

68th R. H. 1924
June 4, 1924
Calendar No. 560

68TH CONGRESS }
1st Session }

SENATE

REPORT
No. 527

GRANTING CERTAIN LANDS TO SHREVEPORT, LA., FOR
RESERVOIR PURPOSES

MAY 12, 1924.—Ordered to be printed

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

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 5573]

The Committee on Public Lands and Surveys, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 5573) granting certain public lands to the city of Shreveport, La., for reservoir purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon, with the following amendments:

On page 2, line 13, after the word "same," insert "Upon filing its application by the city, notice thereof shall be published at least once each week for thirty days in some newspaper in general circulation in the parish in which the land is situated."

On page 2, line 17, after the word "recognized," insert "notice being given as hereinbefore provided."

The recommendation of the Department of the Interior is indicated by the report submitted by them, as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, February 1, 1924.

HON. N. J. SINNOTT,
*Chairman Committee on the Public Lands,
House of Representatives.*

MY DEAR MR. SINNOTT: I am in receipt by your reference of January 22, 1924, of H. R. 5573, entitled "A bill granting certain public lands to the city of Shreveport, La., for reservoir purposes," with request for report on the same.

It appears that the city of Shreveport has acquired title from the State of Louisiana to the bed of Cross Lake, and desires to use same for reservoir purposes. The land which the bill proposes to allow the city to purchase consists of 10 small islands scattered through Cross Lake and embracing about 105 acres in area. If the lake is used for reservoir purposes it would, of course, be advantageous for the city to have control over these islands, as adverse ownership would be a source of trouble and inconvenience. According to the records of the department the land is vacant and unappropriated but information has been received that there may be some settlers or so-called "squatters" on part of the land.

Inasmuch as the land is situated in a portion of the State where gas wells and oil wells have been discovered, it is thought that the bill should contain the

usual clause reserving oil, gas, and minerals to the United States. Township 18 N., R. 15 W., Louisiana meridian, was included in petroleum reserve No. 4 by Executive order of July 2, 1910. It is therefore suggested that the following clause be inserted at the end of section 1, beginning on page 2, line 6, after the word "act":

"Provided further, That there shall be reserved to the United States all 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 land was withdrawn under the act of June 25, 1910 (36 Stat. 847), and the act of August 24, 1912 (37 Stat. 497), pending legislation, by Executive order No. 3775, of January 12, 1923.

It is also thought that the bill should contain a reversionary clause to the United States in case the land or any part thereof is not used for the purposes expressed in the grant. It is suggested that section 3 be inserted as follows:

"Sec. 3. That the lands hereby granted shall be used by the city of Shreveport, La., only for the purpose expressed in the grant, and if said land or any part thereof shall be abandoned for such use it shall revert to the United States; and the Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized and empowered to determine the facts and declare such forfeiture and restore said land to the public domain, and such order of the Secretary shall be final and conclusive."

With the amendments above suggested, I have no objection to offer to the enactment of the bill.

Very truly yours,

HUBERT WORK.