated May /96 I have the honor to inform you that there are several ways in which the proposed construction and improvement of light-houses can be carried out but it is difficult to make suggestions as I do not know what standard of efficiency is aimed at. If the present practice of having lighthouses re-paired sometimes by a Port Officer and sometimes by the Executive Engineer of the Division in which the light is located and manned by keepers who have not been properly trained and whose pay is not sufficient to ensure discipline. I do not think it matters much what my duties are as, in the absence of control, I can have no responsibility of any shape or form either for designs for new constructions or for im-provements to existing lights. Lighthouse work elsewhere is considered to be highly technical and I do not believe that it will be any more advantageous in the future than it has been in the past for every lighthouse to be converted into a training school in lighthouse matters at the expense of port funds. As you are aware Executive Engineers and Subordinates are frequently transferred and if the arrangements sketched in G.O.Marine No:245 dated 8th April 1896 are given effect to the practical result will be that the construction of towers will be left to Subordinates (Executive Engineers have not time to give much attention to individual works) and the ex-perience gained at one lighthouse will not be made use of at

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3 The system, I would suggest, is somewhat on the lines of the English System. Government of course take the place of the Board of Trade and the Marine Department, with an Engineer and staff of subordinates, that of Trinity House and its establishment. There will be no additional expense if this is done as the ordinary D.P.W. establishment charges now payable by the Marine Dept: will cover the cost of the proposed separate establishment which could also be employed on other Marine Works.

4 To carry out the scheme sanctioned in G.O. Marine No 245 dated 8th April/96 in (say) 50 months I estimate that I should require a staff of three experienced Upper subordinates who would live at the sites of proposed towers, and the

ordinary

3 Pra

ordinary office and petty establishment. My idea, in fact, would be to move the skilled supervision and labour from work to work until the whole scheme is completed so that the experience gained at one would be available at the next. The men will have, it is true, to live at out of the way places and one difficulty will be to keep them on the work which must be considered as more irksome than ordinary D.P.W. work. From conversations I have had with subordinates on this subject I am convinced that it will be necessary to make it worth their while to stay on this duty and strongly recommend the grant of deputation allowance; and as the men will be organised as a separate establishment, outside the P.W.D. there would seem to be no objection under the Civil Service Regulations to the grant of the proposed allowances. The establishment would, in fact, be attached to the Marine Department, though under the control of the Chief Engineer, who is also Secretary to Govt in the Marine Department. I would start at first any three lighthouses the Presidency Port officer ~~D.P.W.~~ considers to be most urgently required and would place under each subordinate a small staff of petty establishment which would, under his supervision carry out the proposed alterations and improvements to other lights in the neighbourhood which do not require constant supervision. The Upper Subordinates should in my opinion be selected Europeans accustomed to large building works as I anticipate that as the work proceeds it will be possible to reduce the cost considerably by improved methods if selected Europeans are employed.

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Ow. C No

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Rec. 22/5/96

6 An advantage of this system of carrying out the scheme in the Marine Department will be the great saving in corres-pondence between the Engineer and Presidency Port Officer and a saving of the whole of the accounts and a large part of the clerical establishment which would be necessary in an ordinary Public Works Division as I presume that the accounts can be kept in the Port Office. I see no reason why the Engineering work of the Marine Department cannot be carried out within the ordinary Public Works percentage for establish-ment and at no additional cost to Government, ~~As~~ as, whatever Scheme is sanctioned, it will be absolutely necessary to have a competent man in charge of each tower during construction and some one to look after him. It also seems impossible to overestimate the importance of employing the same staff con-tinuously if efficiency in the construction of lights is to be aimed at .

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant.

Ootacamund
20th May 1896

Executive Engineer R.W.D.

Print

4 Pars

To
The Secretary to Government,
Marine Department.

Sir,

With reference to your No. 282 dated 23rd May 1896, I have the honour to forward herewith statements showing the probable financial effect of the proposals made in my letter dated 21st May 1896. The estimated cost of establishment ne-cessity varies considerably according to the grade of the -- upper subordinates employed.

