

2-16-1887

Hampton and Old Point Railroad Company

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HAMPTON AND OLD POINT RAILROAD COMPANY.

FEBRUARY 16, 1887.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. NEGLEY, from the Committee on Military Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 11196.]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred bill H. R. 9990) authorizing the Secretary of War to grant the right of way for a street-railway from the Baltimore wharf at Old Point Comfort, Elizabeth City County, Virginia, to and across the Mill Creek bridge, in the same county, respectfully submit the following report:

The military reservation known as Old Point Comfort constitutes a narrow peninsula of land, its greater front bounded by the ocean and another side by the waters of Mill Creek.

The fort, barracks, hotel, and wharves are within the reservation, and leading from these the principal highway or public road connecting with the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, the Hampton Institute, and the city and environs of Hampton, Va. This road is covered during the dry season with many inches in depth of loose sand and impalpable dust, whilst in the wet season with a coating of liquid mud.

The demand for cheaper and better transportation for the thousands who are domiciled in the public asylums and the communities who travel over this road for pleasure or for the purpose of traffic is too pressing to be denied or longer delayed.

The inmates of the Home and of the Indian school are now subjected to great discomfort and unnecessary expense in reaching these institutions by the present means of conveyance; hence the imperative need for a street-railway service.

The sanitary condition of the fort and hotel will be greatly improved by lessening the number of conveyances which now constantly occupy the main street leading to the steamboat pier.

The question of obstructing the thoroughfares leading to the fort and interfering with its line of fire is scarcely worth considering. The military prestige of Fortress Monroe is a mere reminiscence. Stone revetments, old-fashioned guns and mortars are now obsolete as formidable weapons. One submerged steel-covered movable turret placed on the Ripraps with a 110-ton gun would be more protection than the fort at present, if every casement were occupied with the best guns we have.

Your committee recommend the adoption of the accompanying substitute for the bill H. R. 9990, it having been framed to fully protect the interests of the Government in all the important requirements, and ask that the original bill do lie on the table.