

As to erection of a beacon in French Pass

Archives NZ Wellington Reference Agency IA [Colonial Secretary] Series 1 Item 1862/517

Item 1

J. P. Robinson, Superintendent, Nelson to the Colonial Secretary 26 February 1862

Sir, I have the honour to state in reply to the Colonial Treasurer's letter of the 13th ultimo having reference to the erection of a beacon in the French Pass, for which two hundred pounds was voted by the Legislature during the last Session of the General Assembly, and stating that the Sub Treasurer shall be authorised to defray the cost if I will undertake the arrangements necessary to carry out the views of the Legislature, that I shall feel much pleasure in rendering every assistance in my power to accomplish the object desired.

For this purpose I caused letters to be addressed to the Captains of the steamers 'Prince Alfred', 'Lord Worsley' and 'Tasmanian Maid', as also to the Harbor Master of this Port, soliciting their opinions on the subject; no answers had however been received up to the present time, probably from an inability to give advice on the subject, except from the Harbor Master who has verbally given me his opinion of the best site and plan of construction.

The absence of the Provincial Engineer prevents my forwarding a proper plan and description to you, as suggested in the letter now under reply, but his attention shall be given to the subject immediately on his return when I will again address you. I have the honor to be Sir, Your obedient servant, J. P. Robinson, Superintendent.

Item 2

Reuben Wood to His Honor the Superintendent, Nelson 13 January 1862

Sir, Your Honor will have seen from the Estimates that a sum of £200 was voted by the legislature during the last session of the General Assembly for the purpose of constructing a beacon in the French Pass. If your Honour will be good enough to undertake the arrangements necessary to carry the views of the Legislature on this subject into effect, the Sub Treasurer shall be authorised to defray the cost. It will be advisable before operations are actually commenced that the proposed plan and estimate should be submitted to the Honble the Colonial Secretary for his approval. Yours &c., Reuben Wood.

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Mr Curtis asked the Government: Why the Beacon in the French Pass has not been erected in accordance with the vote of last session and when it will be? The Hon. R. Wood replied that when he was in Nelson he arranged with the Superintendent that the beacon should be erected by the local authorities, and that when erected the General Government would pay for it. The delay was probably caused by the Superintendent sending to England for the beacon which he thought would be cheaper. The Government were about to introduce a "Marine Boards Bill," (hear, hear) and questions of this kind would come under the consideration of such Boards.