2. You will observe that I have allowed in statement No. 1 for 3 Sub-Engineers and in statement No. 2 for one Sub-Engineer and two overseers. In the first statement which may be regarded as a maximum ~~and~~ the cost of establishment is Rs. 21,350 and in the second Rs. 41,550 less than the amount available and the saving will be increased to Rs. 47,550 if no one above the rank of an Overseer is employed. In any case there is ample margin available for Presidency allowance and Presidency House rent should headquarters be fixed at Madras and for travelling allowance.

3. The pay of the Executive Engineer has been entered as Rs. 850 per mensem as in the ordinary course of events I presume that I shall receive promotion about April next.

4. The statements have been prepared on the assumption that those who are employed on this duty will receive the pay and allowances which they would have received in the Public Works Department and in addition a deputation allowance of 1/5 of their pay in accordance with C.S.R. Article 98. In return each man will have to engage not to take furlough for a term of years.

5. In the statements no credit is taken for the training of light keepers and other similar duties which, it may be presumed, will form part of the duties of the proposed establishment; neither is provision made for petty works establishment the cost of which will be met from the ordinary percentage for establishment allowed in estimates.

6. The upper subordinates I would prefer might be -- selected from the following:- Conductor C. Smith R.E. Sub-Engineer 3rd grade, Sergts. G.E. Brand and E. Price overseers 1st grade, and Mr. C.J.W. Plummer overseer 2nd grade provided that they volunteer for duty in the Marine Department. I should like one senior man as I anticipate considerable difficulty in putting in foundations at certain towers, but would rather have three overseers who volunteer than any number of unwilling seniors.

7. The establishment will not be required at once as I require certain information regarding lanterns and apparatus for which I have written to manufacturers in Europe. All that can be done is to select sites, and possibly carry out certain preliminary works.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

W L Ashpitel
Ex. Eng.
3/5/96

E: DPW

For orders.

Submitted that Mr. Ashpitel might be asked for suggestions.

3 May 96

4/5/96

Government of Madras.
1896.

Marine ~~P. W.~~ DEPARTMENT.

CURRENT No. 616.

From
Mr. J. W. Ashpitel.

ENCLOSE. 2

No. —
Dated 3-6-96.
Received 3-6-96.

SUBJECT.
Light house Construction
Forwarding Statements showing the probable financial effect of his proposals re ——

616

DISPOSAL.

Encl 2
D. 3.6.96

No. dated

22.5.96. 1570 W
6.5.96. 119 D.
8.4.96. 245 – 6 Marine Dep.
23.5.96. 282 E.

29—2,000—23-9-95.

In L. O. No 245 M dated 8th April 1896
Mr Ashpitel's proposals for improving the
Coast lights of this Presidency were
approved with some trifling modifications.
and that officer has now submitted
his views as to how the proposals should
be carried out vide his notes
dated 21/5/96 & 3/6/96
The total cost of the improvements approved
in estimation of Mr Ashpitel amounts
to Rs 8.80000 and the question as to
how this sum is to be raised has not
yet been decided.
Mr Ashpitel's estimates are only approximate
and it is not unlikely that the sum
required will be found to vary considerably
from that named by him. If the sum is
much greater it will probably be found
necessary to modify the scheme. If less
the establishment
the [illegible] available for [illegible]
will be reduced.
In these circumstances I think it
absolutely necessary that detailed estimates
of the detailed costs be prepared showing
be prepared by Mr Ashpitel, & that Govt

may know the exact expenditure to which they are going to commit themselves & I think it is premature to settle definitely at present the agency by which the actual construction is to be carried out.

For the preparation of the detailed plans & estimates I propose the following arrangement. The exact site for the proposed new lighthouse will be settled by the Lt. Governor of the Local concerned in communication with the Officer of the Marine Dept; the former will then arrange to have site plans with levels & borings prepared & will submit them to Mr Ashpitel with a report stating what materials are available for building purposes. On receipt of this information from the Lt. Gov. the entire plans can be designed by Mr Ashpitel, the abstract estimates being sent to the L.G. concerned to have the rates entered.

