

LAND OFFICE REPORT.

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LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

TRANSMITTING

*The annual report of the Commissioner of the General Land Office.*

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DECEMBER 10, 1850.

Laid upon the table, and ordered to be printed.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Washington, December 3, 1850.*

SIR: I have the honor to communicate herewith the annual report of the Commissioner of the General Land Office, with accompanying papers, exhibiting the operations of that branch of the public service during the last year.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
ALEX. H. H. STUART,  
*Secretary of the Interior.*

Hon. HOWELL COBB,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

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GENERAL LAND OFFICE,  
*November 30, 1850.*

SIR: In submitting for your consideration a report of the operations of this branch of the service during the past year, I have concluded to modify to some extent the form of statistics, by presenting semi-annual tables of the sale and disposal of the public lands, so as to conform to the fiscal year, and at the same time admit of being arranged by calendar years when desired. As it has been the practice to found the table for the third quarter in part upon *estimates*, I have concluded this year to dispense with it, and to carry the statistics into the body of the report.

The surveys of the public lands and private claims have been prosecuted during the past year with all the energy which the means at the disposal of this office would permit. The late period at which the appropriations for the current year were made prevented the extension of the surveys this fall in the northwest, as intended, so as to keep pace with the progress of settlement. The delay thus caused, however, will be

compensated by increased efforts in the ensuing spring, so that the numerous settlers in that direction may have an early opportunity of purchasing their improvements.

In the States of Ohio, Indiana, Mississippi, and Alabama, the surveys have been completed, the archives connected therewith transferred to the State authorities, as required by the act of June 12, 1840, and the office of surveyor general in those States discontinued. In Illinois, Arkansas, Michigan, Missouri, Louisiana, and Florida, the surveys are being brought to a close as speedily as practicable, as will be perceived by reference to the following table, showing the area of each State, the number of acres surveyed, and the number remaining unsurveyed:

	Areas of the States.		Surveyed to September 30, 1850.	Unsurveyed to Sept. 30, 1850.
	Square miles.	Acres.		
Ohio.....	39,964	25,576,960	16,770,984	None.
Indiana.....	33,809	21,637,760	21,488,658	None.
Illinois.....	55,405	35,459,200	35,455,469	3,731
Missouri.....	67,380	43,123,200	42,613,273	509,927
Alabama*.....	50,043	32,027,490	31,993,813	33,677
Mississippi.....	37,337	23,895,628	23,895,628	None.
Louisiana.....	46,431	29,715,840	19,152,523	10,563,317
Michigan.....	56,243	35,995,520	30,629,076	5,366,444
Arkansas.....	52,198	33,406,720	33,201,425	205,295
Wisconsin.....	53,924	34,511,360	16,169,498	18,341,862
Iowa.....	50,914	32,584,960	14,196,106	13,388,854
Florida.....	59,268	37,931,520	21,907,314	16,024,206
Minnesota Territory.....	83,000	53,120,000	237,227	52,882,773
Northwest.....	587,564	376,040,960	.....	376,040,960
Nebraska.....	136,700	87,488,000	.....	87,488,000
Indian.....	187,171	119,769,440	.....	119,769,440
New Mexico.....	210,744	134,876,160	.....	134,876,160
Utah.....	187,923	120,270,720	.....	120,270,720
California.....	188,981	120,947,840	.....	120,947,840
Oregon.....	341,463	218,536,320	.....	218,536,320
Totals.....	2,526,462	1,616,935,598	312,710,994	1,295,269,526

\* Exclusive of Chickasaw lands.

Thus it is shown that in a few years the surveys of the public lands in all these States will be completed, and the archives connected therewith transferred to the respective States, as provided by law. The object in pressing forward the surveys has been to keep pace with settlement, and to enable enterprising pioneers to avail themselves of the benefits of the pre-emption act of 1841, which in express terms excludes all persons who settle on unsurveyed lands.

Where the surveys have been carefully and correctly executed, it is but seldom that a resurvey is necessary, and hence no further expenditure in this branch of the service is required.

Much embarrassment has been experienced in determining the location and survey of private claims, especially in Florida and Louisiana; but, under the judicious direction of the surveyors general of these States, the difficulty to a great extent has been removed. In Florida, most of

the private claims have been located and surveyed, and the work appears to have been done in a manner generally acceptable. During the present season, it is expected that the remainder of the private claims, and most, if not all, of the public lands of any value outside the Seminole reservation, in this State, will be surveyed.

In Louisiana, the resurveys in the Greensburg district authorized by the act of 29th August, 1842, have been prosecuted with great diligence, under the judicious and skilful direction of the surveyor general; and many of the erroneous and fraudulent surveys in that district, which had materially retarded public business for years, and proved a source of embarrassment and annoyance, have been corrected. Every effort has been made by the surveyors general and this office to prevent errors and frauds in the public surveys, and for this purpose stringent regulations have been adopted and explicit instructions issued. Notwithstanding these precautions, it has recently been discovered that in some of the surveys executed many years ago, especially in the northern part of the southern peninsula of Michigan, errors and frauds were committed, and a few of like character are of more recent occurrence.

These evils cannot be wholly remedied by existing legislation or instructions. They are caused by the want of skill or integrity on the part of the deputies, and can only be prevented by an active surveillance in the field—for which, and the expenses attending it, there is no authority of law—or by the employment of such deputy surveyors only as are of unimpeachable character and high scientific attainments. Since the discovery of the errors and frauds alluded to, special instructions have been despatched to the surveyors general to employ none but such as are of tried integrity and unquestionable abilities, and additional regulations have been adopted in regard to their bonds, in order to insure, as far as possible, a reimbursement to the government, if the surveys now in progress of execution should not come up to the requirements of the department.

The most certain preventive, however, of this difficulty would be to extend the provisions of the act of 30th September last so as to authorize, in all cases, a judicious combination of the geodetic with our present admirable rectangular system of surveys. By this process, the work of each deputy will be a check upon the others, and any error will necessarily lead to examination and detection; the exact geographical position of all important objects will be determined, and the principal topographical and geological features of the country ascertained and reported.

All this can readily be accomplished, without materially retarding the progress of the surveys or increasing their cost, by the employment of competent surveyors and the use of proper instruments.

To secure the services of such persons, a fair compensation should be allowed; and, in order to insure uniformity in the work, it has been concluded to procure suitable instruments, and to dispose of them to the deputies at prime cost, including transportation, reserving the right of repurchase. Should a deputy leave the service for any cause, these instruments can be purchased from him by the surveyor general, at such reduction from the cost as may appear fair as second-hand instruments, and sold to his successor at the same rate. To carry out these views, an item has been introduced into the estimates, for which an appropriation is recommended.

This system would seem to be specially adapted to our borders on the Pacific, so far as the general features of that section have been ascertained. The elevated and striking objects presented by the bold outlines of the mountains would be admirable points with which to connect a series of triangulations from the bases laid down in running the parallels and meridians necessary to the rectangular surveys, and from these points full views of the whole of the intermediate valleys could be given. By combining these triangulations with the rectangular surveys and a full geological description, the most perfect maps of that region could be produced, excelling those of any other section of the country. It would admit, also, of a departure from the rectangular system, when necessary, along streams, in narrow valleys, where it may be found expedient to survey the lands into tracts fronting on the rivers and running into the uplands for timber—similar somewhat in character to the surveys in Louisiana authorized by the acts of the 3d March, 1811, and 24th May, 1824, with this difference, that the tracts should be larger, and subject to subdivision by lines to be drawn from posts set at equal distances on the front to corresponding posts in the rear, and the back lines to be surveyed to the cardinal points, so as to conform to the lines of the rectangular surveys in the rear. In the placers, and other valuable mineral locations, authority should be given for subdividing the sections or other divisions into lots of suitable size for mining purposes, and reservations should be made along the margins of streams in and adjacent to the mineral regions for the miners, and to be free to them in common for washing out the ore. In consequence of the great number of bounty-land warrants issued and located—the low rates at which those warrants have been sold averaging only about eighty cents per acre—and the grants and donations made to the several States for internal improvements and other purposes, the sales of the public lands during the past year have been comparatively limited. The whole quantity sold and appropriated in satisfaction of warrants and donations exceeds very considerably, however, that of the preceding year.

The following statement of the amount of lands sold and located by military land warrants, &c., in 1848 and 1849, and first three quarters of 1850, exhibits the decrease in cash receipts, and the increase for 1849 in the amount of lands disposed of:

	Acres.		
Sales in 1848	1,887,553.04		\$2,621,615 26
Mexican war warrants	2,288,960.00	equal to	2,861,200 00
State selections, act of 1841	378,058.57	do	472,573 21
Improvements of rivers, &c.	321,188.33	do	401,485 51
Choctaw certificates	57,249.10	do	71,561 37
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,933,009.04</b>	<b>do</b>	<b>6,428,435 35</b>

	Acres.		
Sales in 1849	1,329,902.77		\$1,756,890 42
Mexican war warrants	3,405,520.00	equal to	4,256,900 00
State selections, act of 1841	259,806.60	do	324,758 25
Improvements of rivers, &c.	135,246.21	do	169,057 76
Choctaw certificates	53,935.33	do	67,419 16
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,184,410.91</b>	<b>do</b>	<b>6,575,025 59</b>

	Acres.	
Sales in three quarters in 1850	869,082.32	\$1,129,186 50
Mexican war warrants for first, second, and part of third quarter	1,520,120.00	equal to 1,900,150 00
State selections	379,803.58	do 474,754 47
Choctaw certificates	46,360.52	do 57,950 65
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,815,366.42</b>	<b>3,562,041 62</b>

From this statement it will be perceived that the aggregate amount of land disposed of in 1849 considerably exceeds that of 1848: There is a falling off in the current fiscal year, caused, probably, by emigration to the Pacific, the extensive reservations for the railroad from Chicago to Mobile, and the fact that most of the military warrants have been located, and the State selections disposed of.

Since the last annual report, over six millions of acres of lands have been brought into market, and about seven millions are now prepared for sale, and will be offered early in the ensuing season. Various opinions have been formed and expressed of the cost of the public lands, and of surveying, selling, and managing them, in comparison with the revenue derived from them.

That this matter may be correctly understood, and the value of these lands as a source of revenue be properly appreciated, I beg leave to state that, by a careful examination, it is ascertained that the entire area of the public domain, exclusive of the lands in Oregon, California, New Mexico, Utah, the Indian, and Nebraska Territories, was 424,103,750 acres.

About one-fourth of this land has been sold, and the purchase money received for it amounts to	-	\$135, 339, 092
The cost of the whole of these lands, including the amount paid to France for Louisiana, to Spain for the Floridas, and amount paid for extinguishing the Indian title, was	-	\$61, 121, 717
A portion only of these lands has been surveyed, the cost of which, including salaries of surveyors general and clerks, and expenses attending the surveys, was	-	6, 369, 838
Less than half the land surveyed has been sold, and the whole cost of selling and managing the same, including every expense not previously charged, is	-	7, 466, 324
<b>Aggregate outlay of every kind</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>74, 957, 879</b>
<b>Nett profit to the government</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>60, 381, 213</b>

Or an average of nearly one million and a quarter of dollars annually for the last fifty years.

