

1948

S. Gillett, and Others. Islands in the Detroit Straits: April 18, 1848.

United States. Congress. House. Committee on Public Lands.

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Report No. 496.

[To accompany bills H. R. Nos. 140 and 408.]

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

S. GILLETT, AND OTHERS.—ISLANDS IN THE DETROIT STRAITS.

APRIL 18, 1848.

Laid upon the table.

Mr. GARNETT DUNCAN, from the Committee on Public Lands, made the following

REPORT:

The Committee on Public Lands have considered the bill for the relief of Shadrach Gillett and others, and report:

It appears that a large island is forming in the straits of Detroit, about midway between the city of Detroit and the mouth of the straits. This island is separated from the shore by a deep channel, and contains between one and two hundred acres of shoals. When it is remembered that this is an island in important straits, separating the United States from the British possessions, it seems to the committee, that at some future day it possibly might be wanted for fortifications, or for public use; and, therefore, that it would be unwise now to give it away or sell it. Until it is wanted for public use, the United States would not interfere with the petitioners or others, who might wish to use those shoals for fishing purposes. The committee think it would be more proper to leave it open and free to the use of all of our citizens, than to grant a monopoly of its privileges as a mere fishery to any individual on a nominal consideration.

They recommend that the petition should lie on the table, and that a bill should be passed to prohibit the survey and sale of said shoals, without an express act of Congress in relation to the sale and survey thereof, which bill is herewith reported.