I think that Mr Ashpitel can without difficulty do this work in addition to his duties as Ex: En Construction Div of his Presidency with an establishment of 1 or 2 draftsmen & 1 writer. Whether he should receive any other remuneration for the extra work [illegible] is a question for [illegible] to decide.

the general sites have been [illegible] of above in L.O. 245 M 8th [illegible] '86

I believe [illegible] [illegible] to.

Yes. vide para 3 of dem. L.O. 3/245 in file.

D 9/6 8/6

It will probably be more than a month before the sites are settled & the necessary information obtained from the Lt. Govr. and in the meantime Mr ~~Ashpitel~~ Ashpitel may be communicating with firms in Europe regarding cost &c of the lighting apparatus.

When the detailed plans & estimates have been completed or are nearing completion & sanctioned it will be time to consider the agency by which the work should be carried out. But I would here remark that I cannot see any advantage of placing (in addition which is to carry out engineering works) in the hands of the Marine Dept.) in the hands of Mr Ashpitel & I do not think there would [illegible] If on enquiry it can be done & I ~~think~~ consider it would be far preferable to form a special lighthouse division with Mr Ashpitel in charge with the pay & position of a Supt. of Works.

I think it is very desirable that the question of raising the requisite funds should be settled as soon as possible as desired in para 8 of L.O. M dated 8th this.

7/6/86

It will probably be more than 2 months before the sites are settled & the required information obtained for the list. In the meantime the ~~Asst.~~ Asst Supdt may be communicating with firms in Europe regarding cost of the lighting apparatus.

When the detailed plans & estimates have been completed or are nearly completion & sanctioned it will be time to consider the staffing of this the work should be carried out but I may here remark that I cannot charge on the execution of plans (or attention to which is the charge now being with) under the Marine Dept?) in the hands of the Asst Supdt & I do not think there can go on smartly if this can done & I ~~think~~ Consider it would be far preferable to form a special lighthouse Dept with the Asst Supdt in charge with the pay & powers of a Supt of Works.

I think it is very desirable that the question of raising the [illegible] powers should be settled as soon as possible as desired in para 8 of L.C.M. dated 8th inst

7/6/86

I believe we [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

W

Yes. vide para 3 of dem. letter 3/245 in file.

D.M. 8/6

C No. 616

For orders.

Mr. Ashfield has now formulated his proposals for carrying out Light house work. They include the constitution of a separate department under the Marine Dept.

The proposals will require the sanction of the Govt. of India and the Secretary of State – the deputations being for a minimum period of 50 months – The limit of sanction of the Local Govt. is 6 months –

Mr. Ashfield is proceeding on the assumption that the whole sum of the 88000, shown on page 17 of G.O. No 5, Marine, d/ 8 April 96, will be available for expenditure, as it will be of no use organizing this separate Establishment unless the money is forthcoming not only to pay it, but to carry out the whole scheme of Light house improvements.

The

The question of the imposition of light dues which Govt. ~~has~~ considers to be "open to grave objection" (vide para 5 of G.O. 245 Marine d/8 Apl 96) is inseparably connected with Mr. Ashpitel's present proposals. One scheme cannot be sanctioned without the other.

The alternative is to carry out the works gradually by means of existing P.W. Dept. Establishments, as funds become available - Port Funds paying the usual 14½ per cent for Establishment & Tools & Plant. The accumulated balance at the credit of Port Funds is now, excluding the funds of the Madras Port, Rs 434,000 - but even this cannot be appropriated unless the proposed amalgamation of the port groups, still under consideration, is given effect to. It must also be remembered that if the accumulated balances are used up for lighthouses

I see, there will be nothing available for harbour improvements.

C.S.

4 June 96

It will probably be more than a month before the estimates are settled & the requisite information obtained for the [illegible] case in the meantime the ~~[illegible]~~ Asst Supt may be communicating with firms in Europe regarding cost &c of the lighting apparatus.

