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LIGHT-HOUSE ESTABLISHMENT,

No. ENCLOSURES

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR 1ST DISTRICT,

PORTLAND, ME., Oct. 22, 1902.

SUBJECT: Rations for Whitehead Island and Deer Island Thorofare Light Stations.

The Lighthouse Board,

Washington, D. C.

Sirs:

In obedience to instructions contained in the Board's letter No. 3693, dated 18 October, 1902, I have the honor to state that I have become convinced that it is important, and that it will be for the interest of the public service to furnish rations as requested to the light stations at Whitehead Island and Deer Island Thorofare, for the following reasons: - At isolated and exposed stations inaccessible at certain times there is always danger of a scarcity of food at certain seasons, unless a stock of provisions is supplied in advance. Such supplies must necessarily be on hand in advance of the severe winter weather. To provide the requisite supply of provisions in advance would of course be impossible on the meager monthly pay of our keepers and assistants. The stock of course should be sufficient to carry them through the winter. Shipwrecked mariners have frequently availed themselves of the hospitality of the keepers of our light stations, and such a call might be made at anytime upon the stations now under consideration. Both stations are isolated and at times are inaccessible. If these rations are authorized they could be delivered by the tender with certainty at the proper seasons.

The keepers of the light station on Whitehead Island procure their private supplies from Rockland, which is eight miles distant, teaming them part of the distance and then boating them to the station. There are times when they cannot undertake to get such supplies. There are timeswhen the landing is impracticable. Whenever there is ice the station is practically inaccessible. This station to my mind is as much exposed as several other stations in the district already supplied with rations. The keepers of this station are deserving men, and the station is always in excellent order. In this connection I have to call the Board's attention to its letter of May 23, 1902, specially commending the Keeper, Mr. Frank N. Jellison, for his efficient and faithful service.

Deer Island Thorofare is an isolated and exposed station and at times inaccessible. It is as much exposed as several other stations in this district already receiving rations. The keeper at this station gets his supplies by boat from Stonington, which is a little over two miles distant and at times dangerous to attempt. There is but one keeper at this station and if he should be caught away from the station, as there would be great probability if he attempted to get his own supplies in the winter time, there would be a great risk of neglect of his proper duties at the light station. This station is always in excellent condition, and, although he has not received a letter from the Board specially commending him, he is, I think, worthy of such special commendation.

I believe the efficiency of the district would be promoted by furnishing these light stations with rations.

Respectfully,

G. Allen Hoque

Commander, U. S. N.,

Inspector 1st District.