Circular to Superintendents of Light Houses.

Treasury Department,

FIFTH AUDITOR'S OFFICE,

May 26th, 1823.

SIR,

A contract having been entered into with Mr. Winslow Lewis, for keeping the respective light houses and beacon lamps, supplied with oil; and for keeping in good repair all the lamps, reflectors and apparatus fitted in the light houses and beacons, and also for supplying them with a sufficient quantity of wicks, tube glasses, buff skins and whiting; a copy of it is annexed for your guidance and information.

To insure the faithful execution of this contract, your attention is respectfully requested to the following objects.

Although it will appertain to Mr. Lewis to apportion the oil among the light houses, the duty of the keepers to keep them properly lit, will be in no wise impaired by this arrangement, Mr. Lewis possessing no authority to restrict the consumption below the quantity actually required. In case there should at any time be a deficiency in the quantity supplied by him, it will be the duty of the keepers to advise you of the circumstance, and of yourself to advise this office, and also to inform Mr. Lewis.

To carry the provisions of the 9th article into effect, the keepers must keep accurate statements of the time during which the lights may be suspended, and transmit them to the superintendents, in order that they may be included in their annual reports to this office.

Agreeably to the 10th article, Mr. Lewis is at his own cost, to keep in repair all the lamps, reflectors and apparatus, oil buts, heaters, clock work, &c. every expense therefore, relative to those objects, must be paid by him.

Agreeably to the 11th article, Mr. Lewis is to keep the light houses supplied with a sufficient quantity of wicks, tube glasses, buff skins and whiting, for which he is to be paid at stipulated rates. The superintendents are to receive and pay him for these articles, not exceeding in quantity at any time, what may be necessary for one year's consumption. The keepers' receipts for these articles must accompany the voucher of their payment, which shall be sent with the superintendent's light house accounts. I would here observe, that as some of the tube glasses heretofore sent to the light houses were not of the proper size, that you are to receive none but those that are of a suitable size and quality.

From the information, furnished by the quarterly reports to you, of the keepers, and such other as may be at your command, you will be pleased, on the first of January in each year, to make out and transmit to this office, a statement for the preceding year, which shall specify the quantity and kind of oil on hand at its commencement, the quantity and kind of oil received during the year, and the quantity and kind consumed during the year, the character and condition of the oil when received from Mr. Lewis, and at the date of the last report of the keeper; the number of lamps, lenses and reflectors in the light house; the time during which, and the cause for which, any of the lamps may not have been used, with their number, and also the number of tube glasses, wicks and buff skins on hand at the commencement of the year, and the number received and used during the year.

You will likewise state your opinion of the conduct of the keeper, and of the fidelity with which Mr. Lewis may have fulfilled his engagements.

I am, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,

S. Pleasonton

Fifth Auditor, and acting Commissioner of the Revenue.

Copy of articles of agreement made on the thirteenth day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty-three, between Stephen Pleasonton, Fifth Auditor of the Treasury of the United States, and acting Commissioner of the Revenue of the one part, and Winslow Lewis, of Boston, of the state of Massachusetts, of the other part: This agreement witnesseth, that the said Stephen Pleasonton, for and in behalf of the United States, and the said Winslow Lewis, for himself, his heirs, executors and administrators, have mutually covenanted and agreed as follows:

1st. That the party of the second part shall keep all the light houses now built in the United States, and all others that may be hereafter built, together with the beacon lamps, supplied with a sufficient quantity of best strained spermaceti oil for the consumption of the lamps, for and during the term of five years from the first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-three.

2d. The United States shall deliver to the party of the second part, during the term of five years as aforesaid, at the rate of thirty-nine gallons of best strained spermaceti oil in good iron bound casks with four additional wooden hoops, annually, for each lamp that is lit in the existing light houses, amounting to the number of eight hundred and seventy-one lamps, per schedule hereunto annexed, and a like quantity for each lamp that shall be lit in light houses that may be hereafter built from the time each lamp shall be lit until the termination of the five years aforesaid.

3d. The United States shall pay or allow to the party of the second part, annually, the sum of two thousand two hundred dollars, for the transportation of the oil from the place at which it may be received by him, to the several existing light houses, including the expenses of cooperage, storage, and all other incidental expenses: and in the same proportion for all other light houses that may be built within the five years aforesaid, as 871 lamps bear to the number of lamps for which oil shall be transported agreeably to this contract.

4th. The party of the second part shall receive the aforesaid quantity of oil on or before the first day of April, at such place or places as the same may be contracted for by the United States; it being understood that the several deliveries on behalf of the United States, may be so made as to furnish in advance to the party of the second part, a supply of oil which shall not be less than the usual quantity consumed in one year, nor more than that consumed in two years.

