
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

DECEMBER 16, 1869.

Read twice, referred to the Committee on Commerce, and ordered to be printed

Mr. PAINE, on leave, introduced the following bill:

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of War to provide for taking meteorological observations at the military stations in the interior of the continent, and for giving notice on the northern lakes and Atlantic seaboard of the approach and force of storms.

Whereas the record of marine disasters on the northern lakes for the years eighteen hundred and sixty-eight and eighteen hundred and sixty-nine, shows that during the year eighteen hundred and sixty-eight one thousand one hundred and sixty-four casualties occurred, involving a loss of three hundred and twenty-one lives, and of property of the value of three million one hundred and fourteen thousand dollars, and that during the year eighteen hundred and sixty-nine, one thousand nine hundred and fourteen casualties occurred, involving a loss of two hundred and nine lives, and of property of the value of four million one hundred and sixty thousand dollars; and that in eighteen hundred and sixty-eight one hundred and five vessels, of the value of one million two hundred and seven thousand three hundred dollars were totally lost, and in eighteen hundred and sixty-nine, one hundred and

twenty-six vessels of the value of one million four hundred and fourteen thousand two hundred dollars were totally lost; and whereas scientific observations have already shown that the course of storms in the United States is generally from west to east, and made known their rate of progress, and the changes of the barometer which precede and accompany them; and whereas a large proportion of the loss of life and property by marine disasters on the northern lakes might be avoided by timely notice to mariners of approaching storms: Therefore,

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That the Secretary of War be authorized and required to
4 provide for taking the necessary meteorological observations
5 at the military stations in the interior of the continent, and
6 for giving notice on the northern lakes and Atlantic coast,
7 by means of the electric telegraph, of the approach and force
8 of storms.