

Preamble. emphasized this condition of naval affairs, by reporting "that it was an unfortunate fact that there was on that date only one government dry dock on the Pacific coast capable of docking our largest ships of war, and only one on the Atlantic coast of similar capacity, and that the latter had been undergoing repairs for the last six or seven months, and was then incapable of public use," and recommended that Congress take immediate steps to provide three or four new dry docks on the Atlantic capable of docking our largest ships of war; and

Preamble. WHEREAS, Under date of December 9, 1897, the Senate of the United States unanimously adopted a resolution (Senate No. 187, introduced by Senator Chandler, Ex-Secretary of the Navy) directing its Committee on Naval Affairs to inquire into the needs of the navy for additional docks, and concerning the proper location of any new stationary dry docks, and to duly investigate other public matters in connection therewith; and

Preamble. WHEREAS, Under date of December 14, 1897, there was introduced in the United States Senate by Senator Gorman, Senate Bill No. 2778, having for its object to make an appropriation of money with which to properly improve the Severn river in this State, and to construct a first class naval dry dock thereon at its head on Round bay, capable of docking any of our ships of war of the maximum number of tons displacement; and in support of and to accompany his said bill he also submitted to the Senate the resolutions and memorial to Congress, adopted by the City Council of Annapolis, Maryland, adducing numerous valid reasons why Congress should at this time favorably consider all the matters so recited in said bill, and all of which upon his motion have since been printed as Senate Document No. 21, 55th Congress, 2d Session; and

Preamble. WHEREAS, The special requirements of a site for a Government dry dock as formulated by the Navy Department, and as reported to the President of the United States by the Secretary of the Navy in his said annual report, will obtain, in a pre-eminent degree, at Round bay, at the head of the Severn river, in this State, whenever said river shall have been improved, as contemplated in said Senate Bill No. 2788, and which requirements are:

I. A situation upon a good harbor of sufficient size, depth and accessibility for vessels of the largest size and heaviest draft;

II. A favorable position, with respect to the principal lines of defence;