ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
NEW ORLEANS, LA.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
MAR 20 1923
NEW ORLEANS.

EIGHTH DISTRICT

Cape San Blas
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

March 16, 1923

Lt Hht House Superintendent.
New Orleans. La.
Through the Insp.

Dear Sir Your letter of March the 9 received and will say that the report that Mr. S. D. Lanham made was not true and that I have not seen him in about one year and I had no such talk with him and the report is not true.

A P Paloues.
Asst Keeper

IN REPLYING ADDRESS
COMMISSIONER OF LIGHTHOUSES
AND REFER TO DATE OF THIS LETTER
AND FILE NO

(COPY)

SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
MAR 16 1923
NEW ORLEANS.

RG-EK

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES

WASHINGTON

March 13, 1923.

Hon. Duncan U. Fletcher,
United States Senate,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Fletcher:

1. Referring to your note of March 9, 1923, inclosing a letter from Mr. S. D. Lawhon, Panacea, Fla., relative to his discontinuance as a keeper in the Lighthouse Service, and also a copy of your letter to him:

2. I beg to refer to my letter of February 14, 1922, on this subject, which followed a careful consideration of this case, since which time no additional facts have been brought to light. You were then advised that Mr. Lawhon's services were discontinued at the close of his probationary period in accordance with Civil Service Rules, this action having been necessary because of demonstrated unfitness of this employee for the position of keeper. Mr. Lawhon has heretofore also been advised that it was not deemed in the interest of the Lighthouse Service to reinstate him to duty.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) L. R. Putnam

Commissioner of Lighthouses.

Incls.

Bureau of Lighthouses, Wash., Copy to 8th Supt. Inclosed are copies of correspondence referred to above from Senator Fletcher.

SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
MAR 16 1923
NEW ORLEANS.

(COPY) EK

United States Senate,
Washington, D. C.,
March 9, 1923.

Respectfully referred to the Commissioner of Lighthouses:
Please note inclosures, and advise me relative to complaint made therein.

Respectfully,

(Signed) Duncan U. Fletcher.

(COPY) EK

SUPERINTENDENT
MAR 16 1923
NEW ORLEANS.

Panacea, Fla.
March 6, 1923.

Hon. D. U. Fletcher,
U. S. Senator,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Sir:

On Feb. 10th, 1922, I accepted a position in the Light-house Service, having previously taken Civil Service examination, and made high marks and was duely appointed at Washington, D.C.

I took my wife and 4 little girls and moved to the Light-house, I found there a yound lad, scarcely grown, had just married, and has been in the service only about a year, and has since been demoted and transferred.

During my stay at this place I never saw any of the Light-house officials, in fact I have never seen any of them.

My conduct there was good, my service could not be excelled, and I have never heard one word against my service. July 10, 1922, I received a letter from the Superintendent of Lighthouses, advising what to do in the future relative to some building, etc., and on the same date I received a telegram from him discharging me from the Service and I have been continuously trying to find out the cause for such actions, I was never discharged before in my life. I have held positions of trust, I was never intoxicated, and have always been a gentleman and I feel that I have been mistreated, injured, and humiliated for no cause, and absolutely in violation of Civil Service Rules and I am making this last appeal, asking that you will please go into this matter, and ascertain the cause for such actions, as you understand according to Civil Service Rules, I am entitled to know.

Thanking you in advance for your able assistance.

I am Yours truly,
(Signed) S. D. Lawhon.

SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
MAR 16 1923
NEW ORLEANS.

(COPY)EK

March 9, 1923.

Mr. S. D. Lawhon,
Panacea, Florida.

My dear Sir:

Your letter of the sixth has been received.

If you were serving a probational (6 months) appointment, your services could have been discontinued without the necessity of filing charges against you. If, on the other hand, you were regularly appointed, after having served for six months, you were entitled to receive a copy of the charges and be given an opportunity to answer in writing.

I will request the Commissioner to consider you complaint and advise me fully.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Duncan U. Fletcher.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
NEW ORLEANS, LA.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
APR 6 1923
NEW ORLEANS.

EIGHTH DISTRICT

Cape San Blas
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

April 2, 1923

To the Light House Superintendent
New orleans La

Sir Your Letter of Mrch 27 Recived and Will Say that Our SD Lawhorn Report is Got true for Any asst Keper Has Got Left station a Lone and Each Keper Sign His own Watch Light Will Got Run all Night With out Winding at Mid Night over flow Hafter Be filled 3 times a Night and Watch all through the Night I all Ways try to Kep a Good Light

W J Knickmeyer
Keper

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
LIGHTHOUSE INSPECTOR
NEW ORLEANS, LA.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
MAR 14 1923
NEW ORLEANS.

EIGHTH DISTRICT

Carrabelle River Beacons
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

Carrabelle Fla, 3-12-23., 191

U.S.Light House Superintendant

New Orleans La,

Sir,

Yours Of the 9th Rec, and in ans to this man Lwhorn report First there is absoluty not a word of truth in it, he in a bad shape with his Mind,,, last year he had to be discharged from the police force in Apalachicola,, and a short time after that he killed a man in Waukulla Co,, and in the early part of last year I had to put him out of my Office, and he has been mad with me every,Since,,,,

As to John Allen he has never tended the lights at any time, I have hired his boat a number a times and others to carry Me out in rough weather,,,, Hoping this will be this explanation will be satisfactory,,,,,

Very Resptfully

C. W. Withers Keeper

Carrabelle River Lights,

EP:LEC

March 9, 1923

W. J. Knickmeyer, Keeper,
Cape San Blas Light Station,
Apalachicola, Florida

1. Mr. S. D. Lawhon of Panacea, Fla., at one time probationary assistant keeper at Cape St. George Light Station, reports to this office, under date of February 23rd, that he estimates you do not average staying at your light one night out of the week. Mr. Lawhon also states that he has seen you and your assistant both in Apalachicola at once spending the night and that maybe the assistant would leave town at daybreak and return to the light some time in the afternoon.

2. Mr. Lawhon further states that your assistant told him that you were gone sometimes until there was anywhere from three to fifteen blank spaces on the watch book for you to sign, and that this has been going on for years and years.

3. A copy of this letter letter is inclosed herewith directing your assistant keeper to state whether or not it is true.

L.

Superintendent of Lighthouses

EP:EC
Incl.

March 9, 1923

Andrew P. Polous, Asst. Keeper,
Cape San Blas Light Station,
Apalachicola, Florida
(Through the Keeper)

1. Inclosed find copy of a letter written to W. J. Knickmeyer, Keeper, Cape San Blas Light Station.

2. You are directed to submit report through the keeper as to the truth or falsity of the statements made by Mr. Lawhon.

L.

Superintendent of Lighthouses

EP-WJB.

March 9th,1923.

C. T. Wathen, Keeper,
Carrabelle Riv.Range Lights,
Carrabelle, Florida.

1. Mr. S. D. Lawhon, of Panacea, Fla., who formerly held probationary appointment as Asst.Keeper at Cape St.George Light Station, advises this office in a letter dated Feb. 23rd, 1923, that you do not care for the lights in your charge and that you have a "sub-contractor" by the name of John Allen attending the lights, to whom you pay $5.00 a week, and that you do not pretend to go to the lights at all. Also that this has been going on for years.

