

Civil Service Commission, June 12, 1885.

THE Civil Service Commissioners hereby give notice, that an Open Competitive Examination for situations as Assistant of Excise in the Inland Revenue Department, will be held, commencing on Tuesday, the 3rd November, 1885, in London, Edinburgh, Dublin, Liverpool, Bristol, Plymouth, Leeds, Birmingham, Norwich, Cardiff, Glasgow, Dundee, Aberdeen, Cork, Galway, Belfast, Londonderry, and Limerick, under the Regulations, dated 5th January, 1883, and published in the London Gazette of the same date.

Appointments will be given to the first 70 Candidates on the list, if duly qualified in respect of age, health, and character, and otherwise under the regulations.

No person will be admitted to compete from whom the Secretary of the Civil Service Commission has not received, on or before the 21st October, an application in the handwriting of the Candidate on a prescribed form, which may be obtained from the Secretary at once.

NOTICE TO MARINERS.

(No. 96.)—BAY OF BENGAL—EAST COAST.

AKYAB APPROACH.

Fixed Light on Oyster Island.

WITH reference to Notice to Mariners, No. 96, of 26th May, 1884, on the destruction by a cyclone of Oyster Reef Lighthouse, approach to Akyab, Arracan River:—

The Harbour Authorities at Rangoon have given notice, dated 13th April, 1885, that a light is now exhibited from a lighthouse constructed of wood, and erected on the centre of Oyster Island, approach to Akyab:—

The light is a fixed white light, elevated 75 feet above high water, and should be visible in clear weather from a distance of about 10 miles.

The illuminating apparatus is dioptric, or by lenses, of the fifth order.

Position, lat. 20° 12' N., long. 92° 33' E.

NOTE.—Oyster Island is very low and of small extent, with a little jungle grass on its summit, and may be seen from a distance of about 5 miles. It is situated about 10 miles from the shore, and is surrounded with dangers, especially off the south-east end, where shoal ground extends for a distance of about 3 miles. Oyster Reef, on which the lighthouse stood before it was washed away, bears from Oyster Island S.E. $\frac{1}{2}$ S., distant about 9 miles.

Vessels approaching Oyster Island from the southward and westward should not shoal less than 20 fathoms water, and care must be taken when making the light in thick weather, owing to the weak order of the light, also the great danger of Oyster Reef. Mariners therefore should make certain of their position before standing towards the island, and, with the lead kept going, should not shoal the water to less than 20 fathoms, unless the light or lighthouse is sighted.

A blue light is burnt every half hour from 7 P.M. to 5 A.M., from a staging 24 feet above high water. Natives alone are in charge, so the exact time must not be depended on.

[The bearing is magnetic. Variation 3° Easterly in 1885.]

By command of their Lordships,

W. J. L. Wharton, Hydrographer.

Hydrographic Office, Admiralty, London,
29th May, 1885.

This Notice affects the following Admiralty Charts:—Indian Ocean, No. 7486; Bay of Bengal, No. 70; Cocanada to Bassein River, No. 829;

Elephant Point to Cheduba Strait, No. 821. Also, Admiralty List of Lights in South Africa, &c., 1885, No. 142.

NOTICE TO MARINERS.

(No. 97.)—CHINA—EAST COAST.

YANG-TSE-KIANG.

(1.) *South Channel—Reported Alteration in Depths.*

THE following information has been received from Captain R. G. Kinahan, H.M.S. "Sapphire," reporting alteration in depths, and extension of bank, of the South Channel, Yang-tse-kiang:—

1. A shoal with a depth of 16 feet at low water spring tides, lies with Kiu Toan Light-vessel bearing N.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ N., distant $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles—or in the position of $3\frac{3}{4}$ fathoms, as shown on charts.

2. The south-east portion of Block House Shoal, on which depths of 2 to $2\frac{3}{4}$ fathoms are given, is stated to be washing away.

3. The bank on the south side of the river, from Kiu Toan small beacon to abreast Small Island, is reported to be extending.

NOTE.—As the above information indicates that changes are taking place in the South Channel, Mariners should navigate in the vicinity with caution.

WUSUNG RIVER.

(2.) *Time Signal at Shanghai.*

Information has been received, that the following time signal has been established at the French Concession, Shanghai:—

The signal is a ball hoisted at the semaphore, which is in connection with the Zi-ka-wei Observatory; the signal is made once daily, as follows:—

The signal is hoisted half-mast as preparatory 15 minutes before signal, close up 5 minutes before, and dropped at noon Shanghai mean time—equivalent to 15h. 54m. 33s. Greenwich mean time.

Position of time signal, lat. 31° 14' 7" N., long. 121° 29' 10.3" E.

[The bearing is magnetic. Variation $2\frac{1}{4}$ ° Westerly in 1885.]

By command of their Lordships,

W. J. L. Wharton, Hydrographer.

Hydrographic Office, Admiralty, London,
29th May, 1885.

This Notice affects the following Admiralty Charts:—Yang-tse-kiang to Nanking, No. 1480 (1); Kweshan Islands to the Yang-tse-kiang, No. 1199 (1); approaches to the Yang-tse-kiang, No. 1602 (1); Wusung River, No. 1601 (2); Shanghai Harbour, No. 389 (2). Also, China Sea Directory, Vol. III, 1884, pages 422, 423, 433, 434, 444; and List of Time Signals, 1880, page 10.

NOTICE TO MARINERS.

(No. 98.)—RED SEA.

BAB-EL-MANDEB SMALL STRAIT—PERIM ISLAND.

Occulting Light on Obstruction Point.

TELEGRAPHIC information has been received through the India Office, that on 1st June, 1885, a light will be exhibited from a lighthouse erected on Obstruction Point, north-east coast of Perim Island:—

The light will be an occulting light, visible over Bab-el-Mandeb Small Strait and its north and south approaches through an arc of 185°, and should be seen in clear weather from a distance of 14 miles.

Approximate position, latitude 12° 39 $\frac{1}{2}$ ' N, longitude 43° 25 $\frac{1}{2}$ ' E.

Further particulars concerning this light,