58TH CONGRESS, 2d Session. } HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. { REPORT No. 1974.

LIGHT AND FOG SIGNAL, BLACK LEDGE, NEW LONDON HARBOR, CONNECTICUT.

MARCH 29, 1904.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 11132.]

The Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 11132) to establish a light and fog signal at or near Black Ledge, New London Harbor, Connecticut, having considered the same, report it with amendment, and as amended recommend its passage.

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

Amend as follows:

On page 1, in line 4, after the word "establish," strike out the words "and maintain."

On page 1, in line 7, after the word "exceeding," strike out the word "sixty" and insert in lieu thereof the word "fifty."

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, February 5, 1904.

SIR: This Department has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a letter, dated January 28, 1904, from your committee, inclosing a copy of House bill No. 11132, "To establish a light and fog signal at or near Black Ledge, New London Harbor, Connecticut," on which suggestions are asked touching the merits of the bill and the propriety of its passage.

In reply this Department begs leave to state that the Light-House Board, to whom the matter was referred, reports that in its annual report for 1902, and again in its annual report for 1903, it recommended on page 29 that an appropriation of $60,000 be made for this purpose, and that it is still of opinion that this appropriation should be made.

The following is an extract from page 29 of the Board's annual report for 1903, in which the above-named recommendation is made:

Black Ledge, entrance to New London Harbor, Long Island Sound, Connecticut.—The following recommendation made in the last annual report is renewed:

"The necessity for establishing a light and an efficient fog signal in such a position as to enable vessels to enter and leave the harbor of New London, Conn., has become evident, and especially so for the aid of those approaching from seaward.

"The numerous outlying shoals and ledges surrounding the entrance to this harbor make the approach to it dangerous in thick weather. The location of the present New London light and fog-signal station is so far inside the obstructions as to be partially ineffective as an aid for the purpose of safe navigation of this entrance. The commerce of the port of New London has so increased since the erection of the present light as to change the conditions materially. In view of these facts and the further fact that a naval station is in operation on the Thames River, which empties into New London Harbor, it is suggested that a light and fog-signal station be established on the southwest ledge on the eastern side of the entrance to New London Harbor. Estimate is made that it can be done for $45,000. It is therefore recommended that an appropriation for that amount be made therefor."

The following statement was made in the Board's last annual report:

"The Board estimated in 1900, and again estimates, that as prices are at the present time $60,000 will be required for this work, and recommendation is therefore made that an appropriation for that amount be made therefor."

The Secretary of the Treasury, in his Book of Estimates for 1904, approved this recommendation.

This Department renews the recommendation of the Treasury Department in this case.

Respectfully,

GEO. B. CORTELYOU,
Secretary.

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

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