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~~Encls~~ Enclosures

Light-House Establishment

Office of the Light-House Inspector, First District

Portland, Me. 20 June, 1899.

Subject: Mount Desert Lt. Station, Me.
Relative to charges against First Asst. Keeper.

The Light-House Board,

Washington, D. C.

Sirs:

I inclose a report of Thomas Milan, Principal Keeper of Mount Desert Light Station, Maine, against First Assistant Keeper C. W. Thurston, together with the explanation of Asst. Keeper Thurston, marked respectively "B" and "C".

At an inspection I made on February 17th, 1899, Mr. Milan was so crippled with rheumatism as to be incapacitated for the proper performance of his duties. At my inspection on April 12th, 1899, Mr. Milan was absent, and his wife reported that he was in better health. I find on investigation that Mr. Milan has been in poor health for the past two years.

Mr. Thurston had no complaint to make of the management of the station, but stated in answer to my inquiries, that Mr. Milan's health was such that the duties devolved to a great extent on the assistants.

On the 19th of April I received a letter from Mr. Milan, which I inclose, marked "A", making certain charges against First Asst. Keeper Thurston, upon which I directed Mr. Milan to specify dates and particulars. I also informed Mr. Thurston of the principal keeper's

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report, calling upon him for an explanation, which, as stated above, is enclosed, marked "C".

Mr. Thurston admits the offenses charged, of giving a vessel five gallons of oil, and of remaining absent for protracted periods, and apparently has an erroneous appreciation of his duties.

Mr. Milan is so feeble and crippled by rheumatism that, in my opinion, he is incapacitated for duty, and, as his recovery is doubtful, his retention would probably foster discontent among his assistants.

From the facts of the case I recommend as follows:

That Mr. Thurston be transferred to the position of Second Asst. Keeper in place of Mr. Fred M. Robbins, and Mr. Robbins be made First Assistant Keeper. The recommendations for these changes are herewith enclosed.

That Mr. Milan be retained as Principal Keeper until and inspection in August, and if his physical condition is not improved, that he be called upon to resign.

Respectfully yours,

J K Cogswell

Commander, U. S. Navy,

Inspector 1st L. H. District.