



CHARACTER OF LIGHTS.

BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL.

IN January 1923, the attention of the Bureau was called to the great similarity between the characters of the following two lights :

Grundkallen Light vessel — Lat. $60^{\circ} 30' N.$ — Long. $18^{\circ} 54.5' E$ (Sweden) White group flashing — 3 flashes every 15 seconds :

Flash 4 secs., eclipse 1.5 secs., flash 1 sec., eclipse 1.5 secs., flash 1 sec., eclipse 6 secs.

Storbrotten Light vessel — Lat. $60^{\circ} 25' N.$ — Long. $19^{\circ} 13' E.$ (Finland) White group flashing — 2 flashes every 15 seconds :

Flash 2 secs., eclipse 2 secs., flash 2 secs., eclipse 9 secs.,

whereby an accident, involving the loss of a vessel and of her crew, was occasioned, it being obvious that the Captain mistook one of these lights for the other, which was not on its station at the time.

Art. 6 (ii) of the Statutes (1923) states that the Bureau has, as one of its objects :

“To coordinate the hydrographic work of these (*Hydrographic*) Services with a view to rendering navigation easier and safer in all the seas of the world”.

The Directing Committee, therefore, considered it to be its duty to call the attention of the Authorities concerned in this case to the danger which arises from similarity of character in two lights in close proximity, particularly if one of them is not on its station.

The following letter was addressed to the Hydrographers of Sweden and Finland, which States control these lights ;

Le 28 Février 1923.

28th February 1923.

$$I. H. B. \left\{ \begin{array}{l} 212 \\ 213 \end{array} \right\} 2/23.$$

SIR,

The attention of the Directing Committee has been drawn to the result of the enquiry made, in December 1922, into the loss of the Netherlands S. S. "CORNELIS" in the vicinity of Grundkallen Light-vessel.

2. — It appears to have been the opinion of the "RAAD VOOR DE SCHEEPVAART", which held the enquiry, that this loss was due to the confusion of the Grundkallen light with that of Storbrotten.

3. — According to the information in the hands of the Committee it would appear that these two lights are of the following characteristics :

Grundkallen, white group flashing, 3 flashes every 15 secs., fl. 4 sec., ecl. 1.5 sec., fl. 1 sec., ecl. 1.5 sec., fl. 1 sec., ecl. 6 sec.

Storbrotten, white group flashing, 2 flashes every 15 secs., fl. 2 sec., ecl. 2 sec., fl. 2 sec., ecl. 9 sec.

4. — It is certainly a fact that the characteristics are not very dissimilar and I am instructed by the Committee to suggest that steps be taken, wherever two or more lights are not widely separated, to ensure that they should be of entirely different characters.

5. — A copy of this letter has been sent to the Hydrographic Office of { Sweden.
Finland.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant.

Signed : G. SPICER-SIMSON,*Secretary-General.*

On 14th March 1923, the Swedish Hydrographer acknowledged the receipt of this letter and stated that he had forwarded it to the competent Authority, i. e. the Pilot Office. No further reply has been received from Sweden.

On 22nd March 1923, the following letter was received from Finland :

(Translation from the French text).

NAVAL ADMINISTRATION — SJÖFARTSSTYRELSEN

Helsingfors
15th March 1923.

N^o 368/369.

TO THE
INTERNATIONAL
HYDROGRAPHIC
BUREAU.

In answer to the letter from the International Bureau dated 28th February 1923 on the subject of the flashes of the light-vessel "Storbrotten" in the Aland Sea, the Naval Administration has the honour to state that the character of the said light, two flashes, was decided upon after a detailed examination of the circumstances and after communication with the competent authorities in Sweden who raise no objection to the character of the flashes of Storbrotten light-vessel as at present established and as notified in this Administration's Notice to Mariners N^o 4 of 10th February 1923.

Under these circumstances the Naval Administration does not consider that it is necessary to modify the said light.

For the Naval Administration.

Signed : GUSTAF WREDE,
GUSTAF N. PETTERSON, A. PERRET.

The Directing Committee considers, therefore, that it cannot take any further steps in the matter.
