

SCHOOL LANDS IN OHIO.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 318.]

APRIL 9, 1844.

Mr. JAMESON, from the Committee on Public Lands, made the following

REPORT :

*The Committee on Public Lands, to whom was referred the petition for a change of school lands, of N. L. Huling, Peter Lantz, and 91 others, residents of Big Spring township, Seneca county, Ohio, having examined the subject thus referred to them, now report :*

That the petition and documents show that the greater portion of the 16th section in Big Spring township, (township 1, range 13 east,) which would otherwise have belonged to the inhabitants as school lands, by the terms of the compact with Ohio, was, under treaty stipulations with the Indians, sold by the United States as other public lands; and that, in consequence, the inhabitants were deprived of it, and became entitled, under the school-land law of May 20, 1826, to a like quantity of land elsewhere for the support of their schools.

Of the lands selected for them under this law, 480 acres are represented by the petitioners to be of a "very inferior quality, being covered with water;" and the remaining tract, containing 34.89 acres, is stated by them to be "entirely worthless." The indifferent character thus given these selections is fully sustained by the auditor of the county, in a letter addressed to a member of this House.

The petitioners further represent, that the lands in their 16th section, which, but for the provisions of the Indian treaty, would of right have belonged to them, are of as good quality as any lands in said township, and worth *at least five dollars per acre.*

Under the circumstances here set forth, the committee are of opinion that it would be but an act of justice to authorize the trustees of this township to relinquish these lands, and obtain others of a good quality in lieu of them. They have accordingly reported a bill for that purpose, which they recommend may be passed.

Blair & Rives, printers.