32d CONGRESS,
1st SESSION.

# H. R. 237.

[Report No. 135.]

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

APRIL 21, 1852.

Read twice, and committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. ORR, from the Committee on Public Lands, reported the following bill:

# A BILL

Granting the right of way and a portion of the public lands for making the Florida, Atlantic, and Gulf Central Railroad.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Represen-*
2 *tatives of the United States of America in Congress*
3 *assembled,* That the right of way through the public lands
4 be, and the same is hereby, granted to the State of Florida,
5 for the construction of the Florida, Atlantic, and Gulf
6 Central Railroad, to connect the waters of the Atlantic, at
7 or near St Mary's river, in East Florida, with the waters
8 of Pensacola bay, in said State, with a branch to Char-
9 lotte Harbor, in East Florida, with the right to take neces-
10 sary materials of earth, stone, timber, &c., for the con-
11 struction thereof: *Provided,* The right of way shall not
12 exceed one hundred feet on each side of the length thereof;

13 and a copy of the survey of said road, made under the di-
14 rection of the Legislature of said State, shall be forwarded
15 to the proper local land offices respectively, and to the
16 General Land Office at Washington city, within ninety
17 days after the completion of the same.

1 SECT. 2 *And be it further enacted,* That there be,
2 and is hereby, granted to the State of Florida, for the
3 purpose of aiding in making the railroad aforesaid, every
4 alternate section of land designated by even numbers, for
5 six sections in width on each side of said road; but in
6 case it shall appear that the United States have, when the
7 line or route of said road is definitely fixed by the au-
8 thority aforesaid, sold any part of any section hereby
9 granted, or that the right of pre-emption has attached to
10 the same, then it shall be lawful for any agent or agents,
11 to be appointed by the Governor of said State, to select,
12 subject to the approval aforesaid, from lands of the United
13 States most contiguous to the tier of sections above spe-
14 cified, so much land in alternate sections or parts of sec-
15 tions as shall be equal to such lands as the United States
16 have sold, or to which the right of pre-emption has at-
17 tached as aforesaid, which lands, being equal in quantity
18 to one half of six sections in width on each side of said
19 road, shall have and hold to and for the use and purpose
20 aforesaid: *Provided,* That the lands to be so located shall

in no case be further than fifteen miles from the line of the road: *And provided further*, That the lands hereby granted shall be applied in the construction of said road, and shall be disposed of only as the work progresses, and shall be applied to no other purposes whatsoever: *And provided further*, That any and all lands reserved to the United States by any act of Congress, for the purpose of aiding in any object of internal improvement, or in any manner for any purpose whatsoever, be, and the same is reserved to the United States from the operation of this act, except so far as it may be found necessary to locate the route of the said railroad through such reserved lands.

SECT. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the sections and parts of sections of land which by such grant shall remain to the United States, within six miles on each side of said road, shall not be sold for less than double the minimum price of the public lands when sold.

SECT. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That the said lands hereby granted to the said State of Florida shall be subject to the disposal of the Legislature of said State, for the purposes aforesaid and no other; and the said railroad shall be and remain a public highway for the use of the government of the United States, free from toll or other

7 charge upon the transportation of any property or troops
8 of the United States.

1 SECT. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That the lands
2 hereby granted to said State shall be disposed of by said
3 State only in the manner following; that is to say, that a
4 quantity of land not exceeding one hundred and twenty
5 sections, and included within a continuous length of twenty
6 miles of said road, may be sold; and when the Governor
7 of said State shall certify to the Secretary of the Interior
8 that said twenty continuous miles of said road is com-
9 pleted, then another like quantity of land, hereby granted,
10 may be sold, and so from time to time until said road is
11 completed; and if said road is not completed within ten
12 years, no further sales shall be made, and the land unsold
13 shall revert to the United States.

1 SECT. 6. *And be it further enacted,* That the United
2 States mail shall at all times be transported on the said
3 railroad, under the direction of the Post Office Depart-
4 ment, at such price as Congress may by law direct.