

BOARD OF TRADE

(Lighthouse)

(Meteorological)

SHI/CAP/1 # 13

1923.

C.S.

No. 305/23

Board of Trade

SUBJECT.

1923

CAPE PEMBROKE LIGHTHOUSE

12th January.

Care and renewal of Meteorological

Previous Paper.

Equipment,

MINUTES.

- Letter from Board of Trade of 12th January 1923 — Encl (1)
- Letter from Air Ministry of 16th October 1923 — Encl (1a)
- Copy of Letter from Board of Trade of 2nd Dec: 1922 " (1b)
- Copy of Letter from Air Ministry of 5th Jan 1923 " (1c)

Subsequent Paper.

①

Telegrams—"SHIPMINDER, VIC, LONDON."
Telephone—VICTORIA 8740 Ext.

Any further communication on this subject should be addressed to:—
The Assistant Secretary,
Mercantile Marine Department,
(address as opposite)
and the following number quoted:—
M. 15324/22.



MERCANTILE MARINE DEPARTMENT,
BOARD OF TRADE,
3, SANCTUARY BUILDINGS,
GREAT SMITH STREET,
LONDON, S.W.1.

12th January, 1923.

Sir,

I am directed by the Board of Trade to transmit herewith, for your information, a copy of certain correspondence which has passed between the Air Ministry and this Department on the subject of the maintenance and renewal of the meteorological equipment at the light-stations in the Imperial Lighthouse Service, Bahamas, and at Cape Pembroke Lighthouse, Falkland Islands, and I am to request that you will be good enough to note that, in future, all indents for stores, registers, etc. required in connection with the upkeep of the equipment at the latter station, and all completed records should be sent direct to the Meteorological Office, Air Ministry.

I am,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

C.H. Grimshaw

The Colonial Secretary,
Port Stanley,
Falkland Islands.

Copy.

AIR MINISTRY,

Kingsway,

London, W.C.2.

16th October, 1922.

Air Ministry
Refce.320855/22 (M.O.4.)

Your refce.F.6925/21.

Subject:- Meteorological equipment at West Indian Lighthouses.

Sir,

I am commanded by the Air Council to refer to your letter of 19th January last addressed to the Director, Meteorological Office, stating that the Inspector of the Bahamas Lighthouses had requisitioned 4 Meteorological Registers and 4 Meteorological Thermometers for use at the Sombrero Lighthouse, West Indies, and asking if instructions could be given for these articles to be forwarded to the Inspector. As already notified the registers and thermometers have been issued. It is now desired to raise the question as to the responsibility for the upkeep of the meteorological equipment at certain West Indian Lighthouse Stations.

Meteorological registers are received regularly from the following:-

Sombrero
Cay Lobos
Watling Island
Inagua
Double Headed Shot
Abaco

The equipment at each station normally consists of the following:-

1 mercurial barometer
3 ordinary thermometers
1 marine screen in which thermometers
are exposed
1 raingauge
1 rain measure

The Assistant Secretary,
Board of Trade (Finance Department),
Great George Street, S.W.1.

/In

In the case of Sombrero there is an anemometer in addition.

A recent report from the Inspector of Lighthouses shows that the equipment at several of the stations is deficient or unserviceable and the question arises as to whether the deficiencies should be made good, and if so at whose expense.

The most important item of equipment is of course the mercurial barometer. From the available records it would appear that the barometers at Inagua and Abaco belong to the Air Ministry, while those at Sombrero, Cay Lobos, Watling Island and Double Headed Shot were issued from the Meteorological Office, which is now a department of the Air Ministry, to the stations on repayment by the Board of Trade, at various dates prior to 1896.

The remaining equipment at Cay Lobos, Inagua, Double Headed Shot and Abaco also belongs to the Air Ministry. There is no information as to the ownership of the remaining equipment at Sombrero and Watling Island.

It would be of advantage if the responsibility for the maintenance of the whole of the meteorological equipment were undertaken either by the Board of Trade or by the Air Ministry, and if the present somewhat unsatisfactory arrangement could be terminated.

In view of the fact that the lighthouse service is administered by the Board of Trade there would be many advantages if the Board would undertake the responsibility. On the other hand it may be considered that as the observations are forwarded to and utilised by the Air Ministry the Ministry should maintain the equipment.

I am to request that you will indicate the views of the Board in the matter.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

(Sgd.) B.E.HOLLOWAY.

Telegrams—"SHIPMINDER, VIC, LONDON."
Telephone—VICTORIA 8740 Ext.

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and the following number quoted:—

M.15324/22.



MERCANTILE MARINE DEPARTMENT,

BOARD OF TRADE,

3, SANCTUARY BUILDINGS,

GREAT SMITH STREET,

LONDON, S.W.1.

2nd December, 1922.

Copy.

Sir,

I am directed by the Board of Trade to refer to your letter of the 16th October last (320855/22 M.O.-4) on the subject of the maintenance of the meteorological equipment at certain of the light-stations in the Imperial Lighthouse Service, Bahamas.

In reply, I am to state, for the information of the Air Council, that the Board understand from the Corporation of Trinity House that the Air Ministry maintain meteorological equipment at certain Light Stations in this Country and pay a small remuneration to the lightkeepers in recognition of their services in connection with the recording of observations, etc. The Board are of opinion that the expense of maintaining the equipment at similar stations abroad should not be charged to the General Lighthouse Fund as it is not required for lighthouse purposes, and they assume that, in these circumstances, the Air Ministry will accept full responsibility for the maintenance and renewal of the equipment at the West Indian Stations, and also at Cape Pembroke Station, Falkland Islands, as in the case of similar equipment at lighthouses in this country.

I am to add that if the Air Council concur in this opinion the Board propose to inform their Inspector at Nassau, and the Colonial Secretary, Falkland Islands, that all indents for stores and all records and registers kept at the lightstations in question should in future be sent direct to the Meteorological Department, Air Ministry.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Sgd.) C.H. GRIMSHAW.

The Secretary,
Air Ministry,
Kingsway, W.C.2.

Copy.

1c

Air Ministry
Refce.320855/22 (M.O.4.)

AIR MINISTRY,
Kingsway,
London, W.C.2.

Your refce.M.15324/22.

5th January, 1922.

Subject:- Meteorological Equipment at West Indian Lighthouses.

Sir,

I am commanded by the Air Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd December on the above subject, and note that it is the view of the Board of Trade that the Air Ministry should accept full responsibility for the maintenance and renewal of the equipment at the West Indian Stations and also at Cape Pembroke Station, Falkland Islands.

The Air Council see no objection to this proposal and have accordingly directed that any such equipment at those stations which is not already on charge, should be brought on charge forthwith.

It is noted that indents for stores and all records and registers kept at the Light Stations will in future be sent direct to the Meteorological Office, Air Ministry.

I am,

Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

(Sgd.) B.E.HOLLOWAY.

The Assistant Secretary,
Board of Trade,
Mercantile Marine Department,
3, Sanctuary Buildings,
S.W.1.