

Calendar No. 504

69TH CONGRESS }
1st Session }

SENATE

{ REPORT
No. 504

GRANTING LANDS TO SAN JUAN COUNTY, WASH.

MARCH 27 (calendar day, MARCH 30), 1926.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. STANFIELD, from the Committee on Public Lands and Surveys,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 8646]

The Committee on Public Lands and Surveys, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 8646) providing for a grant of land to the county of San Juan, in the State of Washington, for recreational and public-park purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with the recommendation that the bill do pass without amendment.

The facts are fully set forth in the report of the House Committee on the Public Lands (H. Rept. No. 360, 69th Cong., 1st sess.), which is appended hereto and made a part of this report, as follows:

[House Report No. 360, Sixty-ninth Congress, first session]

The Committee on the Public Lands, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 8646) providing for a grant of land to the county of San Juan, in the State of Washington, for recreational and public park purposes, having considered the same, report it to the House with the recommendation that it do pass with the following amendments:

Page 1, line 9, after the word "granted," insert the words "on the payment to the United States of \$1.25 per acre."

Page 2, line 3, strike out the period at the end of the line, insert a colon, and add the following:

"And provided further, That lot 3 shall be subject to the right of way for county roads granted to the county authorities of San Juan County, State of Washington, by the act of Congress of February 21, 1925 (Forty-third Statutes, page 957): And provided further, That there shall be reserved to the United States all gas, oil, coal, or other mineral deposits found at any time in the said lands and the right to prospect for, mine, and remove the same."

The bill proposes to grant to the county of San Juan, State of Washington, lots 3 and 4 of section 2, township 35 north, range 2 west, Washington meridian, Washington, containing 63.25 acres. The lots in question are a part of the abandoned military reservation situated on the northwest portion of Lopez Island. This reservation, among others, was turned over to the Department of the Interior for disposition under the act of July 5, 1884 (23 Stat. 103), or as otherwise provided by law under Executive Order No. 3893, dated August 13, 1923. In pursuance of the above act a sale was conducted in the local land

office at Seattle, Wash., on August 5, 1925, at which time lands within certain abandoned military reservations, including the reservation in which the lots above referred to are situated, were offered for sale for cash at not less than the appraised price thereof to the highest bidder.

However, the lots herein involved were not included among those sold on Lopez Island and the act under which the reservations were turned over to the Interior Department for disposition provides for a second offering at public sale before the lands may be disposed of at private sale, which is the occasion for the present legislation.

Lot 3 has been appraised at \$20 per acre and lot 4 at \$15 per acre. The total appraised value of the two lots is \$1,142.25. As the land involved has little agricultural or other value, the committee feels that, inasmuch as the land is to be used for park and recreational purposes, the county of San Juan should not be charged more than the minimum rate of \$1.25 per acre, which is the price usually fixed on lands to be used for public park and recreational purposes.

The report of the Secretary of the Interior, dated February 16, 1926, to the chairman of this committee, is herein set out in full for the information of the House, as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, February 16, 1926.

Hon. N. J. SINNOTT,

*Chairman Committee on the Public Lands,
House of Representatives.*

MY DEAR MR. SINNOTT: I have your request for report on H. R. 8646, a bill proposing to grant lots 3 and 4, section 2, township 35 north, range 2 west, Washington meridian, Washington, containing 63.25 acres, to San Juan County, Wash., for recreational and park purposes.

These lots are within the abandoned military reservation on the northwest portion of Lopez Island and among the tracts which were offered for sale but not sold on August 5, 1925, at the district land office at Seattle, Wash., under the provisions of the act of July 5, 1884 (23 Stat. 103). Lot 3 has been appraised at \$20 per acre and lot 4 at \$15 per acre in pursuance of said act. There is no objection to the enactment of the bill if there be inserted the following proviso in lieu of the proviso on page 2, lines 1, 2, and 3:

"*Provided, That payment of \$20 per acre is made for said lot 3 and \$15 per acre is made for said lot 4: And provided further, That lot 3 shall be subject to the right of way for county roads granted to the county authorities of San Juan County, State of Washington, by the act of Congress of February 21, 1925 (Forty-third Statutes, page 957)."*

Very truly yours,

HUBERT WORK.

○