

MIAMI RESERVE.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 364.]

JULY 31, 1850.

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

REPORT:

*The Committee on Public Lands, to whom was referred the petition of the citizens of the State of Indiana relative to a reduction of the minimum price of the lands of the Miami reserve, report:*

That the lands purchased by the last treaties with the Miami Indians were excepted from the provisions of the general pre-emption law approved June 22, 1838, because their cost had been greater than that of previous purchases from the Indians of that State, and because of their supposed value. A special pre-emption law, for the benefit of settlers upon those lands, was approved August 3, 1846, with a proviso fixing the minimum price per acre at two dollars. Under this act the greater and better portion of the lands has been sold; the remainder is of a quality which is not worth and will not command that price. It consequently remains unsold, to the detriment of the State and counties in which it is situated. It is believed, if the price is reduced to the usual minimum price of public lands, purchasers will be found and the lands improved. To secure such reduction, the accompanying bill is reported.