

single report, in a form as condensed as possible, was presented of the whole matter.

The report, made in 1826, may be found in document No. 153 of the House of Representatives, 19th Congress, 1st session.

A reference to this report will show that the board considered it necessary to fortify the roadstead of Mount Desert island, the Narrows of the Penobscot, the Sheepscot, the Kennebeck, Portland harbor, and Portsmouth harbor. In a report, made in 1836, Eastport and Machias are brought forward as places that will need attention in this way, ere long; and Castine, St. George's bay, Broad bay, Damariscotta, Saco, Kennebunk, and York, are also enumerated, as calling, more or less urgently, for similar protection.

Portland, the mouth of the Kennebeck, and the Narrows of the Penobscot, being positions of great importance, have received much attention. The harbor of Portland has been surveyed, and the principal defences carefully planned: these are, a new fort on Fort Preble point, estimate \$155,000; and works on House island, estimate \$48,000. The security of Hog island channel may cost, say \$135,000.

A survey of the mouth of the Kennebeck was begun in 1819 or 1820, but owing to the assignment of the surveying officers to other duty, was never finished.

It is many years since the survey of the Narrows of the Penobscot, and the plan of the proposed defences, estimated cost \$150,000, was handed in to the department.

Portsmouth harbor, important on many accounts, and of the greater national importance from being the site of a navy yard, lies partly in the State of Maine. This harbor deserves immediate attention. The survey begun many years ago, was broken off by calls to other duty of the surveying officer, and has never been resumed.

The fort at the Narrows of the Penobscot, a fort at the mouth of the Kennebeck, Fort Preble, in Portland harbor, and forts in Portsmouth harbor, were placed, by the last condensed report of the Board of Engineers, in the class of works first to be begun, the progress made since 1826 in the construction of the fortifications comprised in the original first class having advanced these works from the second class.

This office is unable to afford information on the other subject embraced in the resolution of the Senate.

All which is respectfully submitted.

JOS. G. TOTTEN,

Lt. Colonel Engineers, brevet Colonel, and Chief Engineer.

Hon. J. R. POINSETT, *Secretary of War.*

WAR DEPARTMENT, *February 21, 1839.*

SIR: I have the honor to lay before the Committee on Military Affairs an extract of a report of the board of engineers on the subject of the points at which the erection of proper defences, for the frontier of the State of Maine, is necessary. The department concurs in the opinions of the board, and respectfully recommends an appropriation of the sum estimated by it, \$100,000, for operations during the present year; and that, in conformity with its suggestion, it be made unspecified.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

J. R. POINSETT.

Hon. T. H. BENTON,

Chairman Committee on Military Affairs, Senate.

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