

Calendar No. 283

69TH CONGRESS }
1st Session }

SENATE

{ REPORT
No. 280

TRANSFERRING TO THE JURISDICTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA A CERTAIN PORTION OF THE ANACOSTIA PARK

MARCH 6 (calendar day, MARCH 8), 1926.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. CAPPER, from the Committee on the District of Columbia,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 2853]

The Committee on the District of Columbia, to whom was referred the bill (S. 2853) to authorize the transfer to the jurisdiction of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia of a certain portion of the Anacostia Park for use as a tree nursery, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with the recommendation that the bill do pass.

The effect of the passage of this bill will be to authorize and direct the Director of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital to transfer to the jurisdiction of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia a part of Anacostia Park for use as a tree nursery. The tract to be conveyed contains approximately 35 acres of land and is located near Bolling Field. It is now occupied as a tree nursery, under temporary authority granted to the District Commissioners. The District already has an investment in the nursery of about \$20,000, including a large number of young trees, fences surrounding the tract, water mains, roads constructed, a work shed, and a barn.

In the past the District Commissioners have had to abandon two other nursery sites, with attendant sacrifice of many trees, because of lack of ownership or permanent control over the ground used. The result is that it has been impossible to maintain a sufficient supply of suitable young trees for use in the proper development of the park and parkway system of the District of Columbia, including areas along the street and boulevards of Washington. Through permanent transfer to the District of the tract mentioned, the way will be opened for further development of the nursery so that it will be capable of furnishing the trees required to keep pace with the growth of the District of Columbia.

The proposed transfer has been recommended by the District Commissioners in the letter appended to and made a part of this report, and approved previously by the Director of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capitol, whose letter is also made a part hereof.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 26, 1926.

HON. ARTHUR CAPPER,

*Chairman Committee on the District of Columbia,
United States Senate.*

SIR: The Commissioners of the District of Columbia have the honor to transmit herewith a draft of a bill entitled "A bill authorizing the transfer to the jurisdiction of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia of a certain portion of the Anacostia Park for use as a tree nursery," which they request be introduced during the present session of Congress.

The object of the proposed legislation is to authorize and direct the transfer of a certain portion of the Anacostia Park to the District of Columbia as a site for a tree nursery. This site is located upstream from Bolling Field and contains approximately 35 acres of land. The inclosed map will give the location of the site with reference to its surroundings.

The commissioners are now occupying this site temporarily under the authority of a permit granted by the Chief of Engineers of the United States Army. At the present time a great number of young trees are growing in seed beds and in the nursery rows. With the improvements that have been made, the District has here an investment of approximately \$20,000. The land has been fenced in, a water main installed, roads constructed, the land cultivated, and a shed and barn erected.

The commissioners wish to emphasize the fact that they have been forced to abandon two nursery sites in recent years at a sacrifice of many fine trees. In the meantime the tree system has not progressed as it should and the situation is such as to warrant the belief that something effective must be done if the work of this department of the District government is not to retrograde. What the commissioners desire, and what is absolutely necessary if the tree system is to keep pace with the growth of the District of Columbia, is a permanent nursery site where trees may be propagated with assurance that the investment will not be unproductive.

A bill similar to the one herewith (S. 932, 68th Cong.) was passed by the Senate on January 13, 1924, but did not become a law.

The proposed permanent transfer of this site to the jurisdiction of the commissioners has the approval of a former Secretary of War and a former Chief of Engineers, and also has the approval of the Director of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capital.

Very respectfully,

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
By J. F. BELL, *Acting President.*

OFFICE OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND PUBLIC PARKS
OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL,
November 3, 1925.

Lieut. Col. J. F. BELL,
*Engineer Commissioner,
District Building, Washington, D. C.*

MY DEAR COLONEL BELL: Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of October 30.

This office approves of the passage of an act permanently transferring to the jurisdiction of the District Commissioners the area in Anacostia Park formerly set aside for a tree nursery.

Very truly yours,

C. O. SHERRILL, *Director.*

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