When the detailed plans & estimates have been completed or are nearing completion & sanctioned, it will be time to consider the agency by which the work shall be carried out. But I will here remark that I cannot charge the execution of plans (or attention [illegible] which is to carry out Engineering works) under the Marine Department) on the [illegible] of the Asst Supt & I do not think there would be a necessity if this can be done & I ~~think~~ consider it would be far preferable to form a special lighthouse Division with an Asst Supt in charge with the pay & powers of a Supt of Works.

I think it is very desirable that the question of raising the requisite funds should be settled as soon as possible as desired in para 8 of G.O. 111 dated 8th this

7/6/86

I believe [illegible]
[illegible]

Yes. vide para 3 of [illegible] 3/245 in file.

8/6

Marine

~~P. W.~~ DEPARTMENT.

READ the following :—

Letter from F.W. Ashpitel Esq^re^ dated June 3^rd^ 1896

FOR ORDERS.

1. It occurs to me to ask whether Mr. Ashpitel should not have a voice in the selection of sites for lighthouses.

2. Please circulate to the Hon. Members and then return to me.

A.S.H.

12.10.96

I wd put Mr. A. on special duty & send him round to select the exact sites – He knows more about the matter than any one else.

The C.E. should say whether Mr. Ashpitel can be spared for such work. (see para. 5).

A.S.H

20.6.96

In G.O. No 245 M dated 8th April 1896 Mr. Ashpitel's proposals for improving the coast lights of this Presidency were approved with some trifling modifications, and that officer has now submitted his views as to how the proposed works should be carried out, vide his notes dated 21st May 1896 & 3rd June 1896.

2. The total cost of the improvements required as estimated by Mr. Ashpitel amounts to Rs 8,80,000 and the question as to how this sum

43—500—27-4-94.

is to be raised has not yet been decided.

3. Mr Ashpitel's estimates are only approximate and it is not unlikely that the sum required will be found to vary considerably from that named by him. If ~~this~~ the sum is much greater it will probably be found necessary to modify the scheme, if less the proportion available for establishment will be reduced.

4. In these circumstances I think it absolutely necessary that detailed estimates for the several works he proposes should be prepared by him, so that Government may know the exact expenditure to which they are going to commit themselves, and I think it is premature to settle definitely at present

the agency by which the actual construction is to be carried out. For the preparation of the detailed plans and estimates I propose the following arrangement.

5. The exact site for the proposed new lighthouse will be settled by the Deputy Engineer of the Circle concerned in communication with the officers of the Marine Dept., the former will then arrange to have site plans with levels and surveys prepared and will submit them to Mr. Ashpitel with a report stating what suitable materials are available for building purposes. On receipt of this information from the Deputy Engineer the works can be designed by Mr. Ashpitel, the abstract estimates being sent to the

FOR ORDERS.

Supdg Engineers concerned to have the sites entered. I think that Mr Ashpitel can without difficulty do this work in addition to his duties as Executive Engineer Coimbatore Division, if he is provided with an establishment of say two draftsmen and one writer.

Of course this may be given
BS
JG
A.S.H
20.6.96

Whether he should receive any remuneration for the extra work entailed is a question for Government to decide.

He certainly shd, if the rules allow us to give it. If not, application must be made to India. Ask further C.E. to make proposals on the subject.
BS
JG

6. It will probably be more than a month before the sites are settled and the required information obtained from the Supdg Engineers, and in the meantime Mr Ashpitel may be communicating with firms in Europe regarding cost, &c., of the lighting apparatus.

Yes
BS JG
A.S.H
20.6.96

7. When the detailed plans and estimates have been completed and sanctioned,

or are nearing completion, it will be time to consider the agency by which the work should be carried out, but I would here remark that I cannot clearly see the advantage of placing under the Marine Dept. an establishment which is to carry out engineering works, as proposed by Mr Ashpitel, and I do not think ~~this~~ matters would go on smoothly if this were done, and I consider it would be far preferable to form a special lighthouse Division with Mr Ashpitel in charge with the pay & powers of a Superintendent of Works.