If to this should be added the value, at \$1 25 per acre, of the land granted in bounties for military services, and for internal improvements, donations, &c., it would amount to nearly double this sum. This will

be more fully appreciated when it is understood that the average cost to the government of acquiring title to the public lands, including the extinguishment of the Indian title, is	-	-	-	14.41	cents per acre.
Cost of survey	-	-	-	2.07	do.
Cost of selling and managing	-	-	-	5.32	do.
Total average cost	-	-	-	21.80	do.

While for each acre sold the government gets \$1.25, or a nett profit, over and above every cost and expense, of \$1.03½ per acre.

The whole force of the office has been actively and vigorously employed in discharge of the onerous duties growing out of its current business. The quarterly accounts of the receivers of public moneys, both as receivers and disbursing agents, have all been adjusted to and including the third quarter of the current calendar year. The sales, selections, locations, &c., have nearly all been adjusted, posted, and entered, up to the same period; and the issuing of the patents for sales, private grants, donations, and military bounty lands, has been pressed forward as rapidly as the means placed at our disposal for that purpose would permit. Numerous suspensions of land entries in nearly all the divisions of the office—some of which for years have produced much difficulty and correspondence—have been taken up and disposed of, and the current duties have been discharged with commendable diligence.

There has been a material increase in the general business of the office, consequent upon the claims to lands for military services. This increase arises not only from an examination of the warrants and assignments, and the carrying of the locations by engrossing clerks into patents, but from the additional duties connected with these claims, which are devolved upon the accountants and book-keepers of the several divisions of the office in charge of the sales of public lands. In those divisions, all military bounty-land locations are compared with the tract-books of sales, in order to determine whether they are correct in designation and free from interference; after which, there is a permanent registry made in those books of such locations, in order to show the manner in which the located tracts have been disposed of, and to arrest, hereafter, a further disposal of them, and thus prevent conflict of title.

During the past year, 7,215 Mexican bounty-land claims have been examined and carried into patents, the whole of which have been forwarded direct to the parties entitled; and several thousand more are nearly ready for transmission. The whole number of Mexican warrants issued and transmitted to this office is 75,860, of which 52,269 have been located, covering 7,840,440 acres.

The act granting Mexican bounty-land claims was construed to authorize their assignment, which opened a door for the commission of extensive frauds, as well upon the soldier and his heirs as the government. Numerous discharges have been forged, and warrants obtained thereon, and assigned and passed into the hands of *bona fide* purchasers, by individuals personating the soldier.

Persons assuming to act as agents in procuring bounty lands have, in many cases, imposed upon the soldiers by obtaining assignments of their warrants, duly acknowledged before a magistrate or notary, leaving blanks for the number, date of warrant, and date of assignment and acknowl-

edgment. These blanks were filled up after the issue of the warrants, so that the assignments appear on their faces to be fair and regular, and executed after such issue. Warrants thus assigned are passed into the hands of innocent purchasers; and in such cases the soldier is generally defrauded of his land, as it is difficult, if not impossible, for him to explain or controvert the assignment.

Transfers are also frequently made, under and in virtue of blank powers of attorney, surreptitiously obtained from the soldier before the adjudication of his claim, and filled up afterwards. There are also numerous cases where the soldier has lost his warrant, or it has been stolen, and afterwards put in circulation by a simulated assignment.

Some estimate may be formed of the extent of these frauds from the fact that about three hundred warrants have been cancelled on the ground of having been obtained on false or forged papers, and about two hundred and seventy-five have been suspended upon allegations of the same character made by counter-claimants. Fourteen hundred caveats have been filed in this office by individuals contesting the issue of patents to the assignees, chiefly on the ground that the assignments are false and counterfeit, or in fact executed prior to the issue of the warrants, and the dates subsequently inserted.

The decision of these suspended and caveated cases imposes much labor and patient investigation upon this office. In cases where there is great conflict of evidence, the parties are referred to the judicial tribunals to decide the controversy, by bill in chancery or otherwise.

It would have been far better if these warrants had not been made assignable, and that the patent should in all cases have issued to the soldier, dead or living, and inured to the benefit of his heirs or assigns. The courts of justice would be open to all persons claiming by, through, or under the soldier, to assert their titles, where they could have the benefit of a fair trial and a careful investigation of all the facts.

Much embarrassment has also been experienced in closing the grants made to the States for internal improvements by the act of September 4, 1841, and by other similar grants made to particular States by special acts of Congress. The following table exhibits the present condition of the grant made by the act of September 4, 1841, to wit:

Statement showing the condition of the State selections, under the act of 4th September, 1841, on the 30th day of June, 1850. 8

States.	Number of acres to which each State was entitled under the 8th section of the act of 4th September, 1841.	Number of acres approved up to 30th June, 1850.	Number of acres to which each State was entitled on the 1st July, 1850, and to be selected and approved.
Illinois.....	209,085.50	208,980.05	105.45
Missouri.....	500,000.00	499,317.62	682.38
Alabama.....	97,469.17	None.	97,469.17
Mississippi.....	500,000.00	490,835.53	1,164.47
Louisiana.....	500,000.00	355,870.41	144,129.59
Michigan.....	500,000.00	494,513.43	5,486.57
Arkansas.....	500,000.00	499,889.03	110.97
Florida.....	499,990.09	45,567.94	454,422.15
Iowa.....	500,000.00	172,394.86	327,605.14
Wisconsin.....	360,364.01	285,648.42	74,715.59
Aggregates.....	4,166,908.77	3,061,017.29	1,105,891.48



Thus it will be perceived that the grants made by this act have been nearly closed in several of the States; and special efforts are now making to complete those in all the other States. In some, particularly in Florida, this consummation has been prevented by the difficulty in completing the location of "private claims," as it was impossible, in many portions of country in which selections have been made by the State, to distinguish public from private lands till those claims were located, and, of course, until that time, no definite action could be had in the "State selections." A like difficulty has been experienced in bringing the business connected with claims in Florida under the "armed occupation act" to a termination. As most of the "private claims" have been located, as already mentioned, the "State selections" and cases arising under the "armed occupation act" will be disposed of as rapidly as possible.

The several grants to the State of Indiana for the construction of the Wabash and Erie canal, amounting to about 1,400,000 acres, have all been selected, the lands certified to the State, and closed upon the books of this office.

The same may be said respecting the grant to Wisconsin for the improvement of the Wisconsin and Fox rivers, and the connexion of those streams by a canal, made by the act of 8th August, 1846, except that portion west of Fox river, within the recent cession by the Menomones, which has not yet been surveyed.

An intricate and laborious branch of our land operations is that charged with the examination and preparation of grants for claims to land resting upon titles derived from foreign governments, and donations of lands under laws of the United States—connected with which is the issuing of patents for Indian reservations. In legislating, from an early period in our national existence, for the survey and sale of the "public lands" of the United States, Congress anticipated the necessity, and accordingly then commenced making provision by law for the recognition and adjustment of titles which had been derived from foreign governments.

It was the policy of Great Britain, France, and Spain, in the management of their colonial affairs, to exercise, upon a most extensive scale; the power of granting away the royal domain, in many instances in immense bodies, but generally in moderate quantities, to promote and advance the settlement of the country. In this way millions upon millions of acres, in the aggregate, had been conceded to individuals; and to that extent the public lands were encumbered when the United States acquired title to the same, in virtue of different treaties.

By the laws of nations and terms of the treaties of cession, it became incumbent upon us to recognise and respect all *bona fide* grants of this character, and, in regard to them, to carry into full effect, and in a liberal and just spirit, the intentions of our predecessors in sovereignty.

The various classes of titles of this description, which have been designated and are now known as "private land claims," have been the subject of successive general and special legislative enactments, through a long series of years, reaching to the last session of Congress, inclusive, and now of themselves constitute a complete system. They have been adjudicated, from time to time, through the instrumentality of boards of commissioners, of the recorders of land titles, of the United States district and territorial courts, and by the Supreme Court of the United States on appeal.

In the investigation and adjustment of these titles, a thorough inquiry became necessary into the provincial laws, usages, and customs of the British, French, and Spanish governments—into the nature and extent of the power of the granting officers, and their subordinates, such as governors general, intendants general, lieutenant governors or sub-delegates, military commandants, and surveyors; and in the examination of this class of titles, numerous intricate and interesting questions have arisen before the courts of the United States, and have been judicially decided—some of grave moment, involving high interests, both national and individual.

This *system*, then, rests upon the laws, usages, and customs, in granting and surveying, of the sovereignties alluded to; upon numerous general and special laws of the United States; upon decisions of boards of commissioners and other officers; upon the decisions and decrees of the inferior judicial tribunals and of the Supreme Court of the United States.

In advancing and gradually extending our surveys of the *public lands*, in order to sell and dispose of the same in conformity to the will of Congress, this private land claim system has necessarily been invoked, and has co-operated in severing and setting apart the national domain, and in perfecting the evidence of titles to private individuals, in cases which have been sanctioned or confirmed.

Hence, wherever the ancient landmarks can be identified, they are traced out, and the old measurements or localities are ascertained and re-established, and, in their original irregular forms, are incorporated into the United States surveys in such a manner as to show their various locations, limits, and precise positions on our township plats, in connexion with the contiguous public surveys.

The want of a system in the governments that preceded us, by which the granting power could determine in advance whether their concessions would conflict with their previous grants, has led to numerous conflicts of title; and, although the terms of the original grants generally stipulated that they were made on the condition that they should not prejudice the rights of others, yet those stipulations have not relieved us from the difficulties and labor inseparable from the adjustment of conflicting limits.

To this branch of the service is assigned the duty of seeing that all such conflicts are properly determined, so far as executive action is concerned.

The settling of such cases is an indispensable preliminary to the issuing of new grants or titles for confirmed claims; in accordance with the laws of our own government; and in the preparation of patents there is necessarily brought in review the whole previous history of each claim, from its inception to its confirmation and survey, and a recital or reference to all the material points in its history is made in such patents.

These embrace claims of all denominations and extent—from town lots, often of great value, and frequently in conflict with each other, to claims of immense area, as in the "*Forbes purchase*," in Florida, known as the case of Colin Mitchell and others *vs.* the United States, the record of which alone, as submitted to the Supreme Court, covers a printed volume of seven hundred and sixty-six pages.

Cases have arisen, and may hereafter occur, in regard to confirmed settlement rights and claims founded on ancient written title, in which it is sometimes difficult, if not impossible, for the United States surveyors

to determine with certainty, in the field, the place of the original improvement or of actual grant. I therefore renew, in relation to this class of cases, the recommendation in previous reports, that power by law be conferred on the department to locate any such claims by sectional limits, or according to the lines of the public surveys, giving the claimant a right to a review and modification of such location, if application and a proper showing be made within one year after the official designation of the land, and providing further that such designation shall be final, if application for revision be not made within the period stipulated.

