

OSAGE INDIAN TRUST LANDS.

APRIL 6, 1880.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

Mr. THOMAS RYAN, from the Committee on the Public Lands, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 5629.]

The Committee on the Public Lands, to whom was referred bill H. R. 4407, having had the same under consideration, make the following report thereon:

The lands covered by this bill lie east of the sixth principal meridian, and embrace that portion of the said Osage Indian trust and diminished reserve which has been subject to settlement from eight to fifteen years last past, so that about all of the lands fit in any respect for agricultural purposes are already occupied. The lands remaining and to which the provisions of this bill are applicable are broken, consisting largely of bluffs, long ranges of flint hills, and deep ravines, fit only for pastoral purposes, and are in fact of very inferior quality, salable only at reduced prices and in quantities suitable for maintaining cattle and sheep. But your committee, believing said lands should be sold for the highest price they will bring in the market, do recommend the passage of the substitute of said bill, herewith reported, providing for the sale of said lands at public auction, to the highest cash bidder, at not less than the rates specified in the original bill; and as the government is under treaty obligation not to sell said lands for less than \$1.25 per acre, it is provided by said substitute that no proceeding shall be had under the provisions thereof until the Osage Indians shall assent thereto.