2. You are directed to submit reply to this office to the statements made by Mr. Lawhon.

E. S. LANPHIER
Superintendent of Lighthouses.

Panacea Fla
2/23-23

Mr E.S. Laughlin
Neworleans La

My Dear Sir

Replying to your
letter of Feb 10-1923
First-I dont to say you
Misconstrue my letter of Feb 4
it was not my intention
to try to get you to reopen
the case. as the case has
never been open.
And all I know is that-you
discharged me by Telegram
from the light-house Service
and you did so without
any True cause. And in
doing so you were back

dated Some of the proceedings
you have done Wrong &
and you know it- you
over Stepped your authority
in discharging me and
you refuse to tell me
why you did so. you
are simply ashamed to
tell it- that withstanding
the civil Service rules
~~is~~ in the case, you claim
to be the case is that I
shall have a full Statement
of reason from the appointing officer and you admit
in your letter of Feb 10th
that- you did. this gives
self. So this Laughter

You have discharged me
What for? You have never
seen me. None of your
representatives ever came
around while I was there
Your Statment That my Service
was not good is not true,
Now Then Mr Laughlin at
This late date because I cite
you to a case where an
other Keeper was Kicked
out of the Service by you
Without a trial or Chance
You Say it - Confirms your
Opinion as to My usefulness
What I Said Concerning This
Keeper in This Case

Regardless Of What yours
Opinion May be
It is the Gods truth
just the Same.
I Supose this will Reconfirm
your opinion. But Listen
Here is. Mr. M. McIntyre
Keeper Cape St Blass.
Who I Should estimate
does not average Staying
at his Light-one Night out
of the Week. I have seen
him and his assistant
both in Apalachicola 35
Miles from the Light-both
at once Spending the
Night-Maybe the assistant

Wanted leave out of Town
about day, break down
on the road get to the
Light-some time in
the P.M. the assistant-
has told me that Mr
Hunt Keeper is gone some
time until there is any
where from 3 to 15- Leak
places on the Watch book
for him to Sign this
has been going on
for years & years and a
steady thing. and there
is Mr Hunt Keeper
has the Whole front
of his person cleared

With Merrit - Medals
good Service and
efficiency Stars Set —
That is Light house
Service

That is C. T. Walton
Keeper at Carrabelle That
has had a Subcontractor
by the Name of John Allen
attending his Lights & been
told he Every pay him three dollars
a week and Walton has not
and dont pretend to go to
his lights at all This has
been going on for years
That is Light House Service
I Wayne Heard Living
in Sight of Two Light Houses

And Ten beacon Lights
for the last Twelve Years
and I can Safely Say an
inspection has not visited
these Lights ons an average
of once in 2 years. is This
Light-house Service?
is That complying with
Light-house rules?
You Sit back in Heroeus
feeling your importance
and Greatness discharge me
by Wire from the Since
Service with out a cause
and after you find out That
I Wuld Do. Know what is the
trouble You advise my
Conduct was Just Good

There is no telling what
you have Written the
Light-House Com- at
Washington

Your Request
S. S. Lowhan

Copy of this Given with
your Letter of Feb 15th 1923
To Light House Com-
Through U.S. Senator Fletcher

EP-WJB.

February 10,1923.

Mr. S. D. Lawhon,
Panacea, Florida.

Sir:

1. Your letter of February 4th, 1923, has been received.

2. You were serving under a probationary appointment for six months and your services having been found unsatisfactory were discontinued at the expiration of the six months. This office decided the matter upon its merits and will not re-open the case.

3. Your letter of Feb. 4th, in which you proceed to vilify another keeper in the Service who had nothing to do with your separation from the Service in any manner, shape or form, confirms the opinion of this office that you are unfit for duty in the Light-house Service.

Respectfully,

Superintendent of Lighthouses.

Personally

Panacea Fla

Feb 4 1923

Mr. E. S. Lanphier

Neworleans La

My Dear Sir

July 10th 1923

You discharged me by telegram from the Light-house Service. Since I have tried in vain to acertain the cause for you taking this action. It is the purpose of this letter to make a personal appeal to You for this information as I Was never discharged before in my life. I have all ways been

Strictly honist- Was never
intoxicated in my life.
And all way obtained
promotions at every place
I have worked.
I have worried a great deal
about the Slap in the face
You gave me.
And really I do not know
but what I have a black
eye with the U.S. Civil
Service com-
And I believe that Some
put up Job was done to
me You never came to the
Station while I was there
You have never seen me-

And you did not treat me
right about this matter
listen. regardless of what you
think, I am going to tell
you this. and I know it to
be the truth. and this keeper
is a good friend to me
but in one case a keeper
had his assistant discharged
Compelling a girl to sign
a false affidavit
the assistant in turn charged
him with having and
operating a Still on the
Station. and when the Federal
officers went to make the search
the keepers son took the Still

over the front fence While
the Keeper talked to the Officers
at the back gate
and they failed to find it
Hence the Guilty Was retained
the innocent discharged,
and the worst part of this case
Was the Keeper Was not only
Stilling whiskey but
Was guilty of what he had
accused the assisland of
and is Still guilty of it
right now and every
body knows it.
Mr Langhirr My Conduct
Was not bad at Cole St George
the only thing I can imagine

Was I did not and could not
treat him with the respect
I should the keeper in charge
for he was not intitled to
any respect he was nothing
in this world but a that
did not have the ability
to tell a man what to
do Why Mr Laughier I have
never in all my life
seen any thing like him
My children could not go
out to play or I could not
step out of the house with
out finding him flat
of his back behind some
of those sandhills arranging

him Self by ~~engaging~~ engaging
in Sexual abuse
It is not in me to be malig
but I Want You to know
what Sort of a Superior I
had. I truly hope I Will
get to see You Some day
I Want to have a talk
With You. Mr Laughlin.
Want You please Sir advise
me Why You discharged me
Cant You drop that Sternness
Which is the ~~policy~~ of
the Government and give
me a chance to Say Guilty
or not Guilty
dont forget that my Self

My Wife and 4 litten girls has been hurt- disopainted humiliated and laughed at by an unjust act and I Think You Should recansidder This matter giving me a fair deal I Would be glad to hear from You

I am Yours Truly
S.D. Lawhon
Farmers assistant
Keller
C/o St George L.S.

P.S.

(COPY)

SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
FEB 16 1922
NEW ORLEANS.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES
WASHINGTON

JEH- Replying address Commissioner of Lighthouses

and refer to date of this letter and file No.

February 14, 1922.

Hon. Duncan U. Fletcher,
United States Senate,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Fletcher:

1. Referring to your letter of February 3, 1922, inclosing letter from S. E. Teague, Apalachicola, Fla., on behalf of Shellie D. Lawhon, formerly a keeper in the Lighthouse Service:

2. You are respectfully informed that Mr. Lawhon was probationally appointed as keeper in the Lighthouse Service and assigned to duty at Cape Saint George Light Station, Fla. In view of the unwillingness shown by Mr. Lawhon to carry out the orders of the keeper in charge of the station, and of his demonstrated unfitness for the position of keeper, his services were discontinued at the close of his probationary period, in accordance with Civil Service Rules, and according to the records charges were not preferred against him, as such procedure is not required by Civil Service rules in the case of probationary appointees. Mr. Lawhon has heretofore been advised, by authority of the Assistant Secretary of Commerce, that it is not deemed in the interest of the Lighthouse Service to restore him to duty.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) H. R. Putnam
Commissioner of Lighthouses.