7. I think it very desirable that the question of raising

Seeing that, for this purpose, "Marine" means the C.E., this would appear to be a distinction without a difference
WS
A.S.H 20.6.96

This question of funds shd. be taken up by the C.S. in the financial Dept. – Provided that too many new lighthouses are not undertaken at once, I do not anticipate any particular difficulty in the provision of funds. –
WS
15/6/96
A.S.H 20.6.96

Copy to go to the Fin'l Dept.

Lighthouse

the requisite funds should be settled as soon as possible as desired in para 8 of G.O. No. 245 M dated 8th Apl/96.

8/6/96

W
(Marine)

Circ

~~The Hon'ble Mr. [illegible] C.I.E.~~

~~The Hon. Mr. [illegible] C.I.E.~~

For Orders

Light house improvements. Method of Execution

~~His Excellency the Gov.~~ 18/6

E. 8/96

Marine Dept.

Note.

1. I do not think the delay until August will matter much. I understand that, in the meanwhile, Mr. Ashpitel is getting information from England. (See para. 7 of Current No. 616). I still think it would be better to put the selection of sites as well as all other details into Mr. Ashpitel's hands. He will thus be responsible for the whole concern, and we shall know whom to find fault with if any thing goes wrong.

2. I cannot quite see what the lightness of the duty at Coimbatore has to do with Mr. A's remuneration. I understand that he is to be put on special duty when Mr. Lewis comes back in August, & will thus cease to do duty at Coimbatore. Under this arrangement, I do not perceive

Mr. Ashpitel's services cannot possibly be spared till the end of August next, the date of Mr. Lewis' return from furlough, and if it is thought absolutely necessary that Mr. Ashpitel should select the sites for lighthouses, the work must wait till then: but as that officer has already selected the approximate sites I think the rest might be left to the Supdy Engineer and Port Officers as suggested in my note.

2. Extra remuneration for Mr Ashpitel will require the sanction of the Govt of India, and I doubt if that will be given as the Coimbatore Division is not a heavy one, and the work of designing some light houses with the assistance of draftsmen is trifling.

3. As regards placing Mr Ashpitel under the Marine Dept., and with reference to the Hon'ble Mr Bliss' remarks I would observe that the Presidency Port Officer is the Head of the Marine Dept. I have no executive or administrative functions,

perceive why he should have extra remuneration.

3. I am unable to understand why Mr. Ashpitel should be unable to work under the Marine Dept. I suppose there are Engineers who work under the Trinity Board in England.?

A.J.H 24.6.96

Lighthouses

and as Secretary I can only promulgate the orders of Government; consequently Mr Ashpitel would be subordinate to Commander Street, and for an Engineer to carry out engineering works under the orders of a Marine officer might, I think, lead to difficulties; and such an arrangement can never meet with my approval, and I do not think can have been realised by Mr Ashpitel when he proposed it.

23/6/96

W

(Marine)

Ep 8/96

H. / Civ

Lighthouse Improvements —
Method of execution

Marine Dept.

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Marine C No. 616.

—

Note for His Excellency the Govr.

His Excellency's marginal remarks.

—

1. Seen.
2. Hon. Members should see this note.

A.E.H.
27.6.96

If Mr. Ashpitel can "run" the Coimbatore Divn. as well as do lighthouse designing, I think that arrangement will be the best. It will be the cheapest plan, even though Mr. A. ~~charge~~ should get some extra remuneration, as in that case wd. only be fair. But a more important reason ~~it is~~ for the arrangement is that Mr. A. could in this way be kept in charge of the Lake Scheme up here (Ooty) with the details of which he is better acquainted than any one else can be.

I don't quite see why, when employed on special duty on lighthouse construction, Mr. A. shd. not report direct to the C.E.

W.B.
30/6/96

J.G.
2/7/96

As desired, Mr. Ashpitel will be put on special duty as soon as Mr. Lewis returns from furlough.

