H. R. 248.

JANUARY 23, 1823.

Read twice, and committed to a Committee of the whole House, to which is committed the bill for the preservation and repair of the Cumberland road.

A BILL

To authorize the state of Indiana, to open a canal through the Public Lands, to connect the navigation of the rivers Wabash and Miami of Lake Erie.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That
3 the state of Indiana be, and is hereby, authorized to survey
4 and mark, through the Public Lands of the United States,
5 the route of a canal, by which to connect the navigation of the
6 rivers Wabash and Miami of Lake Erie; and
7 perches of land, on each side of said canal, shall be reserved
8 from sale on the part of the United States, and the use
9 thereof, forever, be vested in the state aforesaid for a canal,
10 and for no other purpose whatever.

1 SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That if the said state
2 shall not survey, and direct by law said canal to be opened,
3 and furnish the Commissioner of the General Land Office a
4 map thereof, within years from and after the
5 date of this act; or if the said canal be not completed, suitable

6 for navigation, within years thereafter,
7 or if said land, hereby granted, shall ever cease to be used
8 and occupied for the purpose of constructing and keeping in
9 repair a canal, suitable for navigation, the reservation and
10 grant aforesaid shall be void and of none effect: *Provided*,
11 That nothing in this act contained, or that shall be done in
12 pursuance thereof, shall be deemed to imply any obligation,
13 on the part of the United States, to appropriate money to de-
14 fray the expense of surveying or opening said canal: *And*,
15 *provided likewise*, That the said canal, when completed, shall
16 be, and forever remain, a public highway for the use of the
17 government of the United States, free from any toll or charge
18 whatever, for any property of the United States, or persons
19 in their service, on public business, passing through the same.

1 SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That every sec-
2 tion of land, through which said canal route may pass,
3 shall be, and the same is hereby, reserved from future sale,
4 under the discretion of the Commissioner of the General
5 Land Office, until hereafter specially directed by law; and the
6 said state is hereby authorized, without waste, to use any
7 materials on the Public Lands adjacent to said canal, that
8 may be necessary for its construction.