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U.S.R.C. Cutter "Morris."

Sir

16th May 1837

The next service required of me after the examination of Mark Island & its vicinity, a report of which I had the honor to transmit yesterday, was to examine the Island of Seguin & report upon the expediency of placing a "Fog Bell," thereon.

This Island is one of the most prominent as well as important head lands on the Coast of Maine, It is situated directly off the mouth of the Kennebeck river & has a Light-house upon it, As this is a point which vessels frequently aim to make either running along the coast or coming in from Sea, it often happens that they find themselves enveloped in fog near the Island without any signal to warn them of their situation or to shape a course for a harbour.

There are few situations upon this, or any other Coast where a proper Fog bell could be so advantageously placed, I have no hesitation therefore, in reporting my own opinion, which is in accordance with that of every person with whom I have conversed upon the subject, that a "Fog Bell" of suitable weight, judiciously constructed & located is much needed upon this Island & would be of great public service,

I am aware that the "Fog Bells" along our Shore, have not generally been found to fully answer the purpose for which they were designed.

Persons with whom I have conversed, supposed to be the best judges respecting the best Kind of bell for the purpose proposed, differ in opinion, The grand difficulty appears to me to have been, that they

they have not heretofore been of sufficient weight to overcome the noise of the Surf upon the Shore, various inventions & schemes have been devised to obviate this difficulty, but I am clear in the belief, that nothing will answer the purpose but weight of Metal.

I would not recommend a Bell of less weight for this purpose than four thousand pounds, One of that gravity, operated by Willards improved machinary would, I feel confident be of great service and fully answer the intended. Such a Bell would cost Twelve hundred dollars, a suitable building with the proper means for winding up the Machinary five hundred dollars; and Willards improved Machinary for Striking the Bell, about eight hundred dollars; making Twenty five hundred dollars, and exceeding the appropriation made for this object, by one thousand dollars.

In Support of my views & opinions upon this matter, I herewith transmit communications from Capt. Jones & Lt. Swift, Waldron,

I am most respectfully
Sir, Yr. Ob. Servt.

(Signed) W.S. Smith
Capt. U.S.N.

To Comm. Jno. Rodgers
Pres. of the Board
of Navy Commissioners
Washington
D.C.