I deem it my duty again respectfully to invite the attention of Congress to the condition of certain private land titles particularly referred to in the last annual communication from this office, in which suits had been instituted against the United States to obtain confirmation under the act of Congress approved 17th June, 1844—decrees of confirmation obtained in the court below—an appeal prayed to the Supreme Court of the United States, and there dismissed on the ground that the appeal had not been taken in the manner and within the period required by law. It has therefore been contended that, in virtue of this last proceeding, the decree of the court below became final, and the confirmations consequently absolute.

As it was obviously the intention of Congress, by the act of 26th May, 1824, which was revived and extended by the said act of 17th June, 1844, that cases of the magnitude of those alluded to should be determined by the highest judicial tribunal upon their merits, the subject is now brought to the notice of Congress for consideration, and for such proceedings in the way of legislation as their wisdom may suggest.

Among the most important matters that will doubtless engage the attention of Congress, in connexion with the extension of the land system over our newly-acquired territory, will be that of making provision by law for the prompt adjudication, settlement, and separation from the public land of all valid foreign titles which should be respected and recognised under treaty.

The first requiring attention are those in Oregon and California. In the former, the claims, it is presumed, are comparatively limited in number which come within the purview of the treaty of 5th August, 1846, between the United States and Great Britain; and the rights which our government by treaty has agreed to respect may, it is suggested, be discriminated and settled by the joint action and co-operation of the surveyor general and the register and receiver, acting as a board of commissioners, whose jurisdiction should extend to all cases contemplated by the treaty, except such as may have been provided for by the act of Congress approved 27th September, 1850, to create the office of surveyor general of the public lands in Oregon, and to provide for the survey and to make donations to settlers. The decision of these officers should be subject to the final determination of the appellate authority as hereinafter suggested respecting the adjudication of claims in the State of California.

In that State, the claims are much more numerous, and are of a very different character from those in Oregon, being generally of a larger area—some, indeed, of an immense extent—and resting upon inceptive and other titles, in various stages of maturity, as derived from the governments of Old Spain and Mexico, and a great portion of which are probably unaided by any actual survey under the governments from which

they were derived. To settle these claims, it is recommended that legislation be had analogous to a plan presented in a bill introduced into the Senate at the last session, which looked to the appointment of a board of commissioners, with power to visit different places in California, under the orders of the President, and to take testimony of all the facts relating to the validity or invalidity of the respective claims, and to report the same, with their opinion, to the department, subject to the revision of a tribunal consisting of the Secretary of the Interior, Attorney General, and Commissioner of the General Land Office, who shall have power to render final decrees of confirmation as against the United States, and to be followed by a United States survey and patent. They should also have power to reject all claims which, in their opinion, are not valid under the treaty; but in case of any such rejections, the claimants should have the right to appeal from such decision, and bring the case, by petition and a transcript of all the evidence and proceedings, before the district or circuit court of the United States for the proper district in California, who shall thereupon enter up a decree, or decision, from which an appeal may be taken by either party to the Supreme Court of the United States, whose decision thereon shall be final and conclusive.

In the event of confirmation of a claim by such court, a survey to be made, and a patent to issue, as in other cases; but where the decision shall be against the claim, the lands *ipso facto* to be treated as public lands of the United States, and disposed of accordingly. By the adoption of such a measure, it is believed that the ends of justice will be subserved, the whole matter will be brought to a final decision and adjustment within a reasonable period, and all claims that are valid and should be respected will be recognised and separated from the public lands, which can then be disposed of without danger of conflict with the *bona fide* interest of private individuals.

By different treaties negotiated with *Indian tribes*, reaching back to the early times of the republic, and extending up to a late period, the United States have recognised numerous claims to individual Indian reservations. These may be ranged into several classes—a few usufructuary; others, and a very large class, in which the government has agreed to confer the *fee simple*; sometimes stipulating that the sale shall not be made without the sanction of the President of the United States, and others without such condition. In some of these classes, it is required that patents shall issue direct to the reservee, as in the Pottawatomie, Miami, and Chickasaw treaties; others, as under the 19th article of the Choctaw treaty of 1830, to issue to the first purchaser from the Indian, upon the presentation of deeds approved by the President.

There is also a class of between six and seven thousand, in which immense labor has been required of this branch of the service, pursuant to the treaty of 1832 with the Creek nation and the act of Congress approved July 5, 1838, directing patents to issue to the last regular assignee, whatever may be the number of intermediate assignments.

By the treaty of 1832, the Chickasaws ceded to our government certain lands in the northern part of Mississippi and Alabama, with a stipulation that they were to be sold by the United States, and the nett proceeds paid

over to them. That cession, as heretofore reported, has all been duly surveyed, platted, and found to contain	-	-	6,718,586.27	acres.
But of this area, individual Indian reservations which have been recognised cover	-	-	2,421,679.86	“
Leaving subject to sale	-	-	4,296,906.41	“
Of this quantity, there have been sold up to 30th September last	-	-	3,997,588.97	“
Leaving unsold at that date	-	-	299,317.44	“

Besides the sales of “public lands,” there have been disposed of by the land officers in the cession, 36,005.68 acres of “orphan reservations,” under the 8th article of the treaty of 1834.

The quantity of lands sold, “public” and “orphan,” and the gross amount received for the respective classes, in each year, and in the aggregate, up to the end of the third quarter of 1850, are exhibited in the following table:

*Sales in the Chickasaw cession from the commencement of operations up to September 30, 1850.*

Year.	Public lands.		Orphan lands.		Aggregate.	
	<i>Acres.</i>		<i>Acres.</i>		<i>Acres.</i>	
	* 8,193.98	\$10,320 30	.....	.....	8,193 98	\$10,320 30
1836 <sup>†</sup> .....	1,304,150.42	2,168,602 53	.....	.....	1,304,150 42	2,168,602 53
1837.....	166,991.94	204,292 09	25,630.64	\$124,603 63	192,622 58	328,895 72
1838.....	276,436.53	180,227 47	4,930.86	14,792 58	281,367.39	195,020 05
1839.....	635,769.12	235,051 68	3,683.40	11,050 20	639,452 52	246,101 88
1840.....	437,334.01	77,312 42	320 48	961 44	437,654 49	78,273 86
1841.....	302,862.76	42,513 57	1,280.88	3,842 64	304,143.64	46,356 21
1842.....	74,568.24	10,180 02	159.42	478 26	74,727.66	10,658 28
1843.....	36,345 04	6,221 86	.....	.....	36,345.04	6,221 86
1844.....	124,269.19	78,352 59	.....	.....	124,269.19	78,352 59
1845.....	161,365.39	51,811 11	.....	.....	161,365.39	51,811 11
1846.....	185,414.96	60,059 22	.....	.....	185,414.96	60,059 22
1847.....	138,128.64	31,674 88	.....	.....	138,128.64	31,674 88
1848.....	74,403.40	13,638 62	.....	.....	74,403.40	13,638 62
1849.....	36,419.17	6,160 36	.....	.....	36,419.17	6,160 36
1850 <sup>†</sup> .....	34,936.18	4,584 85	.....	.....	34,936.18	4,584 85
	3,997,588.97	3,181,003 57	36,005.68	155,728 75	4,033,594.65	3,336,732 32

\* Sold at Choctaw land offices.

† For 1st, 2d, and 3d quarters only.

The whole of this cession has been brought into market, with the exception of one section reserved for the use of the local officers.

The unsold lands, under the operation of the graduation system, have reached the minimum price fixed by treaty of twelve and a half cents per acre, except a few tracts which are now subject to entry at fifty cents per acre.

There have been issued for public lands in this cession	-	22,450	patents.
For reservations	-	2,200	"
Total	-	<u>24,650</u>	"

All of which have been duly recorded in this office; and the accounts of the receiver have been adjusted up to 30th September, 1850.

It may afford some idea of the amount of labor which has been required and performed in conducting thus far the land operations in the Chickasaw cession, by reporting the fact that the records in this office in connexion with this particular business comprise ninety-three folio volumes. In the annual report of 1849 from this office, in consideration of the gradual winding up of the Chickasaw operations, the diminution of sales, and the comparative small amount of business now required to be transacted in the cession, I suggested and recommended legislation with a view to a corresponding reduction in the expenses. To that report, in the present matter, I beg leave to make special reference, and to reiterate my recommendation in the premises—unless, indeed, it should be the pleasure of Congress to pay the Indians for the residue of their lands at the minimum price of twelve and a half cents per acre, investing the amount in United States stocks, and devoting the interest to the endowment of schools in the Chickasaw nation. The lands thus purchased could be attached to the next adjacent United States land district.

The *pre-emption* business has been progressing in a very satisfactory manner. Nearly all the claims under the acts prior to 1841 have been finally disposed of—many of which were very important, from the value of the property at issue, and the complexity of questions involved.

The act of 4th September, 1841, prospective in its character, has been highly beneficial in its operation, securing as it does to every settler who desires it the right to enter without competition the land improved and settled on, and generally enabling him, by ordinary industry, to realize from the soil sufficient means to pay for the same before he is required to do so by law.

The operations under this act have been reduced, as far as practicable, to a system, and proceed with harmony and efficiency.

In fact, the only modification that could, in my opinion, be made of it, with advantage to the public, is to require settlers, in addition to the present notice of settlement; as a preliminary step, to make oath of their intention to enter, and prove that they have in good faith made the settlement and improvement contemplated by law.

This provision, it is believed, would remedy any existing abuses, and afford every requisite facility to *bona fide* settlers.

The bounty-land and scrip business, under the war of the revolution, and that of 1812, is being wound up as rapidly as possible, pursuant to the legislation of Congress.

Many vexed questions still arise under this branch, and new cases are daily presented for the action of the office.

Under the act passed by Congress on the 28th September, 1850, "to enable the State of Arkansas and other States to reclaim the swamp lands within their limits," it was decided, with your approbation, to charge the surveyors general of the several States in which their offices existed, in the first place, with making out lists of the lands granted to those States by that law, and, where those offices were abolished, to devolve that duty on the land officers of the respective districts.

Full instructions have been made out and transmitted for this purpose; and by those instructions the act of Congress will be carried out, the right to all the swamp and overflowed lands unfit for cultivation secured to the States, and the interests of the government protected.

The State of Louisiana having made the necessary arrangements to defray the expense of selecting the swamp lands therein, under the act of 2d March, 1849, the necessary instructions for that purpose were issued; and, at the instance of the delegation from that State, a special agent was ordered there to arrange and determine the principles on which that grant should be adjusted, who discharged the duty intrusted to him, and made his report, which was laid before Congress.

In accordance with the instructions thus issued and the principles established, the State proceeded to make the selections, and has made considerable progress therein.

The law recently passed embraces Louisiana, and increases the grant made by the act of 1849.

Instructions have also been prepared for all the district land officers, under the act of 28th of September, 1850, "granting bounty land to certain officers and soldiers who have been engaged in the military service of the United States."

