57TH CONGRESS, 2d Session. } HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. { REPORT No. 3853.

LIGHT-HOUSE AND FOG-SIGNAL STATION AT ISLE AU HAUT, MAINE.

FEBRUARY 24, 1903.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

Mr. FLETCHER, from the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 13500.]

The Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 13500) for the establishment of a light-house and a fog-signal station at Isle au Haut, Maine, having considered the same report it with amendment and as amended recommend its passage.

The bill thus amended has the approval of the Treasury Department, as will appear by the annexed letter, the amendment referred to therein having been incorporated in the bill as reported.

Amend as follows:

Strike out lines 5, 6, 7, and 8, on page 1, and insert in lieu thereof the following: "at a cost not to exceed fourteen thousand four hundred dollars."

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, January 29, 1903.

SIR: The Department has the honor to state that the letter from your committee of April 10, 1902, inclosing House bill No. 13500, for the establishment of a light-house and fog signal at Isle au Haut, Maine, has, through inadvertence on the part of the Light-House Board, remained thus far unanswered.

The Light-House Board, to whom the matter was referred, reports that, upon the receipt of the bill, it at once took the proper measures to ascertain the facts in the case, and that, on pages 49 and 50 of its Annual Report for 1902, and in the current Book of Estimates, it recommended that an appropriation of $14,400 be made for the establishment of the light and fog signal in question.

A copy of the Board's Annual Report for 1902 is inclosed herewith.

Respectfully,

O. L. SPAULDING, *Acting Secretary*,

The CHAIRMAN COMMITTEE ON INTERSTATE AND FOREIGN COMMERCE,
House of Representatives.

Isle au Haut, Isle au Haut Harbor, Isle au Haut Thorofare, Maine.—Lower East Penobscot Bay and the water seaward for a distance of about 10 miles outside of Saddleback Ledge light-house are claimed by fishermen to be exceedingly good fishing grounds, and are frequented by fishing vessels ranging in size from 10 to 100 tons burden. Haddock are caught here from March till May, haddock, cod, and hake from May till October, and cod from October till January. The most profitable fishing is during November and December, when northeast snowstorms are apt to prevail, and are often of great severity. The trawls set by fishermen, which often contain several thousand hooks, can not be suddenly left without material loss or disadvantage, and when storms or night approach the vessels often need to remain on the grounds till the last moment, when it is of the utmost importance that they be able, quickly and with certainty and safety, to make a secure harbor. Isle au Haut Harbor is the best harbor convenient to these fishing grounds, and is so convenient in distance, and has such good holding ground, and is so well sheltered, especially from all the worst winds, northeasterly and easterly, from which shelter is most needed, it is highly valued and much frequented by fishermen. A light station with a fog bell, struck by machinery, would guide fishermen into this harbor when they could not find it without such aid. It is estimated that these could be established here for $14,400, and the board recommends than an appropriation of this amount be made therefor.

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