Inclosures.

Bureau of Lighthouses, Wash., Copy to 8th Supt. Inclosed are copies of the above-mentioned correspondence.

(COPY)EK

SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
FEB 16 1922
NEW ORLEANS.

UNITED STATED SENATE
Committee on Banking and Currency

February 3, 1922.

Hon. George E. Chamberlain, Commissioner,
Bureau of Lighthouses,
Department of Commerce,

Dear Mr. Commissioner:

Please note attached letter from Mr. S. E. Teague, Apalachicola, Florida, concerning the case of Shellie D. Lawhon, and direct that the desired information be furnished to me.

Thanking you in advance.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Duncan U. Fletcher.

Incl.

(COPY)EK

APALACHICOLA STATE BANK
Apalachicola, Fla.

Jan. 31, 1922.

Hon. D. U. Fletcher,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I am writing you in behalf of Mr. Shellie D. Lawhon, formerly assistant keeper of Cape St. George Light Station.

For some reason Mr. Lawhon's services as assistant keeper were discontinued on July 11, 1921.

I am writing you to see if you can get me copy of the charges presented against him, I understand that he is entitled to this, and he has asked the Department several times, and as yet has no results.

If you can get copy of the charges and send me, I am sure it will be very much appreciated by all of Mr. Lawhon's friends.

With personal regards.

I am yours truly,

(Signed) S. E. Teague.

(COPY)

In replying address Commissioner of Lighthouses and refer to date of this letter and file No.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES
WASHINGTON

SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
DEC 15 1921
NEW ORLEANS.

December 13, 1921.

Mr. S. D. Lawhon,
Apalachicola, Fla.

Dear Sir:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of December 3, 1921, in regard to the termination of your services as keeper in the Lighthouse Service.

Respectfully,

(Signed)

J. S. Conway

Acting Commissioner of Lighthouses.

Inclosure

Bureau of Lighthouses, Wash., Copy to----8th----Supt. Inclosed is copy of Lawhon's letter of December 3.

In replying address
Commissioner of Lighthouses

and refer to date of this letter and file No.
JEH/VR
Inclosure.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES
WASHINGTON

(COPY)

Dec. 7, 1921

SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
DEC 12 1921
NEW ORLEANS.

Mr. S.D. Lawhon,
Apalachicola, Fla.

Dear Sir:-

1. Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of November 18, 1921, relative to your separation from the Lighthouse Service, etc.

2. Letter of July 7, 1921, which accompanied your above-mentioned letter is inclosed as requested.

Respectfully,

(Signed)
Commissioner of Lighthouses.

Bureau of Lighthouses, Wash., Copy to 8th Supt.

Apalachicola, Fla.,
December 3, 1921.

SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
DEC 8 1921
NEW ORLEANS.

Copy

Commissioners of Light Houses,
Washington, D. C.

Sirs:

1. Your letter of Nov. 28, 1921, File No. JEH/HOL has been received, relative to my separation from the Light House Service.

2. In reply, I beg to say that my six months probationally appointment expired, July 10, 1921, and I did not receive my notice from the Department of Commerce, until July 24, 1921.

3. Sec. C, Rule 7, reads ***** of and when, after full and fair trial during this period, the conduct or capacity of the probationer be not satisfactory to the appointing officer, the probationer shall be so notified in writing, with a full statement of reasons, and this notice shall terminate his service. His retention in the service beyond this probationary period, confirms his absolute appointment.

4. Now, I know it is not for anything I have done that my services were discontinued, but it was a put up job by other parties, who had an interest in the matter, and ~~xxxx~~ selfish interest; and under the rules and the contract of appointment to which I was employed, I contend for a copy of the charges, which caused me so much damage and disappointment. I truly hope that you will not put me to further trouble and expense in the effort to get justice.

5. I have a wife and four small children, and I have been kicked out of the Civil Service, by a telegram signed "Lamphier" without even so much as an explanation, or reason, as provided.

6. In plain words, some big lie was written to the Superintendent of Light Houses, and he discharged me by telegram, and as you know, he had not the authority to discharge or discontinue my Service.

7. In making this my last and direct appeal, I hope you will give me what is justly and legally mine.

8. Thanking you in advance for a kind consideration, I am.

Respectfully.

S. D. Lawhon,
Apalachicola, Fla

L/el

Copy

In replying address
Commissioner of Lighthouses

and refer to date of this letter
and file No.

JEH:Hol.

(COPY)

SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOU.
NOV 28 1921
NEW ORLEANS.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES
WASHINGTON

November 23, 1921.

Mr. S. D. Lawhon,
Apalachicola, Fla.

Dear Sir:

1. Referring again to your letter of October 28, 1921, relative to your separation from the position of keeper in the Lighthouse Service.

2. You are respectfully informed that your services as keeper having proved unsatisfactory they were discontinued by the Secretary of Commerce at the close of your probationary period in accordance with Civil Service rules.

Respectfully,

(Signed) L. R. Putnam
Commissioner of Lighthouses.

Bureau of Lighthouses, Wash., Copy to S H Supt.

Apalachicola, Fla.,
November 18, 1921.

SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
NOV 28 1921
NEW ORLEANS

Commissioner, Lighthouses,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

1. Your letter of October 28th, 1921, HOL EK, is at hand. With referene to my separation from the light house service, in which you advise that I will be further informed in regards thereto, at an early date.

2. I am enclosing a letter from the Superintendent of Lighthouses, under date of July 7, 1921, which I would be glad to have the further consideration of the department.

3. My explanation of his letter is as follows:- First I did refused to sign applications for absences on Sundays and holidays, my reason for refusing t totdo so, was Par. 104-105 & 106, In Rule Book it is stated that Sundays and Holidays are not charged against the annual leave allowance of the keepers, and on the back of Form 76, the application blank, is stated that it is not to be prepared for absences that is not chargeable against the annual leave.

4. Par. 3, of the letter enclosed, is a matter where the station filed same to be direct, and I promptly took it to the Keeper and he would not accept it, stating if the office had sent it to me, to keep it until they advised me what to do with it. Later I mailed the envelope it came in, back to the Superintendent.

5. Par. 5 of this letter. I wish to say that during the last four months, I tayed at this station, the keeper never sent me anywhere. I went to town by permission, always after supplies and mail, and then had to sign up leave of absence applications. On one occasion I went to town and the keeper telephoned me to spend the night in order to bring over a beacon lamp next morning, which I did, paying the drayage myself.

6. Went from town to beacon. Was all day installing this lamp on structure, and was compelled to sign leave of absence for every hour, which I did not mind, only that it was not in good faith on the part of the Keeper in charge.

7. In comclusion of this letter, I want to say that I have been mistreated and I desire the public should know the reason why I was treated in this manner, and regardless of whether or not I am re-instated to duty, I want a statement of reasons, as provided for by Sec. 7, Rule 7 of the Laws and Regulations of the Civil Service Commission.

8. Hoping to hear from you soon, and thanking you in advance for same, I am.

Respectfully.