In order that the liberal views of Congress in passing this law should be fully carried out, and all possible expense saved to the brave and patriotic citizens for whose benefit it was enacted in locating their lands, and at the same time to protect the improvements of the hardy and industrious pioneer settlers, it has been determined, with your approval, to waive the affidavit heretofore required that there is no improvement on the land proposed to be located, but to publish notices for all settlers upon the public lands to come forward and notify the land officers of their improvements, and to require that the warrants shall remain forty days in the local offices after they have been located. This will give the settlers full time to file notices of their settlements and improvements, as now required by law.

During the time a warrant is thus retained in the hands of the land officers, if it is found that it has been located upon the improvement of a settler, that location will be annulled, and a new one made for the warrantee.

Arrangements have also been made for locating all warrants that may be sent to this office for that purpose.

The instructions for the surveyor general of Oregon require a combination of the geodetic with the rectangular system, as explained in the preceding part of this report, and as required by the act of 27th September, 1850, establishing the office of surveyor general of that Territory.

The geological surveys of the northern parts of Michigan, Wisconsin, and Iowa, authorized by the acts of 1st and 3d March, 1847, have been brought to a close; and it is expected that the final reports of the geolo-



gists will be received in time to be laid before Congress at an early period of the session, if not to accompany this report. From the scientific character of those gentlemen, the care taken by them in the execution of their work, and from the synopsis presented, I am satisfied that their reports on those interesting regions will be among the most valuable works of the kind ever presented, and materially advance the cause of science in these particulars. Immediately after the passage of the act of 20th September last "granting the right of way and making a grant of land to the States of Illinois, Mississippi, and Alabama in aid of the construction of a railroad from Chicago to Mobile," instructions were sent to the land officers of the districts through which that road will pass, directing them to reserve from sale or entry of any kind all the lands within suitable distance on each side of that road, until the grant is adjusted.

This measure was adopted to prevent the lands along the route from being located by speculators—thus securing to the States the benefits contemplated by the law, and preserving for future disposal by the government the lands in the alternate sections along the road, the minimum price of which was doubled by that law.

Under the act of 26th September, 1850, "to reduce the minimum price of the mineral lands in the Lake Superior district in Michigan, and in the Chippewa district in Wisconsin," the whole of the mineral lands in those districts which have been surveyed will be brought into market as early as practicable next season at the reduced minimum, arrangements having been made for that purpose. Earlier action could not be had, for the reason that the notice of the sale requisite under the law before the lands can be offered, if given this fall, would have brought the sales into the middle of the winter, when bidders would have been prevented from attending in consequence of the severity of the weather. The ordering of these lands into market will, of course, finally close the employment of mineral agents in those regions. The appropriations for surveying and marking the northern boundary of Iowa and the eastern boundary of Minnesota were made too late in the season for the service to be performed the past fall. All the necessary instructions have been prepared, and the work will be completed early next season.

Under the act of 3d August, 1846, "for the settlement of suspended entries," many suspensions, which had long embarrassed the operations of this office, and given rise to much correspondence, were finally disposed of, the interests of the government thereby subserved, and great relief extended to purchasers.

Several cases, equally meritorious with those which were released, were, however, not acted on, for various causes, most of which were beyond the control of this office. Others, of equal merit, have since arisen; and, in consideration of these facts, I recommend the revival of that act for a period of two years, which it is presumed will be amply sufficient for the purpose. I renew the recommendation made in my last report that the duty of selling "reserved lands" be devolved on this office, where the reservation of those lands may no longer be required for military or other public uses; and that this office be clothed with all the authority of the surveyors general for the lands in the States where their offices have been or may be abolished under the act of 12th June, 1840. The experience on the subject since that report has fully sustained the expediency

and necessity of these measures, and the reasons then given for the adoption of them—to which I respectfully refer.

The manner of disposing of the public lands in California, New Mexico, and Utah has attracted much attention; and various plans have been suggested as the most judicious for this purpose—especially in reference to the valuable mineral lands in those regions. In view of the peculiar topographical features of the country, and the value of the mineral lands in California, it has been supposed by many that the leasing system would conduce most to the interests of the government and the people, so far as those mineral lands are concerned; and a bill to establish such a system in that State has been introduced into the Senate.

It is not a matter of surprise that these opinions should be entertained by all who have not realized the results of this system. The same views were held successively of the lead mines of Missouri and Illinois, and of the lead and copper mines of Arkansas, northern Michigan, and Wisconsin. As an additional reason, however, for the adoption of this system in California, it is alleged that the soil in many of the placers is utterly valueless, except for the mineral found therein, and that when that mineral is exhausted, the land is worth nothing. When the history of the past with reference to this question is considered, it will be found that there are few, if any, points of difference; that like causes have produced like effects in all these States; and that the same results will probably be experienced on the Pacific, if the leasing system is introduced there.

From the beginning, the government has manifested a desire to retain an interest in lands containing valuable minerals. This is a natural feeling in those who, dazzled by the supposed value of the treasure, patriotically desire that the government should share in it. When experience, however, shows that the cost of obtaining this share by the leasing system exceeds the benefits derived from it, and is attended by a long train of serious evils, that system should at once be abandoned.

The first action on the part of the government in relation to this subject was the ordinance of 13th April, 1785, by which one-third part of all gold, silver, lead, and copper mines was reserved to the United States. Here it will be perceived that it was not proposed to reserve or lease the land; the genius and spirit of the people would not have tolerated that system of vassalage. This ordinance provided that the lands should be sold, but that, in accordance with a usage then in force in Europe, a portion of the product of the valuable mines therein should remain to the sovereignty.

The next was the joint resolution of 16th April, 1800, directing the employment of an agent to collect information relative to the copper mines of Lake Superior.

A report was made in accordance with this resolution; but no further action was had in relation to these mines till after the treaty with the Chippewas of 4th October, 1842, by which that country was acquired.

The third were the acts of 3d March, 1807, authorizing the President to lease the lead mines in the Indiana Territory.

Under these laws the leasing system was adopted. Of the early operations of it we have but little information, as the mineral lands were placed under the control of the War Department in 1821, and prior to that time there was but little, if anything, done in it.

The first official information I have found is contained in the report of the Secretary of War of the 16th February, 1843, in which it is stated

that the whole amount of rent lead received by the government in 1841 and 1842 was 74,924 pounds, worth about \$1,600—a sum that would not more than pay the annual salary of one of the superintendents employed in the service. By a subsequent report from the War Department, it was shown that the rent received in 1843 and 1844 amounted to 242,814 pounds of lead, worth about \$4,856; while the amount expended on account of mineral lands by the government, including salaries of officers, &c., during the same period, was \$20,729—making an actual loss to the government by the operation of \$15,873. If to this be added the amount that would have been realized from these lands if they had been sold at the ordinary minimum of \$1 25 per acre, and the expenses, costs, &c., that grew out of the vast number of suits instituted by the United States to recover rent due by defaulting lessees, to vacate fraudulent entries, &c., it would amount to a sum in comparison to which the loss above-mentioned would be insignificant. Subsequently, in consequence of active measures having been taken by the district attorney for that purpose, a greater amount of rent was received, but without any abatement of the attendant evils. So fully was Congress satisfied of the inexpediency of this system with reference to revenue, and of the actual losses that the government had sustained from it, that, on the 3d March, 1829, an act was passed authorizing the President of the United States to cause the valuable lead mines reserved in the State of Missouri to be exposed to public sale, subject to the ordinary minimum. This was followed by the act of 11th July, 1846, directing the mineral lands of Illinois, southern Wisconsin, and Iowa, to be sold; by the acts of 1st and 3d March, 1847, directing the sale of the valuable copper mines of Lake Superior, &c.; and finally by the act of 26th September, 1850, reducing their minimum price to that of ordinary public lands.

Thus it is seen that the whole of the leasing system, and the reservations of the mineral lands on account of their supposed value, after the experience of nearly fifty years, have been finally abolished in some of the richest mineral regions on the face of the earth; and that, so far as exhibits have been made, it is shown to have been a loss to the government directly to a considerable sum, and indirectly to a vastly greater amount.

It may be well to consider, also, the effect of this system upon the morals of the community in which it existed.

Having only a temporary connexion with the soil, and that of a character calculated to stimulate every effort for their own pecuniary advantage, the lessees had no inducement to aid in sustaining the laws or encouraging a proper moral tone in the community. Success in mining operations secured wealth; failure produced poverty, want, and their attendant evils. These mutations begot a spirit of wild, speculating hazard, which in many cases was carried out to the fullest extent, and assisted in corrupting the moral sense and feeling of many in the community. The government was regarded as a rich landed monopolist, that had no feeling in unison with the interest of the tenant, but was rather striving to strip him of part of the earnings of his toil and privations. Hence arose a feeling of resistance to the government and laws, and a disposition to evade those laws and the obligations of contracts by every possible expedient. Conscious of this kind of vassalage, the miners learned to look upon their government with feelings of dissatisfaction and ill-will, and to manifest those sentiments in bitter complaints and remonstrances. This constant

warring for wealth stimulated also feelings of cupidity, which were increased by consciousness of oppression, and induced the miners, not only to avoid, whenever practicable, the payment of tribute or rent; but also to encroach on the rights of each other. Unceasing litigation was the consequence between the government and miners, and among the miners themselves, either for the collection of rents, or to remedy some real or supposed wrong. The familiarity with vice thus induced, by a natural transition, extended to individual and social relations—the whole producing a state of society that could only be realized by personal observations, but which was well known to exist to a greater or less extent in all the mining districts where the leasing system was in force. Communities were kept in unceasing turmoil, ferment, litigation, and bloodshed by this odious system; and that these evils were thus caused, is evident from the fact, that, after the abrogation of that system, the same communities are as orderly, peaceful, and law-abiding as any people in the world.

The leasing system was also the cause of much irritation, jealousy, and complaint on the part of the States within whose jurisdiction it was practised. They justly complained that they were crippled in their resources by being restricted in the power of taxation—that the general government, instead of selling the land, retained the fee, and stood in the attitude of a powerful and opulent landlord, holding a large portion of the population in an abject and servile state of tenancy, destroying all inducements to cultivation, or the making of permanent improvements or settlements upon the land; until Congress, seeing the accumulated evils and pernicious consequences, abolished, as before stated, the whole system.

It may be argued, that in regions containing the precious metals, and where the lands, in many cases, aside from the minerals; are valueless, the same results would not be experienced; that it would be an unjustifiable disregard of the public interest to sell for any ordinary price a tract of land containing a rich gold or quicksilver mine, while it would be equally unjust to individuals to charge them such price for lands that should prove wholly worthless.

The answer is, that this state of things existed in the Lake Superior regions—with this difference, that here the mineral is copper, while on the Pacific it is gold, &c. The lands, however, in both regions, aside from the minerals, are equally valueless. Yet those who were engaged in the Lake Superior operations cheerfully purchased large bodies of worthless land, extending even to three miles square, at high rates, for the purpose of securing a good mining location; and the fact that the mineral on the Pacific is the more valuable will only have a tendency to cause the greater efforts to defeat the government in the collection of the tribute. The further allegation may be made, that in the Lake Superior region, mining could only be carried on profitably by companies, and at a very heavy outlay of capital and labor. By recent advices from California, it appears that individual mining is declining, and that the mineral wealth of that country can only be successfully developed by combinations of capital and labor.