2. While selecting the site for lighthouses, no establishment except a clerk and 3 peons will be required by Mr. Ashpitel, as the Supty. Engineer will be directed to place an upper subordinate temporarily at his disposal for taking levels and borings at the sites proposed: but it is thought that either the Presidency Port Officer or the local Port Officer should —

Lighthouses

accompany Mr Ashpitel as the question is a nautical one as well as an engineering one. Mr Ashpitel's head-quarters had better be Madras as it is most central, and after his return from inspection of sites two draftsmen will be placed at his disposal for the purpose of preparing the necessary plans and estimates.

3. My opinion was that Mr Ashpitel need not be put on special duty for the purpose of selecting sites for lighthouses or even to prepare the plans and estimates for I considered that as the Coimbatore Division was not a heavy one, he could carry on the work of that Division as well

as the extra work of preparing lighthouse plans, hence I raised the question of remuneration: but as it has now been decided that Mr. Ashpitel should be put on special duty there is no occasion to consider the matter of remuneration. I consider that working under a Board as the Trinity Engineer does is, different to working under a single officer, and I feel sure that if Mr. Ashpitel is put in the Marine Dept., of which Commander Street is the head, there will be constant friction

26/6/86

W.

(Marine)

C. A. W.

Mr Blair's remarks about
"Marine" meaning the C.S.
raises the question whether
I am to regard the Marine
Depart. of the Shipping Dept
as in charge of the
Marine Depart. that is
Coast [illegible] I consider the
Coast [illegible] is head of the
Marine Depart. & I am
treating it just in that
[illegible] I have no one head
depart. of the Depart. other than
[illegible] is head of the
[illegible] Depart. & the Public
Revenue depart. to be
[illegible] that [illegible].
If an [illegible] be placed
[illegible] the Marine Depart.
[illegible] that [illegible]
correspondence [illegible]
[illegible] Coast [illegible]
[illegible]!

22/6/21 P.T.O

W CNo 616

The head of the Marine Dept, under Govt. is Commander Street. The meaning of "Marine Dept" in the Notification Gazetting your appointment is the "Marine Dept of the Secretariat or Govt. office". You have no executive or administrative functions in the Marine Dept. beyond the head quarter office. As a Secretary, you can only promulgate the orders of Govt.

If Mr. Ashfield is attached to the Marine Dept. he would be subordinate to Commdr. Street. whose powers & functions are defined in para 1 of the accompanying Manual.

C.S.
22 June 96

~~A.G. & Co~~

Lighthouse Improvements.

Method of execution.

~~The Hon. Mr Bliss C.I.E.~~

~~The Hon. Mr Bliss C.I.E.~~

W/3 July 96

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26/6/96

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(Marine)

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27.6.96

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M.B.
30/6/96

J.G.
2/7/96

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CNo. 616 / Papers kept on yellow file

Mr Bliss: remarks in Ext on note dated 8/7/96

It is absolutely necessary that the sites of the lighthouses should be selected before the plans & estimates are prepared. Some of the structures may have to be built on screw piles some on wells & some on solid foundations & the plans & estimates cannot be correctly prepared till the nature of the foundations is known.

The draft order is therefore returned with an alteration in pencil which will meet H.E. [illegible] which is [illegible] in 1 [illegible] [illegible].

17/7/96

P. W. D.

Note.

The Hon'ble Mr Bliss' remarks on note dated 8th July 1896.

It is absolutely necessary that the sites for the lighthouses should be selected before the plans and estimates are prepared. Some of the structures may have to be built on screw piles, some on wells, and some on solid foundations; and the plans and estimates cannot be correctly prepared till the nature of the foundations is known.

2. The draft order is therefore returned with an alteration in pencil

W

Light House Construction

The proposed pencil addition to para 2 of the draft order will meet H. E.'s view, which is concurred in by both Hon: Members.

The Hon: Mr. Bliss assumes that plans & estimates are to be prepared *before* the sites are selected. It does not seem possible to do this. The site must in most cases determine the character of the design, and it must in all cases affect the estimate. The first thing therefore is to fix the site, & the draft order ~~therefore~~, provides for this.

