

No. 899.—SOUTH-WEST PACIFIC.

Santa Cruz Island—Shoal Soundings Eastward of.

Information, dated 9th October, 1902, has been received from Lieutenant and Commander O. U. Coates, His Majesty's ship "Sparrow," of the existence of discoloured water about a quarter of a mile in extent, on which soundings of from 15 to 11 fathoms were obtained, to the eastward of Ndeni or Santa Cruz Island, situated approximately with Cape Byron bearing N. 70° W., and Cape Barrington S. 52° W.

Approximate position, lat. 10° 44' S., long. 166° 12' E.

Another extensive area of discoloured water on which soundings of 12 to 10 fathoms were obtained, was found about 1½ miles S. 56° E. from the above.

NOTE.—As Santa Cruz Island is very imperfectly delineated, the positions of the above shoals could not be correctly ascertained. Caution is therefore necessary when approaching the island.

[Variation 9° Easterly in 1902.]

This Notice affects the following Admiralty Charts:—Solomon Islands to Ellice Islands, No. 2901; Santa Cruz Islands, No. 17. Also, Pacific Islands, Vol. II, 1900, pages 515, 516.

No. 900.—SWEDEN—STOCKHOLM APPROACH.

Sandö Channel—Wreck Dispersed.

With reference to Notice to Mariners No. 45 of 1902:—

The Swedish Government has given further notice, dated 26th November, 1902, that the wreck of the steamship "Polstjernen," which sank in the Sandö Channel with Gronskar Lighthouse bearing N. 33° E., distant 11 cables, has now a depth of 39 feet over it, and therefore is no longer a danger to shipping; the green wreck buoy surmounted by a green flag moored about half a cable to the southward of the wreck has consequently been withdrawn.

Approximate position, lat. 59° 15½' N., long. 19° 0½' E.

[Variation 5° Westerly in 1902.]

This Notice affects the following Admiralty Chart:—Landsort to Gulf of Bothnia, No. 2362. Also, Baltic Pilot, Part II, 1896, page 145.

No. 901.—SWEDEN—SOUTH-EAST COAST.

Landsort Lighthouse—Intended Alteration in Fog Signal.

The Swedish Government has given notice, dated 26th November, 1902, that at the commencement of 1903, the fog signal at Landsort Lighthouse will be altered from a gun fired every ten minutes to a fog explosive giving during thick or foggy weather one report every five minutes.

Approximate position, lat. 58° 44½' N., long. 17° 52½' E.

Further notice will be given when this alteration has been made.

This Notice affects the following Admiralty Chart:—Öland to Landsort, No. 2361. Also, List of Lights, Part III, 1902, No. 922; Baltic Pilot, Part II, 1896, page 134; and Supplement, 1900, page 16.

No. 902.—SCOTLAND, WEST COAST—FIRTH OF CLYDE.

Cloch Point Light—Intended Alteration in.

The Clyde Lighthouses Trustees have given notice, dated 3rd December, 1902, that during the summer of 1903 Cloch Point Light will be altered from a white fixed to a white flashing light every five seconds.

During the alteration a temporary white fixed light, of lower power than the present light, will be exhibited from the lighthouse.

Approximate position, lat. 55° 56½' N., long. 4° 52½' W.

Further notice will be given when this alteration has been effected.

This Notice affects the following Admiralty Charts:—Ireland, East Coast, No. 1824a; Firth of Clyde, Nos. 2159, 2131. Also, List of Lights, Part I, 1902, No. 683; Sailing Directions for the West Coast of Scotland, 1894, page 77; and Hydrographic Notice No. 3 of 1897, page 4.

No. 903.—SOUTH PACIFIC—NEW HEBRIDES, AND TORRES ISLANDS.

Espiritu Santo Island—Bank Westward of. Hayter Bay, Middle Island—Reef Extended.

Information, dated 18th September, 1902, has been received from Commander Honourable F. C. B. Addington, His Majesty's ship "Phoebe," of the existence of a bank composed of rock, coral, and shells, about 3 cables in length, in an easterly and westerly direction, and 1½ cables in breadth, with a least depth of 7 fathoms, situated with Cape Lisburn bearing S. 48° E., distant 19 miles, and peak (2,950 feet) on the coast N. 48° E.

Approximate position, lat. 15° 23½' S., long. 166° 34' E.

The water was a little discoloured and the sea broke slightly over this bank.

A reef situated about 4 miles to the south-westward of the above, marked P.D. on the Admiralty Chart, was reported by Her Majesty's ship "Conflict" in 1876, a sounding of 9 fathoms having been obtained on it in approximately lat. 15° 24' S., long. 166° 30' E., but since that time His Majesty's ship "Wallaroo" has passed over this position on three occasions without observing any indication of this danger, it is consequently assumed that the shoal reported by the "Conflict" is identical with that now fixed by the "Phoebe."

Torres Islands—Middle Island.

Also, that the reef at the head of Hayter Bay, Middle Island, of the Torres Group, extends about 1½ cables farther into the bay than shown on the Chart. Landing in this bay is only possible near high water, no boat passage could be seen at low water. There is no mission station here.

Approximate position, lat. 13° 15' S., long. 166° 36' E.

[Variation 9° Easterly in 1902.]

This Notice affects the following Admiralty Charts:—New Hebrides Islands, No. 3033; Hayter Bay on Chart No. 134. Also, Pacific Islands, Vol. II, 1900, pages 489, 504.

No. 904.—JAPAN—SOUTH COAST.

Smith and Ponáfidin Islands—Rocks Reported.

The Japanese Government has given notice, dated 16th September, 1902, that a rock 2 or 3 feet high is reported to exist in each of the