Further, from these advices I am inclined to think that those engaged in the mining operations there do not probably realize as much as the same number employed in agricultural or other branches of industry in that or other sections of our Union, and that but comparatively few of the many thus engaged acquire more than sufficient to pay their expenses, or

to enable them to return to the old States. Such being the fact when all are left free and untrammelled to prosecute their labors, wholly unconstrained as to time or place, and to enjoy the fruits of their toil, what would be the state of things if the country were swarming with officeholders, and the enterprising emigrant, after surmounting the most appalling difficulties, dangers, and hardships, should find himself subject to the dictation of agents of the government, to direct his movements, and require of him a share of the means acquired by trying efforts and herculean labor?

I therefore recommend that the lands in California be sold—those that are agricultural in the ordinary way, and those that contain valuable minerals in small lots, and subject at first to an increased minimum; that these mineral lands, after due public notice, be put up to the highest bidder, in quantities only to suit the demand; that, after such offering, if they remain unsold, they be subject to entry at an increased minimum: and if it be the determination of Congress to secure a recompense for the valuable mineral contained in those lands, that they provide by law that all those minerals shall be assayed in California by the United States; that a given ratio of the same, thus assayed, shall inure to the government; and that no mineral shall be exported from the country until it is thus assayed.

The business of this office has been greatly increased by the general and special legislation of Congress granting bounty lands, providing for the adjustment of private claims, and making donations to the States for internal improvements.

Besides all this, we have in anticipation the arduous and immense labors incident to the management of the "private land claims," and of the "public lands" in our new acquisitions, which, doubtless, to a greater or less extent, will be assigned to this office by early legislation.

Notwithstanding the actual accumulation of duties, and those in prospect, it is not proposed at this time to ask any addition to the employes of this office, as it is hoped that, by an energetic and zealous application of our present force to the public business, it will be found adequate to the realization of the just expectations of the country.

For the statistics alluded to in the foregoing, I beg leave to refer to the accompanying statements, in alphabetical order; and for the condition of the surveys, to the able reports herewith from the surveyors general.

With great respect, your obedient servant,

J. BUTTERFIELD,  
*Commissioner.*

HON. A. H. H. STUART,  
*Secretary of the Interior.*

## SCHEDULE OF ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS.

A.—Statement of public lands sold; of cash, Treasurer's receipts, treasury notes, &c., received therefor; of incidental expenses thereon, and of payments into the treasury on account thereof, in the first half of the fiscal year commencing on the 1st July, 1849, and ending June 30, 1850.

B.—Similar statement for last half of the fiscal year ending as above.

C.—Exhibit of the quantities of public land advertised for sale in the year 1850, the quantities the plats of survey of which have been returned, the quantities prepared for market, and the probable quantities which will be prepared in 1851.

D.—Synopsis of the public lands advertised for sale since 28th November, 1849, (date of last annual report,) showing the quantity under proclamation, exclusive of school lands.

E.—Statement of the areas of the several States and Territories, the amount of land disposed of by sale, &c., and the amount undisposed of on 30th June, 1850, (including the estimated quantity of swamp lands granted to the States by act of 28th September, 1850.)

F.—Estimate of appropriations required for the office of the Commissioner of the General Land Office for the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1852.

G.—Estimate of appropriations required for the surveying department for the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1852.

H.—Annual reports of surveyors general, and accompanying documents.

I.—Mineral report.

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A.

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STATEMENT

OF

*Public lands sold; of cash, Treasurer's receipts, treasury notes, &c.,  
received therefor; of incidental expenses thereon, and of pay-  
ments into the treasury on account thereof, in the first  
half of the fiscal year commencing July 1,  
1849, and ending June 30, 1850.*

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## A.

Statement of public lands sold; of cash, Treasurer's receipts, treasury notes, &c., received therefor; of incidental expenses thereon, and of payments into the treasury on account thereof, in the first half of the fiscal year commencing July 1, 1849, and ending June 30, 1850.

LAND OFFICES, AND STATES.	Gross amount of lands sold in first half of fiscal year.		Amount received in cash, Treasurer's receipts, and treasury notes.			Amount received in forfeited land stock and military scrip.		Amount of incidental expenses.	Amount paid into the treasury during the first half of the fiscal year.
	Acres.	Purchase money.	Cash.	Treasurer's receipts.	Treasury notes.	Forfeited land stock.	Military land scrip.		
<b>OHIO.</b>									
Chillicothe.....	9,491.44	\$12,222 53	\$12,149 14	.....	.....	\$73 39	.....	\$1,137 27	\$17,691 03
Defiance.....	11,318.51	23,805 43	23,766 18	.....	.....	39 25	.....	1,181 70	30,906 01
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>20,809.95</b>	<b>36,027 96</b>	<b>35,915 32</b>	.....	.....	<b>112 64</b>	.....	<b>2,318 97</b>	<b>48,597 04</b>
<b>INDIANA.</b>									
Jeffersonville.....	9,440.85	11,801 05	11,801 05	.....	.....	.....	.....	761 40	11,771 06
Vincennes.....	13,088.36	16,360 44	16,360 44	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,053 59	15,972 68
Indianapolis.....	13,438.39	25,835 01	25,835 01	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,184 44	23,550 08
Crawfordsville.....	3,496.73	4,370 91	4,370 91	.....	.....	.....	.....	820 38	5,051 00
Fort Wayne.....	13,736.72	25,745 21	25,661 88	.....	.....	.....	\$83 33	896 75	30,214 96
Winnamac.....	14,791.92	23,372 20	23,372 20	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,273 47	21,441 00
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>67,992.97</b>	<b>107,484 82</b>	<b>107,401 49</b>	.....	.....	.....	.....	<b>83 23</b>	<b>108,000 78</b>
<b>ILLINOIS.</b>									
Shawneetown.....	15,735.33	19,769 65	19,384 13	.....	.....	385 52	.....	1,109 72	18,635 71
Kaskaskia.....	15,532.47	19,415 56	15,415 56	.....	.....	.....	*14,000 00	912 41	12,101 51
Edwardsville.....	11,970.91	14,963 70	14,963 70	.....	.....	.....	.....	820 44	10,720 05
Vandalia.....	20,235.11	25,293 87	25,293 87	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,136 98	23,714 84



Palestine.....	29,212.44	36,515 55	36,515 55				829 04	39,100 00
Springfield.....	8,350.29	10,437 86	10,414 11			23 75	816 57	14,867 11
Danville.....	10,977.85	13,748 80	13,748 80				336 23	6,978 43
Quincy.....	8,046.73	10,058 39	10,058 39				451 19	13,449 00
Dixon.....	17,370.92	21,713 87	21,100 74				1,251 82	29,622 01
Chicago.....	14,089.07	17,611 35	17,411 35				200 00	28,092 69
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>151,521.12</b>	<b>189,528 60</b>	<b>184,306 20</b>			<b>385 52</b>	<b>4,836 88</b>	<b>8,744 69</b>

MISSOURI.

St. Louis.....	14,808.09	18,510 11	18,510 11				2,800 70	18,339 15
Fayette.....	6,981.91	8,727 40	8,727 40				714 49	13,162 75
Palmyra.....	16,293.60	20,367 08	20,367 08				965 49	18,555 51
Jackson.....	14,022.07	17,527 59	17,527 59				827 09	14,956 82
Clinton.....	18,420 73	23,027 85	23,027 85				1,480 91	39,250 02
Springfield.....	7,862.28	9,827 84	9,727 84			100 00	853 31	15,075 42
Plattsburg.....	33,720.75	42,212 71	42,212 71				1,227 86	25,009 75
Milan.....	3,048.25	3,811 53	3,811 53				217 40	.....
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>115,157.68</b>	<b>144,012 11</b>	<b>143,912 11</b>			<b>100 00</b>	<b>9,087 25</b>	<b>144,349 42</b>

ALABAMA.

St. Stephen's.....	3,102.26	3,976 04	3,976 04				606 00	5,458 04
Cahaba.....	19,516.96	24,396 20	24,396 20				1,249 45	24,000 00
Huntsville.....	8,976.08	11,221 40	11,221 40				769 11	8,679 00
Tuscaloosa.....	13,165.68	16,468 64	16,458 64				1,007 45	7,817 94
Sparta.....	26,921.48	33,651 84	33,651 84				1,261 62	27,691 58
Demopolis.....	1,962.13	2,452 65	2,452 65				530 16	562 73
Montgomery.....	14,329.74	17,912 17	17,912 17				914 17	12,558 10
Lebanon.....	17,107.36	21,384 20	21,384 20				1,549 53	18,836 69
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>105,081.69</b>	<b>131,463 14</b>	<b>131,463 14</b>				<b>7,887 49</b>	<b>105,604 08</b>

MISSISSIPPI.

Washington.....	4,741.01	5,926 26	5,926 26				828 49	9,987 09
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\* This amount is in certificates of confirmation issued under act of December 21, 1848. † This amount is in Wisconsin refunding certificates issued under third section of act of May 29, 1848.

A—Continued.

LAND OFFICES, AND STATES.	Gross amount of land sold in first half of fiscal year.		Amount received in cash, Treasurer's receipts, and treasury notes.			Amount received in forfeited land stock and military scrip.		Amount of incidental expenses.	Amount paid into the treasury during the first half of the fiscal year.
	Acres.	Purchase money.	Cash.	Treasurer's receipts.	Treasury notes.	Forfeited land stock.	Military land scrip.		
<b>MISSISSIPPI—Continued.</b>									
Augusta .....	1,619.94	\$2,024.92	\$2,024.92	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	\$2,644.30
Jackson .....	835.51	1,052.43	1,052.43	.....	.....	.....	.....	\$529.69	474.08
Grenada .....	1,870.10	2,365.28	2,365.28	.....	.....	.....	.....	333.69	1,782.05
Columbus.....	11,588.40	14,485.50	14,485.50	.....	.....	.....	.....	283.13	512.90
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>20,654.96</b>	<b>25,854.39</b>	<b>25,854.39</b>	.....	.....	.....	.....	<b>1,975.20</b>	<b>15,400.42</b>
<b>LOUISIANA.</b>									
New Orleans .....	1,219.20	1,524.00	1,524.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	703.92	1,269.68
Opelousas.....	2,750.92	3,438.65	3,438.65	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,032.28	6,167.12
Monroe.....	10,617.63	13,272.04	13,272.04	.....	.....	.....	.....	661.58	10,845.36
Greensburg.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	538.28	.....
Natchitoches .....	23,725.54	29,656.92	29,656.92	.....	.....	.....	.....	928.78	18,000.00
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>38,313.29</b>	<b>47,891.61</b>	<b>47,891.61</b>	.....	.....	.....	.....	<b>3,864.85</b>	<b>36,282.16</b>
<b>MICHIGAN.</b>									
Detroit .....	5,187.17	6,483.96	6,483.96	.....	.....	.....	.....	878.56	6,483.96
Kalamazoo.....	3,665.78	4,582.22	4,582.22	.....	.....	.....	.....	647.84	3,469.24
Genesee .....	2,892.06	4,720.01	4,720.01	.....	.....	.....	.....	688.67	3,928.96
Ionia .....	10,009.44	12,511.80	12,511.80	.....	.....	.....	.....	899.84	12,585.88
Sault Ste. Marie.....	6,233.72	10,834.37	10,834.37	.....	.....	.....	.....	657.34	13,409.06
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>27,988.17</b>	<b>39,132.36</b>	<b>39,132.36</b>	.....	.....	.....	.....	<b>3,772.25</b>	<b>39,877.10</b>

