

IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JUNE 6, 1838.

Submitted, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. LINN submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany Senate Bill No. 206.]

The Select Committee, to which was referred a bill to authorize the President of the United States to occupy the Oregon Territory, submit to the consideration of the Senate the following report:

The attention of the Government has been, on several occasions, called to this important subject by bills and resolutions, through able and elaborate reports from committees of Congress, and in various Executive communications. We will not ascend higher in the Legislative history of this Territory than the last annual message of President Monroe, in which he says: "In looking to the interests which the United States have on the Pacific ocean, and on the western coast of this continent, the propriety of establishing a military post at the mouth of the Columbia river, or at some other point in that quarter, within our acknowledged limits, is submitted to the consideration of Congress. Our commerce and fisheries on that sea and along that coast have much increased, and are increasing. It is thought that a military post, to which our ships of war might resort, would afford protection to every interest, and have a tendency to conciliate the tribes of the northwest, with whom our trade is extensive. It is 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 residing in the interior, on each side of the Rocky mountains, would be essentially promoted. To carry this object into effect, the appropriation of an adequate sum to authorize the employment of a frigate, with an officer of the corps of engineers, to explore the mouth of the Columbia river, and the coast contiguous thereto, to enable the Executive to make such establishment, at the most suitable point, is recommended to Congress."

Such were the views of an enlightened statesman and patriot. The administration which succeeded took up this matter, and it became the subject of a negotiation between the Government of Great Britain and the United States, in which nothing was done definitively to settle the claims of the parties. This correspondence was marked by great ability.

The lapse of time, and the progress of events in that quarter of the continent which are unfriendly to the interests of the United States, require, in
Blair & Rives, printers.