L/el

In replying address
Commissioner of Lighthouses

and refer to date of this letter
and file No. JEH: Hol.

(COPY).

SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
NOV 25 1921
NEW ORLEANS.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES
WASHINGTON

November 23, 1921.

Hon. Park Trammell,
United States Senate,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

1. Referring again to your letter of October 29, 1921, in regard to the discontinuance of the services of S. D. Lawhon as keeper in the Light-house Service.

2. You are respectfully informed that Mr. Lawhon's services as keeper having proved unsatisfactory they were discontinued by the Secretary of Commerce at the expiration of his probationary period, in accordance with Civil Service rules.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) G. R. Putnam

Commissioner of Lighthouses.

Bureau of Lighthouses, Wash., Copy to 8th Supt.

ESL:LEC

November 8, 1921

SUBJECT: Letter of October 28, 1921, from S. D. Lawhon, Apalachicola, Fla., to the Bureau, referred to this office by indorsement of November 4, 1921, for report and return, and letter of October 19, 1921, from Senator Park Trammell relative to S. D. Lawhon. Both communications referred to in this subject are returned herewith to The Commissioner of Lighthouses:

1. Beg to invite the attention of the Bureau to the report from this office of June 30, 1921, recommending "that the services of S. D. Lawhon, Assistant Keeper, serving under probationary appointment, the probationary period to end July 10th be discontinued.....," and to report of September 13, 1921, in which the matter of Mr. Lawhon's unfitness for the position of assistant keeper was fully reported upon.

2. It is desired to state that the Bureau, in its letter of October 11, 1921, to Mr. Lawhon refers to his dismissal from the position of keeper, but, as a matter of fact, the Department, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph C, Section 1 of Civil Service Rule VIII, discontinued Mr. Lawhon's services and he was not dismissed. The action taken, based upon the reasons given, were exactly in accordance with Civil Service rules and regulations and nothing further can be done than to advise Senator Trammell relative to the facts as reported in recommendation of June 30, 1921, and the detailed report in indorsement from this office dated September 13, 1921.

L.

Superintendent of Lighthouses

(COPY - LEC)

Hydrog
Engr. Cons,
Mar. Engr.
-Personnel-
Accounts
Contracts
Chf. Clk.
Dep. Comm.
Commr

Ack & 8th
JSC - Nov. 3

LIGHTHOUSES

1921 NOV 2 PM 4 00

11/4/21 ackd

Com. Light Houses,
Washington D. C.

Gentlemen

Yours has been recd- File No. H.O.L. E.K. and I have writen Hon. Park Trammell U.S. Senator from Florida asking him to appeal to you in my behalf. In this matter I feel that I have been mistreated.

I intered the Service in good faith and never heard of a word complaint against me. I have never been discharged before in life. I am a man with a family and I am a gentleman and the reason for my discharge as stated that I had shown an unwillingness to carry out the orders of the Keeper is positively untrue. I believe that I was reported by parties outside of the lighthouse Service. Anyway I am intitled to know the reasons. I am a poor man and can not demand an investigation but according to laws of the Civil Service Commission I am intitled to a trial and for your information I wish to say that I am not the only employee that has been discharged from the lighthouse Service on false reports. But I am the only one I have heard of that was discharged for reasons unknown. I feel that the public is intitle to know why I was discharged and I againminsist that the charges against me be made in writing. I am intitle to this information by the Laws & regulation of your own Commission and why is it you are not willing to comply with your own agreement?

Please reply to this and give this matter a reconsideration.

I am

Yours truly,

(Signed) S. D. Lawhon

Bureau of Lighthouses, Washington
Nov. 4, 1921

To Superintendent of Lighthouses, New Orleans, La.
for report and return.

J. S. Conway
Acting Commissioner

(COPY - LEC)

LIGHTHOUSES

1921 OCT 31 AM 8 58

UNITED STATES SENATE
Committee on Naval Affairs

11/2/21

Washington, D. C.

Oct. 29, 1921

Hydrog.
Engr.Cons.
Mar.Engr.
-Personnel
Accounts
Contracts
Chf.Clk.
Dep.Comm.
Commr.

Rec. ack. & 8th
JEW
10/31/21
JSC
Nov.2

U. S. Lighthouse Commissioner,

Department of Commerce,

Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I am advised that on July 10th 1921 Mr. S. D. Lawhon, who was Assistant Eighthouse Keeper at Cape St George, Florida, was discharged. Mr. Lawhon advises me that he has never been able to ascertain the grounds upon which he was discharged. He feels that he should have an opportunity to put in his defense against any charges that may have been made. This seems but a fair proposition. Will you kindly advise me as to the grounds upon which he was removed.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) Park Trammell

Bureau of Lighthouses, Washington,
Nov 2, 1921

To Superintendent of Lighthouses, New Orleans, La.
for report and return. See previous papers.

J. S. Conway
Acting Commissioner

replying address
Commissioner of Lighthouses

and refer to date of this letter
and file No.
Hol-EK
Inclosures.

(COPY)

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF LIGHTHOUSES
WASHINGTON

SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
OCT 17 1921
NEW ORLEANS.

October 11, 1921.

Mr. S. D. Lawhon,
Apalachicola, Fla.

Dear Sir:

1. Referring again to your letters of August 26, and September 15, 1921, relative to your dismissal from the position of keeper in the Lighthouse Service.

2. You are respectfully informed that after careful consideration and by direction of the Department, it is not deemed in the interest of the Lighthouse Service to restore you to duty.

3. The correspondence accompanying your above-mentioned letter of August 26, is inclosed as requested.

Respectfully,

(Signed) L. E. Putnam
Commissioner of Lighthouses.

Bureau of Lighthouses, Wash., Copy to 8th Dist.

Apalachicola Fla
Oct- 8th 1921

SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
OCT 10 1921
NEW ORLEANS.

No action

Supt. Light. Houses.
New Orleans La-

Sir

In taking this matter up with the Commissioners at Washington desire to say to you. That. I am only Struggling for a trial. as I feel confident could I get a trial I would be reinstated this has a. put-up. job. on me. and if you will look into it you will find it- to be the case.

I have never been discharged before or since. from any position and I ask you to look over my letter to the Commissioners and and will you not admit that Civil Service Rules has not lined up too in my case? On Jan. 10th I. has. a line a rule book at Cape St George and I lined up to it as near as possible and if you will give me a trial or a chance. I can explain to you

Satisfaction any thing that may
have been written you.
as to my unfitness for the Light house
Service You are Wrong in Your Opinion
There is no man in your Service
that is any better fitted than I am
And I have ask is a trial
You Will remember that I do
not know Why I have been
Discharged

Yours Truly —
S P Lawson

SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
OCT 10 1921
NEW ORLEANS.

OFFICE

Sheriff Franklin County

D. S. HOSE, SHERIFF

Apalachicola, Fla.

Sept. 15th 1921.

RE: HOl Sept. 6th 1921.

Commissioners of Lighthouses,
Washington D.C.

Dear Sirs:

Your letter of Sept. 6th duly to hand, and in reply, I thank you for your promptness in taking this matter up in your department for adjustment.