ARKANSAS.									
Batesville.....	7,744.62	9,680 78	9,680 78					773 53	8,008 46
Little Rock.....	4,225.88	5,282 59	5,282 59					626 98	5,604 53
Washington.....	4,357.07	5,446 34	5,246 24			\$200 00		561 20	3,388 95
Fayetteville.....	710.30	887 87	887 87					540 51	3,219 57
Helena.....	2,041.56	2,551 98	2,551 98					518 14	2,820 00
Clarksville.....	1,848.44	2,310 74	2,310 74					497 71	5,372 12
Champagnole.....	9,825.28	12,281 60	12,281 60					738 41	13,917 00
Total.....	30,753.15	38,441 90	38,241 90			200 00		4,256 48	42,330 63
FLORIDA.									
Tallahassee.....	7,876.97	9,846 23	9,846 23					733 05	6,279 10
St. Augustine.....	377.70	472 11	472 11					250 64	417 83
Newnansville.....	508.69	635 86	635 86					347 37	1,349 85
Total.....	8,763.36	10,954 20	10,954 20					1,331 06	8,046 78
IOWA.									
Dubuque.....	16,766.56	20,958 36	20,958 36					1,780 80	26,715 42
Fairfield.....	23,680.85	29,624 11	27,174 11		\$2,450 00			1,241 82	29,870 95
Iowa City.....	16,948.14	21,185 17	21,185 17					925 85	12,133 90
Total.....	57,395.55	71,767 64	69,317 64		2,450 00			3,948 47	68,720 27
WISCONSIN.									
Mineral Point.....	19,567.04	24,458 80	24,258 80		50 00		*150 00	1,275 35	20,100 00
Green Bay.....	19,419.37	24,390 34	23,892 46				*497 88	928 01	31,633 09
Milwaukee.....	83,581.10	104,477 03	72,219 63				*32,257 40	3,297 48	72,619 14
Willow River.....	1,182.54	1,478 18	1,478 18					696 47	860 77
Total.....	123,750.05	154,804 35	121,849 07		50 00		*32,905 28	6,197 31	125,213 00
MINNESOTA TERRITORY.									
Stillwater.....	1,182.54	1,478 18	1,478 18						

\* These amounts are in Wisconsin refunding certificates.

## A—Continued.

## RECAPITULATION.

STATES.	Gross amount of lands sold in first half of fiscal year.		Amount received in cash, Treasurer's receipts, and treasury notes.			Amount received in forfeited land stock and military scrip.		Am't of incidental expenses.	Amount paid into the treasury during the first half of the fiscal year.
	Acres.	Purchase money.	Cash.	Treasurer's receipts.	Treasury notes.	Forfeited land stock.	Military land scrip.		
Ohio.....	20,809.95	\$36,027 96	\$35,915 32	.....	.....	\$112 64	.....	\$2,318 97	\$48,597 04
Indiana.....	67,992.97	107,484 82	107,401 49	.....	.....	.....	\$83 33	5,990 03	108,000 78
Illinois.....	151,521 12	189,528 60	184,306 20	.....	.....	365.52	*4,836 88	8,744 69	197,281 35
Missouri.....	115,157.68	144,012 11	143,912 11	.....	.....	.....	100 00	9,087 25	144,349 42
Alabama.....	105,081.69	131,463 14	131,463 14	.....	.....	.....	.....	7,887 49	105,604 08
Mississippi.....	20,654.96	25,854 39	25,854 39	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,975 20	15,400 42
Louisiana.....	38,313.29	47,891 61	47,891 61	.....	.....	.....	.....	3,864 85	36,282 16
Michigan.....	27,988.17	39,132 36	39,132 36	.....	.....	.....	.....	3,772 25	39,877 10
Arkansas.....	30,753.15	38,441 90	38,241 90	.....	.....	.....	200 00	4,256 48	42,330 63
Florida.....	8,763.36	10,954 20	10,954 20	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,331 06	8,046 78
Iowa.....	57,395.55	71,767 64	69,317 64	.....	\$2,450 00	.....	.....	3,948 47	69,720 27
Wisconsin.....	123,750 05	154,804 35	121,849 07	.....	50 00	.....	†32,905 28	6,197 31	125,213 00
Minnesota Territory.....	1,182.54	1,478 18	1,478 18	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Grand total.....	769,364.48	998,841 26	957,717 61	.....	2,500 00	498 16	*38,125 49	59,374 05	939,703 03

\* Include certificates of confirmation and Wisconsin refunding certificates.

† Wisconsin refunding certificates.

## B.

Statement of public lands sold; of cash, Treasurer's receipts, treasury notes, &c., received therefor; of incidental expenses thereon, and of payments into the treasury on account thereof, in the last half of the fiscal year commencing July 1, 1849, and ending June 30, 1850.

LAND OFFICES, AND STATES.	Gross amount of lands sold in last half of fiscal year.		Amount received in cash, Treasurer's receipts, and treasury notes.			Amount received in forfeited land stock and military scrip.		Amount of incidental expenses.	Amount paid into the treasury during the last half of the fiscal year.
	Acres.	Purchase money.	Cash.	Treasurer's receipts.	Treasury notes.	Forfeited land stock.	Military land scrip.		
<b>OHIO.</b>									
Chillicothe.....	7,793.68	\$9,850 10	\$9,723 80	.....	.....	.....	\$126 30	\$888 88	\$8,853 48
Defiance.....	6,073.62	12,507 33	12,507 33	.....	.....	.....	.....	935 87	12,136 95
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>13,867.30</b>	<b>22,357 43</b>	<b>22,231 13</b>	.....	.....	.....	<b>126 30</b>	<b>1,824 75</b>	<b>20,990 43</b>
<b>INDIANA.</b>									
Jeffersonville.....	12,399.71	15,511 67	15,511 67	.....	.....	.....	.....	954 20	15,467 06
Vincennes.....	11,483.43	14,360 29	14,360 29	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,024 77	16,829 93
Indianapolis.....	7,784.64	14,069 60	14,069 60	.....	.....	.....	.....	985 32	17,502 63
Crawfordsville.....	3,986.00	4,982 51	4,982 51	.....	.....	.....	.....	757 11	4,842 00
Fort Wayne.....	7,414.54	12,765 00	12,765 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,201 86	9,422 17
Winnamac.....	9,937.64	13,366 79	13,366 79	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,161 30	11,064 02
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>53,005.96</b>	<b>75,055 86</b>	<b>75,055 86</b>	.....	.....	.....	.....	<b>6,084 56</b>	<b>75,127 81</b>
<b>ILLINOIS.</b>									
Shawneetown.....	17,868.05	22,348 24	22,348 24	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,258 16	25,834 25
Kaskaskia.....	532.64	665 79	665 79	.....	.....	.....	.....	100 75	5,696 06
Edwardsville.....	12,968.00	16,235 10	16,235 10	.....	.....	.....	.....	961 98	23,727 63

B—Continued.

LAND OFFICES, AND STATES.	Gross amount of lands sold in last half of fiscal year.		Amount received in cash, Treasurer's receipts, and treasury notes.			Amount received in forfeited land stock and military scrip.		Amount of incidental expenses.	Amount paid into the treasury during the last half of the fiscal year.
	Acres.	Purchase money.	Cash.	Treasurer's receipts.	Treasury notes.	Forfeited land stock.	Military land scrip.		
ILLINOIS—Continued.									
Vandalia.....	22,076.83	\$27,396 04	\$27,596 04					\$1,285 46	\$31,639 77
Palestine.....	19,697.45	24,621 81	24,621 81					1,364 13	22,549 01
Springfield.....	10,178.13	12,722 65	12,722 65					1,061 91	10,051 98
Danville.....	11,307.09	14,133 93	14,133 93					1,396 59	21,557 86
Quincy.....	5,964.49	7,457 62	7,457 62					1,111 81	6,150 25
Dixon.....	16,080.78	20,101 12	18,726 12			\$100 00*	\$1,275 00	1,548 31	20,376 57
Chicago.....	6,904.90	8,634 90	8,434 90				200 00	1,351 54	8,475 64
Total.....	123,598.36	154,517 20	152,942 20			100 00	1,475 00	11,440 64	176,059 07
MISSOURI.									
St. Louis.....	18,413.13	23,016 57	23,016 57					4,083 43	23,693 56
Fayette.....	7,598.23	9,557 76	9,557 76					633 67	6,132 92
Palmyra.....	13,428.90	16,786 22	16,786 22					1,028 81	17,046 74
Jackson.....	11,178.89	13,973 61	13,923 61		\$50 00			975 78	23,222 17
Clinton.....	17,609.28	22,031 95	22,031 95					1,166 48	23,128 45
Springfield.....	15,808.36	19,779 66	19,779 66					1,442 63	18,928 55
Plattsburg.....	18,145.44	22,681 90	22,681 90					1,843 96	35,979 52
Milan.....	9,660.98	12,076 51	12,076 51					1,760 71	10,558 51
Total.....	111,843.21	139,904 18	139,854 18		50 00			12,935 47	157,690 42

\*This amount is in Wisconsin refunding certificates issued under third section of act of May 29, 1848.