5th. The quantity of oil remaining on hand at the several light houses on the first day of January, aforesaid, both of summer strained and winter pressed oil from head matter, the party of the second part agrees to receive, and for which, and in lieu thereof, the party of the second part engages to return and place at the several light houses, a like quantity of oil, so that there will be at each of the light houses at the close of the five years, when this contract will expire, the same quantity of oil as was on hand at the said light houses on the first of January aforesaid, without any charge of cost or expense therefor.

6th. The party of the second part shall not be liable for any losses that may happen in consequence of war between the United States of America and any other power, but he shall be answerable for all other losses.

7th. The party of the second part shall visit and inspect the several light houses, at least once a year, and render a statement of their condition to the Fifth Auditor and acting Commissioner of the Revenue.

8th. The keeper of each light house may annually consume for his household use, a quantity of oil which shall be necessary for that purpose, out of that delivered to the party of the second part, without any allowance or compensation being made to the said party therefor.

9th. Whenever the light of the lamps of any light house shall be suspended, an equitable abatement from the foregoing stipulated quantity of oil deliverable to the party of the second part, shall be made on the certificate of the superintendent of the light house, and if a greater quantity of oil shall be delivered to the party of the second part in any one year than should be delivered, after making such abatement there shall be a corresponding diminution in the quantity deliverable to him the ensuing year.

10th. The party of the second part shall and will, at his own cost and expense, keep in good and complete repair, all the lamps, reflectors and apparatus fitted in the light houses aforesaid, including the improvement for keeping the oil warm and in a fluid state in the coldest weather, and all the oil buts, oil heaters, clock work, wick boxes, tube boxes, hand lanterns, cannisters, torches, oil feeders, oil carriers, frames, tables, diamonds, &c. for and during the term of five years aforesaid; and shall deliver over at the expiration of the term aforesaid, all the light houses fitted up with all the apparatus and articles above enumerated, to the United States in good repair.

11th. The United States shall pay or allow to the party of the second part at the rate of one thousand five hundred dollars a year, for keeping all the lamps, reflectors, apparatus and articles aforesaid in repair during five years as above stated, and shall moreover pay and allow him for the wicks, tube glasses, buff skins and whiting which may be wanted, and with a sufficient quantity of which the party of the second part shall always keep all the light houses aforesaid properly supplied at the following rates, that is to say: two dollars per groce for wicks of the best fabric, twenty cents for each tube glass for the lamps, one dollar and fifty cents for each buff skin, and six cents per pound for whiting.

12th. It is expressly agreed and understood that if the party of the second part should fail to comply with any essential condition of this contract, the right is hereby reserved by the Fifth Auditor and acting Commissioner of the Revenue to annul it at any time previous to the expiration of the term of five years aforesaid, in which case the party of the second part shall be accountable for all defects and losses that may arise in consequence thereof.

It is hereby provided that no member of Congress shall be admitted to any share or part of this contract or agreement, or to any benefit to arise thereupon.

In witness whereof, &c.

SCHEDULE of the light houses and beacons in the United States with the number of lamps lit in each on the first day of January 1823.

Light Houses.	*No. of lamps.*
Portland	15
Seguin	14
Whitehead	5
Franklin Island	7
Wood Island	10
Passamaquody	7
Boon Island	7
Petite Manan	8
Pond Island	9
Burnt Island	10
Libby Island	10
Portsmouth	11
White Island	15
Boston	14
Nantucket	14
do Beacon	6
Thatcher's Island (two lights)	16
Baker's Island (two lights)	29
Plumb Island (two lights)	14
Cape Cod	16
Cape Poge	7
Plymouth (two lights)	12
Wigwam Point	5
Chatham (two lights)	14
Scituate	7
Race Point	10
Point Gammon	7
Holmes Hole	8
Tarpaulin Cove	7
Bird Island	10
Long Island head	10
Ten Pound Island	10
Billingsgate Island	8
Gayhead	10
Clark's Point	8
Cutterhunk Island	13
New Port	10
Watch Hill	10
Point Judith	10
New London	9
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Light Houses.	*No. of lamps.*
Brought forward	422
Faulkner's Island	12
Lynde Point	7
Five Mile Point	8
Fayerweather Island	8
Stratford Point	10
Sandy Hook	18
Ditto (two Beacon lights) consume equal to	18
Eaton's Neck	12
Sand's Point	11
Montauk	13
Little Gull Island	14
Buffaloe	9
Galloo Island	15
Oswego	8
Gennessee	10
Presque Isle	10
Sandusky	13
Cape Henlopen	13
Bodkin Island	13
North Point (two lights)	18
Cape Henry	14
Old Point Comfort	10
Smith's Point	9
New Point Comfort	9
Bald Head	15
Cape Hatteras	12
Cape Lookout	14
Charleston	10
North Island	7
Tybee	15
do. Beacon	6
St. Simon's Island	7
Sapello Island	15
Wolf Island (two lights)	12
Cumberland Island	14
Mobile Point	15
Frank's Island	30
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