

OREGON TERRITORY.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 21.]

MARCH 12, 1844.

Mr. A. V. BROWN, from the Committee on the Territories, made the following

REPORT:

*The Committee on the Territories, to whom was referred the bill No. 21, "to organize a Territorial Government in the Oregon Territory, and for other purposes," beg leave to present the following report:*

The committee have not thought it advisable to recommend the passage of the bill referred to them, organizing as it does a new and distinct Territorial Government for the Oregon country. They have considered the present population of that region hardly sufficient for such a purpose. They have, however, prepared another bill, in lieu of that one, which is herewith reported, and its passage most earnestly recommended to the favorable consideration of the House. This bill proposes to extend the civil and criminal jurisdiction of the Territory of Iowa over all our Pacific and intermediate possessions. It provides for the establishment of the necessary military posts within the country, and on the principal route leading to it. It pledges the future action of Congress in giving to all such as have gone, or may go there, such an interest in land as may secure to them homes, and some remuneration for the toils and hardships incident to the settlement of every new country. Such provisions have been inserted in the proposed amendment, as will make the exercise of jurisdiction and the enforcement of our laws in that distant country neither difficult nor expensive. We do not doubt, however, that the whole arrangement will be of but brief duration; giving way, in a few years, to a full and complete organization of one or more distinct Territorial Governments west of the Rocky mountains.

In presenting this bill thus modified, and recommending its passage, it is a source of satisfaction to the committee to know that it is in precise accordance with the avowed opinions not only of the present, but of several preceding Presidents of the United States. As far back as December, 1824, Mr. Monroe, in his annual message to the two Houses of Congress, strongly recommended the propriety of establishing a military post at the mouth of the Columbia river, or at some other point within our acknowledged limits. This he did, not only as a protection to our then increasing commerce, and to our fisheries, but as a protection to all our interests in that quarter, and as a means of conciliating the various tribes of Indians throughout our northwestern possessions. He further added, "that it was thought, also, that by the establishment of such a post, the intercourse between our western States and Territories and the Pacific, and our trade with the tribes

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