ALABAMA.									
St. Stephen's.....	2,005.98	2,507 50	2,106 08				401 42	611 81	1,243 86
Cahaba.....	19,008.56	23,760 73	23,760 73					1,345 66	24,741 69
Huntsville.....	14,438.94	18,048 66	18,048 66					1,091 47	23,279 20
Tuscaloosa.....	12,972 92	16,216 19	16,216 19					1,373 66	26,075 18
Sparta.....	2,495.72	3,123 69	3,123 69					666 74	11,086 83
Demopolis.....	3,369.29	4,211 59	4,211 59					584 57	530 00
Montgomery.....	11,230.59	14,038 26	14,038 26					1,102 19	21,307 67
Lebanon.....	17,737.42	22,171 77	22,171 77					1,874 31	28,654 09
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>83,259.42</b>	<b>104,078 39</b>	<b>103,676 97</b>				<b>401 42</b>	<b>8,650 41</b>	<b>136,918 52</b>
MISSISSIPPI.									
Washington.....	4,123.44	5,154 29	5,154 29					711 73	5,342 84
Augusta.....	No sales.								1,031 76
Jackson.....	473.00	591 24	591 24					611 33	1,462 21
Grenada.....	1,435.69	1,794 63	1,794 63					550 18	3,291 42
Columbus.....	9,020.21	11,275 24	11,275 24					1,542 25	29,070 71
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>15,052.34</b>	<b>18,815 40</b>	<b>18,815 40</b>					<b>3,416 49</b>	<b>40,198 94</b>
LOUISIANA.									
New Orleans.....	1,894.47	2,368 08	2,368 08					1,169 06	2,256 68
Opelousas.....	1,812.51	2,245 63	2,245 63					580 74	784 00
Monroe.....	12,078.58	15,098 22	15,098 22					1,307 47	26,723 09
Greensburg.....	No sales.							582 30	
Natchitoches.....	28,995.48	36,495 59	36,495 59					2,551 59	45,433 56
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>44,781.04</b>	<b>56,207 52</b>	<b>56,207 52</b>					<b>6,191 16</b>	<b>75,197 33</b>
MICHIGAN.									
Detroit.....	2,963.50	2,929 38	2,929 38					993 37	2,929 38
Kalamazoo.....	2,507.35	3,134 18	3,134 18					758 45	4,257 22
Genesee.....	3,285.39	5,696 88	5,696 88					780 59	5,838 32
Ionia.....	7,260.32	9,075 52	9,075 52					894 49	11,303 70
Sault Ste. Marie.....	5,270.30	17,388 00	17,388 00					864 60	5,004 45
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>20,686.86</b>	<b>38,223 96</b>	<b>38,223 96</b>					<b>4,291 50</b>	<b>29,333 07</b>

## B—Continued.

LAND OFFICES, AND STATES.	Gross amount of lands sold in last half of fiscal year.		Amount received in cash, Treasurer's receipts, and treasury notes.			Amount received in forfeited land stock and military scrip.		Amount of incidental expenses.	Amount paid into the treasury during the last half of the fiscal year.
	Acres.	Purchase money.	Cash.	Treasurer's receipts.	Treasury notes.	Forfeited land stock.	Military land scrip.		
<b>ARKANSAS.</b>									
Batesville.....	8,840.27	\$11,050 33	\$11,050 33	.....	.....	.....	.....	\$885 46	\$12,357 22
Little Rock.....	3,316.27	4,145 33	4,145 33	.....	.....	.....	.....	661 88	4,155 36
Washington.....	5,635.84	7,044 86	7,044 86	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,021 90	9,074 31
Fayetteville.....	918.52	1,148 18	1,148 18	.....	.....	.....	.....	623 93	858 41
Helena.....	1,718.45	2,148 08	2,148 08	.....	.....	.....	.....	668 41	4,599 39
Clarksville.....	2,665.37	3,331 72	3,331 72	.....	.....	.....	.....	640 06	3,406 30
Champagnole.....	5,201.63	6,502 04	6,502 04	.....	.....	.....	.....	784 33	10,699 30
Total.....	28,296.35	35,370 54	35,370 54	.....	.....	.....	.....	5,285 97	45,150 29
<b>FLORIDA.</b>									
Tallahassee.....	9,701.19	12,126 49	12,126 49	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,110 09	18,153 11
St. Augustine.....	1,623.93	2,030 01	2,030 01	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,016 98	928 67
Newmansville.....	2,277.81	2,847 29	2,847 29	.....	.....	.....	.....	631 72	2,511 22
Total.....	13,602.93	17,003 79	17,003 79	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,758 79	21,593 00
<b>IOWA.</b>									
Dubuque.....	15,365.79	19,207 38	19,207 38	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,288 51	18,673 67
Fairfield.....	23,273.19	29,091 49	29,091 49	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,624 58	30,950 71
Iowa City.....	16,798.22	20,997 77	20,997 77	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,415 33	32,134 45
Total.....	55,437.20	69,296 64	69,296 64	.....	.....	.....	.....	4,328 42	81,658 83



WISCONSIN.									
Mineral Point.....	12,682.13	15,852 53	15,627 53	.....	.....	100 00	125 00	2,012 06	21,775 89
Green Bay.....	10,006.05	12,507 99	10,975 65	.....	.....	1,434 84	97 50	1,423 72	15,701 60
Milwaukee.....	15,227.77	19,037 34	18,237 44	.....	.....	799 90	.....	1,122 75	18,817 93
Willow River.....	432.87	541 34	541 34	.....	.....	.....	.....	561 74	298 00
Total.....	38,348.82	47,939 20	45,381 96	.....	.....	*2,334 74	222 50	5,120 27	56,593 42
MINNESOTA TERRITORY.									
Stillwater.....	422.87	540 33	540 33	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,157 66	3,680 09
Total.....	422.87	540 33	540 33	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,157 66	3,680 09

\* This amount is in Wisconsin refunding certificates.

B—Continued.

RECAPITULATION.

STATES AND TERRITORY.	Gross amount of lands sold in last half of fiscal year.		Amount received in cash; Treasurer's receipts, and treasury notes.			Amount received in forfeited land stock and military scrip.		Amount of incidental expenses.	Amount paid into the treasury during the last half of the fiscal year.
	Acres.	Purchase money.	Cash.	Treasurer's receipts.	Treasury notes.	Forfeited land stock.	Military land scrip.		
Ohio .....	13,867.30	\$22,357 43	\$22,291 13				\$126 30	\$1,824 75	\$20,990 43
Indiana .....	53,005.96	75,055 86	75,055 86					6,084 56	75,127 81
Illinois .....	123,598.36	154,517 20	152,942 20			*\$100 00	1,475 00	11,440 64	176,059 07
Missouri .....	111,843.21	139,904 18	139,854 18		\$50 00			12,935 47	157,690 42
Alabama .....	83,259.42	104,078 39	103,676 97			401 42		8,650 41	136,918 52
Mississippi .....	15,052.34	18,815 40	18,815 40					3,415 49	40,198 94
Louisiana .....	44,781.04	56,207 52	56,207 52					6,191 16	75,197 33
Michigan .....	20,686.86	38,223 96	38,223 96					4,291 50	29,333 07
Arkansas .....	28,296.35	35,370 54	35,370 54					5,285 97	45,150 29
Florida .....	13,602.93	17,003 79	17,003 79					2,758 79	21,593 00
Iowa .....	55,497.20	69,296 64	69,296 64					4,328 42	81,658 83
Wisconsin .....	38,345.82	47,939 20	45,381 96			*2,334 74	222 50	5,190 27	56,593 42
Minnesota Territory .....	422.87	540 33	540 33					1,157 66	3,680 09
Grand total .....	602,202.66	779,310 44	774,600 48		50 00	2,836 16	1,823 80	73,485 09	920,191 22

\* Wisconsin refunding certificates.

C.

*Exhibit of the quantities of public land (exclusive of the sixteenth or school sections) advertised for sale in the year 1850; the quantities the plats of survey of which have been returned to the General Land Office; the quantities prepared for market not yet advertised; and the probable quantities which will be prepared in 1851.*

STATES AND TERRITORY.	Quantities advertised for sale in the year 1850.	Quantities the plats of survey of which have been returned to the General Land Office.		Quantities prepared for market and not yet advertised for sale.	Estimated quantities the plats of survey of which are expected to be returned in the year 1851.
		Prior to Commissioner's last annual report.	Since the Commissioner's last annual report.		
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Ohio.....				a 1,950	
Indiana.....		1,950			
Michigan.....	2,546,695	1,677,818	1,260,067	b 391,190	1,900,000
Illinois.....		41,936	15,089	c 57,025	
Wisconsin.....		815,042	1,158,494	d 1,978,536	3,000,000
Iowa.....	3,864,461	2,692,284	2,636,094	e 1,463,917	2,000,000
Missouri.....		993,030	202,877	f 1,195,907	400,000
Minnesota Territory.....		225,991		g 225,991	750,000
Arkansas.....		749,181		h 749,181	50,000
Louisiana.....		1,075,362	118,474	k 1,193,836	100,000
Mississippi.....		3,103		l 3,103	
Alabama.....		90,530		m 90,530	
Florida.....		613,108	1,502,956	n 2,116,064	600,000
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>6,411,156</b>	<b>8,979,335</b>	<b>6,894,051</b>	<b>9,462,230</b>	<b>8,800,000</b>

- a Sundry small islands.
- b Suspended surveys, 89,260 acres.  
Proclamation in course of preparation, 301,930 acres.
- c Small detached tracts and accretions.
- d Proclamation in course of preparation.
- e Awaiting decision on Des Moines river grant and connexions with State line, 387,848 acres.  
Proclamation in course of preparation, 1,076,069 acres.
- f Interfered with by Clamorgan grant, &c., 186,690 acres.  
Proclamation in course of preparation, 1,009,217 acres.
- g Proclamation in course of preparation.
- h Interfered with by Clamorgan and De Bastrop grants, 658,035 acres.  
Proclamation in course of preparation, 91,146 acres.
- k Interfered with by De Bastrop and Danterive claims and suspended surveys, 999,925 acres.  
Proclamation in course of preparation, 193,911 acres.
- l Islands.
- m Detached tracts.
- n Suspended surveys, 110,126 acres.  
Live-oak lands, 190,720 acres.  
Within Indian limits, 316,401 acres.  
Proclamation in course of preparation, 1,498,817 acres.

D.

*Synopsis of the public lands advertised for sale since November 28, 1849, (the date of Commissioner's last annual report,) showing the quantity under proclamation, exclusive of school lands.*

Land offices and States.	Date of proclamations.	Date of sales.	Quantities originally proclaimed,	Postponed.		Quantity under proclamation.	
				Till when.	Quantity.		
<b>MICHIGAN.</b>							
Sault Ste. Marie.....	June 13, 1850	Sept. 16, 1850	} 2,540,700			2,540,700	
.....Do.....	.....do.....	Sept. 30, 1850					
.....Do.....	.....do.....	Oct. 14, 1850					
Ionia.....	.....do.....	Sept. 16, 1850	5,995			5,995	
			<u>2,546,695</u>			<u>2,546,695</u>	
<b>IOWA.</b>							
Dubuque.....	.....do.....	Sept. 16, 1850	} 2,346,162			2,346,162	
.....Do.....	.....do.....	Oct. 7, 1850					
.....Do.....	.....do.....	Oct. 21, 1850					
Iowa city.....	.....do.....	Sept. 30, 1850	441,254			441,254	
Fairfield.....	.....do.....	Oct. 7, 1850	1,077,045			1,077,045	
			<u>3,864,461</u>			<u>3,864,461</u>	
Total.....			<u>6,411,156</u>			<u>6,411,156</u>	

RECAPITULATION.

Michigan.....			2,546,695			2,546,695
Iowa.....			3,864,461			3,864,461
Total.....			<u>6,411,156</u>			<u>6,411,156</u>

Statement showing the areas of the several States and Territories, the amount of land disposed of by sale and otherwise, and the amount unsold and undisposed of on June 30, 1850; to which is added a column showing the estimated quantity of swamp lands granted by act of September 28, 1850.