In addition to the information given in my previous letters, I wish to call your attention to the fact that I did not recognize the dismissal by telegram dated July 9th 1921, addressed to the operator and signed LAMPHIER, and I reported back to the lighthouse station for duty, and did not receive any official communication until July 14th 1921, four days after the termination of my six months probationary term of appointment.

Your especial attention is hereby further called to the fact that on the back of my certificate of appointment, is printed a copy of Civil Service Rules; Paragraph "C", Section 1, Civil Service Rule VII, reading in part, as follows: "If, and when, after full and fair trial during this period, the conduct or capacity of the probationer be not satisfactory to the appointing officer, the probationer shall be so notified in Writing, with a full statement of reasons, and this notice shall terminate his service". Therefore, as this notice in writing was not received until July 24th 1921, (and then not with a full statement of reasons), I believe that the foregoing Civil Service Rule has not been complied with in this case.

Thanking you for giving this letter your usual prompt attention,

I remain

Yours very truly

S D Lawton

5. Enclosed in the letter of August 25th, 1921, to this office, a copy of which Lawhon sent to the Bureau and which is returned herewith, were two affidavits, one dated June 9, 1921, of two persons having seen the Cape St. George Light Station boat in Apalachicola Bay on the night of June 1st, and the other dated July 18th, 1921, accusing W. A. Roberts, Sr., of having stolen Lighthouse lumber. It is not understood why Mr. Lawhon held back these affidavits. One of them does not mean anything to this office but the other relative to the theft of lumber was forwarded by this office Sept. 9th, 1921, to the United States Attorney at Pensacola, Fla., requesting that Official to take appropriate action in the matter. It is hardly necessary to state that as Mr. Lawhon was aware in January and February that Lighthouse Service lumber was being stolen it was his duty to report the matter and not wait until he had been separated from the Service before doing so.

6. It is recommended that Mr. Lawhon be advised that the action taken in discontinuing his services is final and that the case will not be re-opened. He is unfit for duty and the more he writes the more it is made apparent.

Superintendent of Lighthouses.

(COPY)

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Bureau of Lighthouses
Washington

Hol.
inclosures.

September 6, 1921.

Subject: Letter, August 26, 1921, from S. D. Lawhon, Apalachicola, Fla., relative his dismissal from the Lighthouse Service.

Referred to Superintendent of Lighthouses, New Orlean , La., for report and return.

(Signed) J. S. Conway,

Acting Commissioner of Lighthouses

EP-WJB

Office of the Superintendent of Light ouses, 8th Dist
New Orleans, La., September 13th, 1921.

Returned to the Commissioner of Lighthouses:

1. The opinion of this office expressed in letter of June 30, 1921, that S. D. Lawhon, Assistant Keeper serving under probati nary appointment had given sufficient evidence of his unfitness for the position, has been further confirmed by the correspondence since his service under the probationary appointment were discontinued. He has proven conclusively to this office that he is of an extremely suspicious nature and a trouble maker. He had never, until the letter of Aug.25th reported anybody for hauling beef in the Lighthouse boat and the persons mentioned in his letter of August 25th as having conspired aginst him have never submitted any reports of any nature to this office.

2. He seems to be obsessed with the idea of his own importance and that all those with whom he came in contact were conspiring to secure his separation from the service, which so far as this office is aware has no foundation in fact.

3. On August 25th there were received from Lawhon official mail addressed to this office, one a letter of June 19, 1921, from the Keeper, the other a letter of June 18, 1921, from Lawhon himself to this office, addressed through the keeper, another of June 19, 1921, from Lawhon to this office, addressed through the Keeper with an unsigned memorandum in Lawhon's handwriting as follows: "This mail I neglected to mail while in the service for we were expecting any time".

4. It will be noted that the unsigned memo. does not convey any connected thought and further confirmas the opinion of this office that Mr. Lawhon is suffering with a mental aberration of some kind. Enclosed is a copy of letter written him on August 27th, acknowledging the mail in question.

(COPY - LR)

1921 SEP 1 AM 11 50

Apalachicola, Florida, August 26th, 1921

Lighthouse Commissioners,
Washington, D.C.

Rec. to 8th for report without acknowledgment
J.E.H.
9/13/21

Gentlemen:

You will please find enclosed herewith copies of two letters from the undersigned to the Hon. E. S. Lamphier, Supt. of Lighthouses, New Orleans, La., and his reply to the letter of August 10th, 1921... and other enclosures, (Rec.also pertaining to my discharge as Assistant Light House Keeper at Cape St. George, Florida, and also two letters of commendation from prominent people in Apalachicola...all of which papers you will please return to me when you are through with same. (ackg to keep (him quiet till (8th reports (PC 9/3

I have never been given an opportunity to answer the charges made against me by those enemies who for selfish gain, and for enmity because I reported them for hauling beef with the Government's boat, and which reports I am convinced caused me to uloose the position as Assistant Light House Keeper, and I am ready and anxious and willing to answer any charge against me, and as an honorable American citizen, I think that I should not be turned out of a position without a chance to answer the charge of charges, as even a negro in this land of freedom, is given a hearing and a chance to prove his innocence, tho he be even accused of the worst crime of tragedy. (Rec.ack. (to 8th (JSC (Sept.6

Must I retreat defeated, ruined, abused, misused, jobless, injured, mistreated, slandered, lied about by those whom I had the manhood and courage to report for a willful wrong against my Government, without even a chance to answer the charge of charges?

I appeal to your sense of fairness and Ameican Justice, and ask you to see that the charge or charges made against me, causing the loss of the position on which I depended for the support of my family, be made in writing against me, so that I may answer same, and if I cannot prove same to be absolutely faulse, then I will humbly submit to the loss of the position for which I made such a sacrifise to get, and in which during my entire six months of service, I never heard a single complaint against me or my work.

Thanking you for looking into this matter in behalf of a humble fellow citizen who honestly believes that he has been treated unfairly, without a man's chance to defend himself, I am Honorable Sirs,

Very truly yours,

(Signed) S. D. Lawhon

TERMS OF COURT.

TALLAHASSEE—Second Mon[illegible] in January.
PENSACOLA—First Mondays in May and November.
MARIANNA—First Monday in April.
GAINESVILLE—Second Mondays in June and December.

Department of Justice.

OFFICE OF

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY,

NORTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA.

SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
SEP 16 1921
NEW ORLEANS.

Pensacola, Fla. Sept. 14, 1921.

Department of Commerce,

Light House Service,

New Orleans, La.

Sir:

This office begs to acknowledge receipt of your letter of Sept. 9th, 1921, enclosing an affidavit made by one S. D. Lawhorn of Apalachicola, Fla., dated July 18th, 1921, concerning the Cape St. George Lighthouse Station, in Franklin County, Florida.

Respectfully,

H. E. Hoffman

Assistant United States Attorney.

SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
SEP 12 1921
NEW ORLEANS.

