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Office of Light-House Inspector,

FIRST DISTRICT.

Portland, Maine, March 26th, 1886.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Board's letter of the 20th inst. enclosing petition, letter &c, for the establishment of a light on Two Bush Island, western entrance to Penobscot Bay, Maine. and asking my views on the subject.

In reply I have to state that there seems to be no adequate necessity for a light at that point. Indeed there is a serious objection to it, in the proximity of Whitehead light only about two miles distant.

Muscle ridge channel is now so well known, so admirably lighted, buoyed and provided with fog signals, that it is generally used by all vessels, to or from the westward, bound into or out of Penobscot Bay. It is also used by vessels bound along the coast

through the Thoroughfare.

It is in fact a part of the inshore route along the coast.

With head winds in clear weather sailing vessels sometimes use the more open bay to the eastward of Two Bush Island, and doubtless with a light at that point more use would be made of this channel, but in thick or foggy weather, when "aids" are most needed, Muscle ridge Channel possesses advantages over any other route. Vessels bound into or out of Penobscot Bay, to or from the Eastward, have in Saddleback, Heron Neck and Owl's Head lights all the "aids" that are necessary.

There is therefore no necessity for this light as a guide to Penobscot Bay. A light at this point would doubtless, as stated in the petition, be useful to vessels bound through what is known as "Two Bush" channel. But this channel

is two miles in width and it would seem that, with Saddleback and Heron Neck lights to the eastward, and Whitehead and Marshalls Point to the westward, it can be navigated with comparative safty without the proposed light.

I have therefore to reply to the Boards questions that whilst it is practicable to establish a light on Two Bush Island, it is, in my opinion neither necessary nor advisable to do so.

Very Respectfully
Your Obt Servt
O. H. Patchin
Commandr, U. S. N.
Inspector 2d L. H. District.

Vice-Admiral
Stephen C. Rowan, U. S. N.
Chairman L. H. Board,
Washington
D. C.