

**H. R. 661.**

[No report.]

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

DECEMBER 12, 1848.

Mr. VINTON, on leave, introduced the following bill; which was read twice, and referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

DECEMBER 28, 1848.

Reported back without amendment, laid upon the table, and ordered to be printed.

**A BILL**

Granting lands to certain States therein named to aid them in the construction of roads, canals, and the improvement of their rivers.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That there be, and is hereby, granted to each of the following named States, namely, Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida, for the purpose of aiding said States, respectively, in making roads, canals, and in the improvement of the navigation of the rivers within their respective limits, a quantity of public land



10 equal in amount to the several grants made by the Con-  
 11 gress of the United States to the State of Ohio, for like  
 12 purposes. The selection of the lands hereby granted to  
 13 each of said States may be made under the authority, and  
 14 by the direction, of the governor thereof, from any lands  
 15 within the State belonging to the United States, which  
 16 may, at the time of selection, be subject to entry at private  
 17 sale at the minimum price of the public lands, in tracts of  
 18 not less than one entire section, always conforming in the  
 19 selection to the public surveys of said lands; and no lands  
 20 shall be selected not at the time subject to entry at private  
 21 sale as aforesaid. The said lands to be selected within  
 22 two years from the passage of this act; and all lands so  
 23 selected shall, within that time, be reported by the gov-  
 24 ernor selecting the same to the office of the register of the  
 25 land district in which the land lies; and no land shall be  
 26 deemed to be selected till such report be made, and the  
 27 selection confirmed by the Secretary of the Treasury of  
 28 the United States; and, from the time of such confirma-  
 29 tion, the title to the lands so selected and confirmed shall  
 30 vest in the State by which the same were selected.

1       SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That any land  
 2 heretofore granted to either of the above named States, to  
 3 aid such State in the construction of roads, canals, or the  
 4 improvement of the navigation of any river within its



5 limits, whether the same has been appropriated to that  
 6 purpose, or been by said State, with the consent of Con-  
 7 gress, appropriated to any other use since the making of  
 8 such grant, shall be taken and deemed to be in part satis-  
 9 faction of the grant made to said State in the preceding  
 10 section of this act; and such State shall select such quan-  
 11 tity of land only, by virtue of this act, as with the lands  
 12 heretofore granted to it for the purpose aforesaid, will be  
 13 equal in amount to the lands granted as aforesaid to the  
 14 State of Ohio.

1       SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That the lands  
 2 hereby granted to the said several States shall be subject  
 3 to be disposed of by the legislatures thereof, for the pur-  
 4 poses above expressed, and for no other use whatever, at  
 5 a price not less than the minimum price of the public  
 6 lands at private entry; and the said States, respectively,  
 7 shall have power to grant titles in fee simple to the pur-  
 8 chasers of said lands so, as aforesaid, selected and con-  
 9 firmed.

#### AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. DUNCAN.

1       SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted, That there be,*  
 2 *and is hereby, granted to each of the other States of this*  
 3 *Union, for the purpose of aiding such States, severally,*  
 4 *in making roads, canals, and internal improvement of*  
 5 *the navigation of the rivers within their respective limits,*



6 in like manner, a quantity of public land equal in amount  
 7 to the several grants made by the Congress of the United  
 8 States to the State of Ohio, for like purposes, to be se-  
 9 lected in like manner from any of the public lands in any  
 10 of the territories of the United States.

1 SEC. 5. And be it further enacted, That all the  
 2 lands given by this act shall be subject to taxation, ex-  
 3 actly as if they had been sold and patented to individuals.

#### AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. DUNCAN

1 SEC. 4. And be it further enacted, That there be  
 2 and is hereby granted to each of the other States of this  
 3 Union for the purpose of aiding such States, secretly  
 4 in making roads, canals, and internal improvement of  
 5 the navigation of the rivers within their respective limits.