Apalachicola Fla
Sept. 9th 1921

Supt Light-Houses -
New Orleans La -

Sir

Replying to Yours of 7th & 7th
And will Say
the reason I did not report Roberts
Sooner for Stealing Lumber
Was Told- Other imployees of the
light House Service Knew this
fact. I took Mr. J. M. Galloway
and Showed him one Wagon load
While there Was Two Other ~~loads~~ Lots
Mr Galloway did not See
there is plenty evidence to guarentee
a Court Conviction of Roberts Jr & Sr
With a Service at the Station You
Will likely find a good deal more
of this Lumber gone Than You might

Thick. As Roberts done lots of Carpenter Work here in town With Lumber he claimed to have picked up on the Island
2. Refering to your Statment that None of the parties mentioned in my letter ever reported me I have reason to believe that they engineered the game Whether or not they Signed or not. I have had Freinds trying to find out Why I Was sent out of the Service With out Any charges or Reason that I Could understand. I am guessing. And I have never had anything to Shock or hurt my feelings like this did And Sir- if you Will Send me those charges I Will Let Some body behind the bars

You are in La- I am in Fla
But I Know I have done Nothing
~~to~~ that would justify you in
throwing me out like you
did. And that Boy you had as Keeper
down at the light is Not fit to be
in charge of any thing in fact he
is not Mentally balanced. The Public
Will agree With this Statement
When he became Keeper there was more
Convent of Criticism in this Neighbor
hood than I ever heard Concerning
any one thing. And he did not
With in him Self Conduct the Offense
against me
I Want you to See him I Want
you to have a Talk With him
and take a good look at him
in the day time
if you do not agree With me in
What I Say I Will be Surprised
Yours truly S D Lawhon

EP:LBC

Incl.

September 9, 1921

United States Attorney,
Pensacola,
Florida

Sir:

1. The inclosed affidavit was received in this office on August 31, 1921, from Mr. S. D. Lawhon, Apalachicola, Fla.

2. If it is found that the allegations of this man are substantiated, it is requested that you take necessary action in the premises.

Respectfully,

Superintendent of Lighthouses

State of Florida,
Franklin County.

Personally appeared before the undersigned authority, H. W. Johnston, County Judge in and for said county and State, Murdock Newell and Lid Cooper who being duly sworn, depose and say each for himself that on the night of June Ist, A. D., I92I, at 9.I5 o'clock they saw passing in Apalachicola bay Cape St. George light-house boat heading East.

Lid Cooper
Murdock Newell

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 9th day of June, A. D., I92I

H W Johnston
County Judge.

The above was Wm Roberts Sr. and Bob. Knickmyre going 12 miles up the island to drive cattle

S D Lawhon

This is one trip but there has been many others like it

(COPY - LEG)
State of Florida

Franklin County, S. S.

The undersigned, S. D. Lawhon, after being duly sworn, deposes and says on oath as follows, towit:-

That during the months of January and February, 1921, while the working party were engaged on the wharf and walks on and about Cape St. George Light Station, in Franklin County, Florida, repairing and over-hauling the said Wharf and walks, W. A. Roberts Sr., was engaged in hauling lumber for the said working party to repair the same; that during the time the said W A. Roberts, Sr., was so engaged in the said hauling, he, the said Roberts, did from time to time, take off and from some of the loads of lumber he was then and there so hauling, certain parts of said lumber, towit, some 2x 8; 2 x 10; 6 x 6, and other lumber, and did the same hide, conceal and not deliver the same to the said working party for their use thereof;

That thereafter, after learning of the said actions of the said Roberts, as aforesaid, this affiant and one C. J. Raiford did go to the place where the said Roberts had stopped while so hauling the said Lumber, and did then and there discover and find the said lumber so left by the said Roberts, the same being the lumber so taken off of the loads of lumber so hauled and not delivered to the said working party as aforesaid; that W. A. Roberts, Jr., and W. A. Roberts, Sr., did, on the 17th day of February, 1921, go to get, and take away the said lumber herein mentioned, and did then and there take and haul the same away for their own use, the same being then and there the property of the Government of the United States.

(Signed) S. D. Lawhon
Affiant

S(CIRCUIT COURT)
E(FRANKLIN) Taken, subscribed and sworn to
A(COUNTY) before me this 18 day of July, 1921
L(FLORIDA)

(Signed) W. R. Dodd
Clerk, Circuit Court

(COPY - LEC)

State of Florida

Franklin County

Personally appeared before the undersigned authority H. W. Johnston, County Judge in and for said county and State, Murdock Newell and Lid Cooper who being duly sworn, depose and say each for himself that on the night of June 1st, A. D., 1921, at 9:15 o'clock they saw passing in Apalachicola Bay Cape St. George light-house boat heading East.

(Signed) Lid Cooper
(Signed) Murdock Newell

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 9th day of June, A. D., 1921

(Signed) H. W. Johnston

County Judge

S(
E(
A(
L(

The above was W. A. Roberts, Sr. and Bob Knickmyre going 12 miles up the Island to drive cattle.

(Signed) S. D. Lawhon

This is one trip but there has been many others like it

EP:LEC

September 7, 1921

S. D. Lawhon,
Apalachicola,
Florida

1. Your letter of August 25th, with its inclosures, received. This office notes that you subscribed to an affidavit on July 18, 1921, accusing W. A. Roberts, Sr., of stealing lumber belonging to the Lighthouse Service. It is regretted that you saw fit to delay forwarding the affidavit.

2. This office has transmitted your affidavit to the U. S. Attorney with request that he take proper action in the matter. No doubt you will be called upon by the U. S. Attorney to substantiate the accusations made by you.

3. With reference to your letter of August 25th, you are advised that the people whom you report in that letter as having conspired to make various reports against you have never submitted any reports to this office.

K.

Superintendent of Lighthouses

SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
AUG 31 1921
NEW ORLEANS

Apalachicola, Florida, August 25th, 1921.

Hon. E.S. Lamphier, Supt.of Lighthouses,
New Orleans, La.
Honorable Sir:

Answering your letter of the 13th instant, beg to say that in my discharge as Assistant Keeper at Cape St. George Light Sta., Florida, you have listened to false reports of enemies who lied on me at the "Eleventh Hour" when they knew that I would not have time to reply before the termination of my six months probationary period--even if I were given a chance to reply, which chance has not been given; and these enemies made the said false reports, not only to do me an un-repairable injury, but to promote their own selfish and unholy interest, and to cover up their own black deeds which I had the manhood and courage to report.

I reported the brother of W.M.Knickmyre, Light House Keeper at Cape St. Blast, whose name is Bob Knickmyre, and W.A.Roberts Sr.,for using the Government's boat for hauling beef; and I believe that these three men then conspired with Elis Barber and George Wakefield to have Mrs. Joe Porter make false reports against me.

Elis Barber is Mrs. Joe Porter's son-in-law, and George Wakefield is her nephew; and it is my conviction that the said Mrs, Joe Porter made these reports for the purpose of getting lighthouse positions for the said Barber and Wakefield.

Therefore, this conspiring trio--W.M.Knickmyre, Bob Knickmyre and W.A.Roberts Sr, knew the right key to unlock the selfish interest of the said Mrs. Joe Porter, and she, it seems, easily fell to the conspiracy.

In yours of the 13th instant, you say as far as your office is concerned, the incident is closed; and your decision against me is final, and in your listening to false reports of my enemies--without giving me a man's chance to defend my name and honor, you have not only done a great and un-speakable injustice to the husband of a defenseless and faithful wife and the father of four helpless and dependable children, but you have turned a poor man away from his well-earned position, out into the world of unemployment, jobless and without means--to fight against poverty in hard struggle for bread for his wife and four children.

