DEEPER WATER ON YAQUINA BAY, OREGON.

FEBRUARY 22, 1895.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

Mr. Hermann, from the Committee on Rivers and Harbors, submitted the following

REPORT:
[To accompany H. R. 8938.]

The Committee on Rivers and Harbors, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 8938) providing for the appointment of a board of engineers to consider and report on a new project for deeper water on the bar of Yaquina Bay, in Oregon, having considered the same respectfully report as follows:

That the project of 1888, as modified in 1892, requiring the north jetty to be raised to full high tide, and that five groins be built from the south jetty channelwards in order to prevent the currents undermining the jetty, is nearly completed, and it is found that said project has produced a depth of 14 feet at low water on the bar at the entrance to the bay, and this bar depth and location of channel has been kept uninterrupted during the entire year. We find, however, that the importance of this bay is such that deeper water should be provided on the bar, with a view of accommodating the deep-draft foreign shipping which is now offered additional inducement to enter by reason of the contemplated extension eastward of the Oregon Pacific Railroad, which it is proposed, under the new management now about to assume proprietorship and control, shall connect with eastern terminals, and thus make a transcontinental railway with its western terminus on the waters of Yaquina Bay.

This will so enlarge the present traffic, already large and increasing from and to the great Willamette Valley, as to justify and imperatively require deeper water than has so far been obtained by the existing project. The bill now recommended proposes a board of three engineer officers of the United States Army, under the grade of lieutenant-colonel, to be appointed by the President, and such engineers, with the Chief of Engineers, shall make a thorough examination and survey, and report a project, with an estimate of cost, for obtaining deeper water on the bar at the entrance of said Yaquina Bay.

It is the opinion of your committee that a project can be agreed on that will enable the Government to obtain a permanent depth of water sufficient to enable ships engaged in foreign shipping to enter Yaquina Bay without danger or delay, regardless of a further extension of the present jetty works, and with this view your committee report said bill (H. R. 8938) back to the House with a recommendation that it do pass with an amendment in lines 5 and 6 striking out the words "and one civilian," and also striking out the word "two" in line 4, and inserting as a substitute for said word "two" the word "three," so as to read "three officers."