16 July 96.

P. W. D

ote.

he Hon'ble
Mr. Bliss' remarks on note
dated 8 July 1896.

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2. The draft order is therefore returned with an alteration in pencil+

I concur.
A.S.H.
20.7.96

Very well – I didn't understand that the sites had to be selected first
21/7/96

JG
23/7/96

+ Since inked in.
22 July 96

Lighthouse

~~H.E. Exco~~

Light House Improvement 5

which will meet His Excellency's view which is concurred in by both Members.

17/7/86

W

The order can now issue.

24/7/86

W

RS

CAS 23/9.

A/

No. 2156 W. dated 27 July 1896

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

READ the following

Memo: by the Chief Eng. P.W.D. (H.E. No. 119 D d/ 6 May 96)

Letter from F. W. Ashpitel Esqre., A.M.I.C.E. (d/ 21st .. ..)

Do from do (d/ 3 June ..)

with encls.

6 Pr

Note for Pres

Please show proof

Pres 27/7

A.E.H 20.7.96

The papers recorded above relate to the arrangements to be made for giving effect to the scheme of light-house improvement, approved generally in G.O. 245, Marine, dated 8 April 1896.

2. His Excellency the Governor in Council considers that the details will best be worked out under the personal supervision of Mr. Ashpitel, acting in close concert with the Presidency Port Officer as head of the

Marine Dept, and corresponding directly with the Chief Engineer P. W. Dept. through the Presidency Port Officer.

3. Mr. Ashpitel will accordingly, on relief of the charge of the Coimbatore Division in ~~August next~~, be placed on special duty; and will, after the requisite preliminaries have been settled, plans and estimates prepared, and construction is about to commence, organise a separate Lighthouse Division on the scale proposed in his letter dated 3rd June 1896. It will be necessary in the first instance to fix the exact sites for new constructions, and for this purpose Mr. Ashpitel should visit the localities, accompanied either by the Presidency Port Officer or the local Port Officer, as may be decided by the head of the Marine Department.

The Supdg Engineer of the Circle concerned will place at Mr Ashpitel's disposal an upper subordinate to take levels and make borings &ca, and Mr Ashpitel will be authorised, while engaged on this particular work, to engage a clerk and 3 peons on the proposed rates of pay. The draftsmen may be added when required, and the upper subordinates will be made available by the Chief Engineer when their services are shewn to be necessary.

4. The head quarters of the new Division will be fixed at Madras, and when the work of actual construction commences, His Excellency the Governor in Council will, in consideration of the importance of the charge, recommend to the Government of India the grant to Mr Ashpitel of the position and local

allowance of a Superintendent of Works.

5. The officers and upper subordinates selected for this duty will be expected to devote continuous attention to it, and will thus not be liable to transfer; and save sick leave, if necessary, will be granted no leave of any kind during the continuance of the work.

6. The question of raising the requisite funds for carrying out the scheme will be settled in the Financial Dept. as soon as possible, as desired in para 8 of G.O. No. 245 Marine dated 8 April 1896, and in order that the requisite annual provision may be made, Mr. Ashpitel will now frame a financial forecast of the amount required during the current official, and future, years.

9/7/96 8/7/96

~~H.E.~~ Secr.

Lighthouse Improvements

Print emergently

The Chief Secy. Finl. dept. for favour of countersignature.

F. W. Ashpitel Esqre. A.M.I.C.E.

Supdg. Engineer

Consg. Architect

Marine Dept.

Financial Dept. with copy of note by the Hon. Mr Bliss, C.I.E. d/15.6.96 concurred in by H.E. the Governor

DESPATCHED
17 AUG. 96

The Ex. K.W. D.A.S. 16 Sept 96

22/7/96

R 27/7

A

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

No. 2156 W. dated 27 July 1896

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READ the following

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Letter from F. W. Ashpitel Esqre. A.M.I.C.E. (d/21st .. ..)

Do from do (d/3 June ..)

without enclos.

Note for Press

Please

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40—300—3-3-96.