While you sit at ease in the lap of luxury, with every protection thrown around you by the best and strongest government in the world, you and yours with three meals plus the luxuries of life, I must walk the streets in vain for work--to try to get a crust of bread for my wife and four children--which crust your well-fed children would throw to the dogs.

I am just a poor, humble citizen of an icolated small town in an undeveloped community, with no pull, influence or money; and you are an official of the U.S.Government with authority, power and pull; and therefore in my weakness and helplessness I must submit to your decision--tho it be unjust and founded on false reports. No pen can describe nor tongue can tell the great injustice and the injury which you have thrust upon me; and if you knew that I gave up a good position and declined taking another (which are now both filled), to accept the government appointment, you would even then only realize a small portion of such injury and injustice, and the sacrifice which I made to accept the said government appointment.

I am going to try to forgive you in your decision, for the sake of my undying love and respect for the flag of my country of which you are an official, but honorable Sir, these facts will haunt you to your dying day; and one poor, jobless fellow-man and his wife and four children will remember the injustice--even tho they have the grace to forgive.

Very truly yours (the under dog),

S.W.Lawhon

This the reason I did not report
this Sooner. is. I am like all ~~the~~ the
man kind I hated to do it-
owning to its nature
the aunt - of this lumber
was Something over 300 feet
concealed in three different
places

SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
AUG 31 1921
NEW ORLEANS.

Apalachicola Fla
Aug 29th 1921

Supt- Light-Houses
New Orleans La

Sir

Replying to Yours of the 27th inst- beg to Say, I Can not See where the fact that I neglected to mail mail that was my own proposition Caused or Showed Any Any effect on the Fitness or Unfitness of my Service

2nd Hamm if I Done Wrong I assure you it Was a matter of ignorance On my part.

3 If there Has any Papers of this matter I did not Sign. Which Should Have been Signed by me. I Will gladly Sign if you Will return

Yours Truly S D Faucher

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
NEW ORLEANS, LA.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

WJB.

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT, 8TH DISTRICT
NEW ORLEANS, LA.

August 27th, 1921.

Mr. S. D. Lawhon,
Apalachicola, Florida.

Sir:

1. Official mail addressed to this office, some of it signed by the then Keeper of Cape St.George Light Station, during June and July, was received in this office in an envelope bearing your return address, and with some unsigned memoranda in your handwriting.

2. The fact that you did not forward this official mail at the time it was current ~~[illegible]~~ confirms the opinion of this office as to your unfitness for employment in the Lighthouse Service. The personal letter addressed to you by G. M. Galloway, which you also forwarded, is herewith returned.

Respectfully,

Superintendent of Lighthouses.

SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
AUG 25 1921
NEW ORLEANS.

Later The Keeper brings me a
letter from Town from Mr Galoway
You will note it has been opened
by means of Sharp instrument,
and resealed. as it contained no
information I received it

S L Lawhon
Apalachicola
Fla





Supt Light Houses
New Orleans
La

This is mail I neglected to
mail while in the Service
for we were expecting any
time.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
NEW ORLEANS, LA.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
AUG 25 1921
NEW ORLEANS.

EIGHTH DISTRICT

Cape St Geo. L. S.
(Station, Depot, or Vessel)

June 19th, 1921

Supt - of Light-houses,
New Orleans,
La.

Sir,

Mr S.D. Lawhon has two letters enclosed which he ask me to sign and I refused for the following reasons, the one to you about going to Apa- one day and returning the next day, the other is to Mr G.M. Galloway trying to get evidence against me to correspond with his past Charges, as his letters are without foundation and are so often they are getting tiresome.

W A Roberts Jr Keeper

(Through the Keeper)

SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
AUG 25 1921
NEW ORLEANS.

Cape St. Ives, L. A.
June 18, 1921

Supt of Light Houses.
New Orleans. La.

Sir- I will again refere to the Keepers. Feb. Report, which did not occure to me at the time, but the Keeper, his wife, Mr Gallaway and all the working party, left the Station, Sat. Feb. 5th and did not return, until monday the 7th

Mr Gallaway also knows that he took the ~~#~~ Light House boat himself in the morning of the 17th and the Keeper following in the P.M. on his Fathers boat.

I would be glad if you would take this matter up with Mr Gallaway, he and his party will bear out my statements.

SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
AUG 25 1921
NEW ORLEANS.

Since Mr Roberts has moved the watch book from the Tower, I suppose he has intends to try to frame me out false.

L D Lawhon
Assistant Keeper.

(Through the Keeper)

SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
AUG 25 1921
NEW ORLEANS.

Cape St Geo L. S.
June 19, 1921.

Supt 8th Light Houses.
New Orleans, La.

Sir—

I went to Lowe in the afternoon of June 8th for supplies. On arriving in Lowe I found all business closed, and Mr Roberts told me over the phone I'd better spend the night than make 2 trips, which I did and early next morning I went to Depot, got Beacon Lamp, paid drayage .50¢ Mr Silvia assisted me, I went direct from Lowe to Beacon structure, west of here and installed it before returning to the Station, which took until 2 oclock P.M. June 9. As Mr Roberts contends, I signed the request for one days leave of

SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
AUG 25 1921
NEW ORLEANS.

absence. I do not care anything about the loss of the annual leave of absence, but ~~it~~ I dont believe it is right to charge this, and others like it, to me.

S D Lawhon
Asst Keeper.

Aug 24, 1921

During the 7 months Mr Roberts was asst Keeper, at Cape St Ises, Mr Silva informs me, he got only one leave of absence, During this time, he spent 93 nights ~~in~~ away from the Station, made 2 trips to Pensacola, spending five days, each trip.

~~Thorough Keeper~~)

SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
AUG 25 1921
NEW ORLEANS.

Cape St Geo L S.
July 4th, 1921

Supt Of Light Houses,
New Orleans, La.

Sir,

I am fowarding back to you, request for one days leave of absence, which came to me direct. I offered it to mr Roberts, for file, and he advised me to keep it, if it had been sent to me. I know it was intended for him and was sent to me through a mistake.

Find inclosed envelope.

S D Lawhon
Assistant Keeper

ESL:LEC
Incls.

August 13, 1921

Mr. S. D. Lawhon,
Apalachicola,
Florida.

Sir:

1. Receipt is acknowledged of your letters of July 30th and August 10, 1921.

2. Answering the question in your letter of July 30, 1921. In view of the fact that your services were not found satisfactory during the probationary period, recommendation for reinstatement at the present time will not be considered.

3. Referring to the letter of August 10th relative to Section C of Rule 7, your interpretation of that section is not correct. The words "full and fair trial" do not mean an examination or trial in the sense to which you refer to it, it means that after the person selected for appointment has been given a full and fair trial as to his conduct or capacity in the position to which appointed, and is then found unsatisfactory to the appointing officer, the probationer is notified of the termination of his services.

4. In view of your reference to Civil Service rule, your attention is invited to the notes of the Civil Service Commission under Section 1 of Rule 12, in the first paragraph of which notes it is stated: "and a probationer may be separated from the Service at any time during or at the expiration of the probationary period without further formality than written notification setting forth the reasons in full."

5. You are further advised that your case has received the consideration of the Department of Commerce and has been proceeded with strictly in accordance with laws and regulations of the Civil Service Commission, and, so far as this office is concerned, the incident is considered closed.

