CHAPTER 338.

To provide for the exploitation for oil, gas, and other minerals on the lands comprising Fort Morgan Military Reservation, Alabama.

AN ACT

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized to lease within the period of two years from the date of the passage of this Act the lands comprising Fort Morgan Military Reservation situated in the county of Baldwin, State of Alabama, for exploitation for oil, gas, and other minerals under the Act of February 25, 1920 (41 Stat. 437), as amended, and regulations thereunder. The Secretary of the Interior shall within thirty days from the date of the passage of this Act advertise said lease for sale under the Act of February 25, 1920 (41 Stat. 437), as amended, and regulations thereunder: Provided, That in case but one offer or bid is received, the Secretary may, in his discretion, award the right to extract the oil and gas to such bidder: Provided further, That the operation of the lease shall not interfere with the use for military purposes or for lighthouse purposes of that portion of said land transferred to the Department of Commerce nor with the use for quarantine purposes of that portion of said lands transferred to the Treasury Department: And provided further, That the operation upon the tract quitclaimed to the State of Alabama shall be only by and with the consent of the State of Alabama. If a lease be made the Secretary of the Interior is directed to make a written report to Congress of its terms and conditions within not less than thirty days after the execution of the lease.

SEC. 2. Any part or parts of the Act approved March 12, 1926, authorizing the sale of the Fort Morgan Military Reservation is hereby suspended for a period of two years following the passage of this Act or until it has been determined by the Secretary of the Interior that it is impracticable and uneconomical to exploit this reservation for oil, gas, and other minerals under the provisions of this Act: Provided, That the failure of private interests to submit satisfactory proposal for the leasing of this property under the provisions of section 2 of this Act, after due advertisement thereof, may be accepted as proof of impracticability of exploitation.

Approved, May 23, 1934.