6. The two inclosures contained in your letter of July 30, 1921, are returned herewith.

Respectfully,

K.

Superintendent of Lighthouses

APALACHICOLA, FLORIDA August 10 th, 1921.

SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
AUG 13 1921
NEW ORLEANS.

Hon. E.S.Lanphier, Superintent of Lighthouses,
New Orleans, La.
Honorable Sir:

I am not satisfied with the way in which I was discharged from the Federal Government's service as Assistant Keeper at Cape St. George Light Station, Florida for the following reasons:

1. I was not discharged according to Paragraph (c) of Section 1 of Civil-service rule V11---in-as-much as I was never given any trial at all, much less a "fair trial", and I have never been notified with "a full statement of reasons, as required of the aforesaid civil-service rule;

2. I am convinced that I am the victem of some vicious enemies comprising an envious clique making false reports at the eleventh hour of my term, and giving me no time to answer same before the expiration of my six months period--even if I had been given " a fair trial";

3. During practically the entire six months of my service, I have never heard of a complaint or any dissatisfaction, at all times I tried to do my full duty with loyalty and promptitude, and the reasons for my discharge as stated by Chief of AppointmentDivision Hon. Clifford Hastings, as to my having shone "an unwillingness to carry out the orders of the Keeper and have shone sufficient evidence of unfitness,"are too vague, brief and indefinate to be considered a "full statement of reasons" as required in Paragraph (c) of Section 1 of Civil-Service Rule V11; and nowhere in the entire procedure of my discharge, was I given a "full and fair trial"as required by the aforesaid Paragraph (c) of Section 1 of Civil-Service Rule V11--or any trial whatsoever.

Now, Mr. Lanphier, as an American citizen and as one of your well meaning and law-abiding fellow men who honestly and sincerely believes that he has been wronged, I hereby insist that I be given a "full and fair" trial according to Paragraph (c) of Section 1 of Cicil-Service Rule V11, and if after this earnest appeal for justice, you fail to give me this "full and fair trial"to which I am absolutely entitled, I am inclined to send a copy of this letter to those of the United States senate and congress from Florida, together with an appeal from my friends, whom I believe will help me get a "full and fair trial" as aforesaid.

Awaiting your prompt reply, thanking you in advance for same, appealing to your sense of fairness and justice, I am , honorable Sir,

Very truly yours,

S.D.Lawhon,
Former Assistant Keeper,
Cape St. George Lighthouse.

S D Lawhon
Former Asst Keeper
Cape St George L.S -

SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
AUG 1 1921
NEW ORLEANS.

Apalachicola Fla
July 30 1921

Supt- Light- Houses
New Orleans La

Sir,—
Yours of 27th to hand. And I hope you will not considder it impotence on my part. for Writing again but I have two questions I want to ask You then are as follows.
First- Under the Circumstances in my Case. is There Any Provision made by the Civil Service Rules. Where in I May be reinstated?
Second. Would you And the department Considder or Recognize a Petition Signed by Nine Tenths of the Citizens Of this County asking That I be reinstated? Yours Truly
~~I am Your Comrade~~, S. S. Lawhon
Former Asst Keeper
Cape St. George L.S.

EP:LEC

August 3, 1921

Mrs. S. D. Lawhon,
Apalachicola,
Florida

Madam:

1. Your letter of July 29th making further reference to the matter of discontinuance of your husband's services has been received. This office has advised your husband fully on this matter and the incident is now considered closed.

For and in the absence of the Superintendent.

Respectfully,

F. A. M.

First Assistant Superintendent

SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
JUL 30 1921
NEW ORLEANS.

Apalachicola Fla.
July 29. 1921.

Supt of Light Houses.
New Orleans. La.

Sir;—

Your letter of 25th Inst has been rec'd. Please pardon me for annoying you with another letter, but in view of the fact that this is a matter where my husbands honesty and integrity is involved, and that we have been seriously injured having given up all other interest, to go into the Light House service. and as I see it, you have caused a black line to be drawn against him, that will forever prohibit him from obtaining employ-

SUPERINTENDENT OF LIGHTHOUSES
JUL 30 1921
NEW ORLEANS.

ment in any branch of the civil service, in the United States. Discharged by telegram for some reason or cause he is not aware of, but has a reason to believe that it was some charge sent in, supported by strong evidence, on the close of his 6 months trial period by parties that could not afford to appear before your personal investigation. I am making this last appeal to you, to give my husband a trial, that he may have a chance to defend himself.

Respectfully
Mrs. S. D. Lawhon

EP-WJB.

July 27th,1921.

Mr. Shellie D. Lawhon,
Apalachicola, Florida.

Sir:

1. Referring to your letter of July 24th, you are advised that you were serving as Assistant Keeper at Cape St. George Light Station, Fla., under a probationary appointment and your services were discontinued at the end of the 6 months probation. The procedure taken in your case was exactly in accordance with the laws and regulations covering same and final action was taken by the Department of Commerce.

2. For your information it may be stated that you were not dismissed from the service but your services simply were discontinued.

3. The charges preferred by you against W.A.Roberts,Jr., were given full and due consideration and Mr. Roberts was demoted and transferred to another station in consequence thereof.

Respectfully,

Superintendent of Lighthouses.

Apalachicola Fla
July 24th 1921

Supervising Inspector of Lighthouses
JUL 27 1921
New Orleans

Supt- Light Houses
New Orleans. La.

Sir

I acknowledge receipt of Your registered letter of 19th With check $36.10 discontinuing My Serivce On 15th But- I do not admit That I have refused to carrie out any orders of the Keeper.

But I have been discharged from the Service because I am an honest Man. and Wanted to abide by the rules Later. You will learn that Wm. Roberts Jr. is a boy and one that has no regard for for truth or honor. Mr Silvia the former Keeper over there has several times told me That You Your Self adimited to him You did not like his looks. and that he knew that he would not do as a Keeper all he wanted was to get away from that Station. Mr. Mackenzie of Cape St Blass will tell You of Many unlawful Telephone Mesages he has heard between Mr Roberts Jr. and other parties relative to getting me a way from the Station Mr Mackenzie

Superintendent of Lighthouses
JUL 27 1921
New Orleans

Came to see me three times before I left the Service. to advise me of this. And he makes the Statment to all he meets that it is a Shame to treat a man as I have been treated had you came around personally I would not been kept out. And if you will give me a trial I will Satisfye you that I am a victem of false representations I have been Seriously injured and unjustly So.
And I am asking you to give me a face to face trial. I was in the Skrimer Six months I never had a Word of complaint relating to my Work. And the fact that I was discharged by telegram on the 15th. With certain Youngsters waiting here in Town to receive this message and a boy by the name of Aubery Marks had in his possession this Telegram Telephoning it around over Opa-ou the afternoon of the 9th leads me to believe that Something awfully

Supt. Inspector of Lighthouses
JUL 27 1921
New Orleans

had must have been sent in to You. And I am entitled to a trial under Civil Service rules and under the Constitution of the United States I ask that I be given a trial? at which trial I promise the results shall be pleasing to You.

Please Reply to this

S. L. Lawson

Former Asst Keeper

Cape St George

L. S.