States and Territories.	Areas of States and Territories.		Surveyed up to June 30, 1850.	Unsurveyed on July 4, 1850.	Offered for sale up to June 30, 1850.	Acres sold up to June 30, 1850.	Donations and grants for schools, universities, &c.	Grants for deaf and dumb asylums.	Grants for internal improvements.
	Square miles.	Acres.							
Ohio.....	39,964	25,576,960	16,770,984	None	16,770,984	12,569,223.54	727,528		1,181,135.47
Indiana.....	33,809	21,637,760	21,488,658	None	21,959,707	15,781,171.33	673,357		1,609,861.61
Illinois.....	55,405	35,458,200	35,455,469	3,731	35,397,921	15,466,444.85	1,001,795		500,000.00
Missouri.....	67,380	43,123,200	42,613,273	509,927	39,965,062	10,037,328.99	1,222,179		500,000.00
Alabama.....	* 50,043	* 32,027,490	31,993,813	33,677	28,224,757	11,096,751.28	925,814	21,949.46	500,000.00
Mississippi.....	* 37,337	* 23,895,628	23,895,628	None	23,892,525	* 9,799,902.61	866,624		500,000.00
Louisiana.....	46,431	29,917,840	19,086,093	10,629,947	17,394,144	3,351,766.90	832,124		500,000.00
Michigan.....	56,243	35,995,520	30,583,381	5,412,139	27,668,270	9,154,735.81	1,113,477		500,000.00
Arkansas.....	52,198	33,406,720	33,201,425	205,295	32,414,396	3,095,598.20	932,540	2,097.43	500,000.00
Florida.....	59,268	37,931,520	21,519,097	16,412,423	17,043,111	972,533.73	954,583	18,858.68	500,000.00
Iowa.....	50,914	32,584,960	19,196,106	13,384,854	13,942,679	2,530,252.52	951,224		825,078.22
Wisconsin.....	53,924	34,511,360	16,169,498	18,341,862	14,323,016	4,856,607.54	1,004,728		858,400.00
California.....	188,981	120,947,840		120,947,840					
Minnesota Territory.....	83,000	53,120,000	237,227	52,882,779		1,605.41			
Oregon Territory.....	341,463	218,536,320		218,536,320					
New Mexico Territory.....	210,744	134,876,160		134,876,160					
Utah Territory.....	187,923	120,270,720		120,270,720					
Northwest Territory.....	587,564	376,040,960		376,040,960					
Nebraska Territory.....	136,700	87,488,000		87,488,000					
Indian Territory.....	187,171	119,789,440		119,789,440					
Total.....	2,526,462	1,616,935,598	312,210,652	1,295,770,068	288,399,772	98,713,942.71	11,199,973	† 42,905.57	8,474,475.30

\* Exclusive of Chickasaw lands.

† Grant not finally closed.

## E—Continued.

States and Territories.	Grants to individuals and companies.	Grants for seats of government and public buildings.	Grants for military services.	Reserved for salines.	Reserved for benefit of Indians.	Reserved for companies, individuals, and corporations.	Confirmed private claims.	Swamp lands granted to the States.	Total of acres unsold and unappropriated, of offered and unoffered lands.
Ohio.....	32,141.24	.....	1,522,877.96	24,216	16,330.73	8,805,976.00	26,459.80	303,329.00	367,742.26
Indiana.....	843.44	2,560	597,876.61	29,040	126,220.71	.....	329,830.53	981,682.00	1,511,266.77
Illinois.....	954.64	2,560	4,845,040.30	121,629	48,989.69	.....	188,901.61	1,833,412.94	11,449,471.97
Missouri.....	.....	2,560	1,137,693.20	46,080	29,587.61	.....	1,362,455.10	1,517,287.00	27,275,029.10
Alabama.....	1,981.53	1,629	99,600.00	23,040	2,542,378.82	.....	213,386.65	436,450.00	16,164,518.26
Mississippi.....	15,965.31	1,280	52,362.25	.....	277,612.04	.....	638,083.25	2,239,987.00	9,459,811.54
Louisiana.....	8,412.98	.....	246,540.00	.....	.....	.....	2,092,903.91	2,266,075.00	20,417,997.21
Michigan.....	4,080.00	13,200	167,996.97	46,080	109,300.83	.....	126,711.25	4,544,189.00	20,215,749.14
Arkansas.....	139,366.25	10,600	1,269,165.31	46,080	.....	.....	118,451.12	4,807,673.00	23,485,148.69
Florida.....	.....	6,240	18,000.00	.....	227.49	305.75	1,939,789.00	562,170.00	32,958,812.35
Iowa.....	18,226.86	3,840	1,544,875.06	46,080	119,183.34	.....	.....	33,813.00	26,512,387.00
Wisconsin.....	5,705.82	6,400	1,524,738.17	46,080	137,894.27	.....	36,880.99	1,259,269.00	24,774,656.21
California.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	120,947,840.00
Minnesota Territory.....	.....	.....	24,160.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	53,094,234.59
Oregon Territory.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	218,536,320.00
New Mexico Ter.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	134,876,160.00
Utah Territory.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	120,270,720.00
Northwest Territory.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	376,040,960.00
Nebraska Territory.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	87,488,000.00
Indian Territory.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	119,789,440.00
Total.....	227,678.07	50,860	13,050,925.83	422,325	3,400,725.53	8,806,281.75	7,123,903.21	* 20,785,836.94	1,444,636,265.09

\* Estimated.

## F.

*Estimate of appropriations required for the office of the Commissioner of the General Land Office for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1852.*

For compensation of the Commissioner, and the Recorder, draughtsman and assistant draughtsman, clerks, messengers, assistant messengers, and packers, in said office, including eight additional clerks provided for by the act of August 12, 1848, (acts 1st session 30th Congress, p. 139) - - - - - \$92,900 00  
 (Assistant messengers and packers to be paid at the rate of \$500 per annum, under act of 30th September, 1850.)

## CONTINGENT EXPENSES.

For compensation of three temporary clerks, (under 7th section of act of March 3, 1849, 2d session 30th Congress, p. 68) - - - - - 3,756 00  
 For compensation of seven laborers at \$500 per annum each, (under act of 30th September, 1850) - - - - - 3,500 00  
 For tract books, patent records, parchment for same, records of correspondence, stationery, blank-books, and blank forms for district land offices, advertising land sales, binding plats, field-notes, &c., office furniture and repairs of same, including miscellaneous items - - - - - 23,656 50

## CONTINGENT EXPENSES IN ADDITION.

To meet requirements of the act "granting bounty land to certain officers and soldiers who have been engaged in the military service of the United States," approved September 28, 1850: for patent records and parchment for same, blank forms of returns, &c., &c. - - - - - 28,000 00

## FOR THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND TERRITORY OF OREGON.

For tract books, plat books, stationery and instruments for the office of the surveyor general, &c., including four iron safes for the officers connected with the public lands in Oregon, California, Utah, and New Mexico, and transportation - - - - - 7,000 00

## G.

*Estimate of appropriations for the surveying department, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1852.*

Object of appropriation.	Amount.	Total.
<i>For salaries of surveyors general and their clerks, in addition to the balances of former appropriations, to wit:</i>		
1. For compensation of the surveyor general northwest of the Ohio, per 10th section of the act of May 18, 1796. [Laws of the United States, vol. 2, p. 537.].....	\$2,000 00	
2. For clerks in his office, per 1st section of the act of May 9, 1836. [Laws of the United States, vol. 9, p. 331.].....	6,300 00	\$8,300 00
3. For compensation of the surveyor general of Illinois and Missouri, per 1st section of the act of April 3, 1818. [Laws of the United States, vol. 6, pp. 266, 267.].....	2,000 00	
4. For clerks in his office, per 1st section of the act of May 9, 1836. [Laws of the United States, vol. 9, p. 331.].....	3,820 00	5,820 00
5. For compensation of the surveyor general of Louisiana, per 5th section of the act of March 3, 1831. [Laws of the U. States, vol. 8, p. 500.].....	2,000 00	
6. For clerks in his office, per 1st section of the act of May 9, 1836. [Laws of the United States, vol. 9, p. 331.].....	2,500 00	4,500 00
7. For compensation of the surveyor general of Florida, per 7th section of the act of March 3, 1833. [Laws of the United States, vol. 7, p. 147.].....	2,000 00	
8. For clerks in his office, per 1st section of the act of May 9, 1836. [Laws of the United States, vol. 9, p. 331.].....	3,500 00	5,500 00
9. For compensation of the surveyor general of Wisconsin and Iowa, per act of August 8, 1846. [Acts 1st session 29th Congress, p. 118.].....	2,000 00	
10. For clerks in his office, per act of August 8, 1846. [Acts 1st session 29th Congress, p. 118.].....	6,300 00	8,300 00
11. For compensation of the surveyor general of Arkansas, per act of August, 1846. [Acts 1st session 29th Cong. p. 118.].....	2,000 00	
12. For clerks in his office, per act of August 8, 1846. [Acts 1st session 29th Congress, p. 118.].....	6,300 00	8,300 00
13. For compensation of the surveyor general of Oregon, per act of September 27, 1850. [Acts 1st session 31st Cong., p. 113.].....	2,500 00	
14. For clerks in his office, per act of September 27, 1850. [Acts 1st session 31st Congress, p. 111.].....	4,000 00	6,500 00
15. For compensation of clerks in the offices of the surveyors general, to be apportioned to them according to the exigencies of the public service; and, if necessary, to be employed in transcribing field-notes of surveys, for the purpose of preserving them at the seat of government.....		25,000 00
16. For salary of the recorder of land titles in Missouri, paid prior to July 1, 1849, out of the appropriation for the survey of the public lands, including the amount required for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1851, making two years, at the rate of \$500 per annum.....		1,000 00
17. For compensation of the surveyor general of Oregon, for a part of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1851, no appropriation having been made for that object in the act creating the office. [Acts 1st session 31st Congress, p. 111.].....		1,600 00
		74,820 00



G—Continued.

*Estimate of appropriation for the surveying department for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1852.*

Object of appropriation.	Amount.
For surveying the public lands, &c., in addition to the unexpended balances of former appropriations, to wit:	
1st. For surveying the public lands, including incidental expenses, to be apportioned to the several districts, according to the exigencies of the public service; the part to be applied to the resurveys required by the location and survey of private claims in Florida to be disbursed at augmented rates.....	\$115,000 00
2d. For completing the survey of the copper region of Michigan, at a rate not exceeding six dollars per mile.....	25,200 00
3d. For resurveying and correcting erroneous surveys in the lower peninsula of Michigan, at a rate not exceeding six dollars per mile.....	10,500 00
4th. For surveys in the Menomonee cession, Wisconsin, at a rate not exceeding five dollars per mile.....	25,000 00
5th. For surveys in the southern part of Missouri, east of the meridian, at a rate not exceeding five dollars per mile.....	5,000 00
6th. For the correction of erroneous and defective lines of the public and private surveys in Missouri, at a rate not exceeding six dollars per mile.....	2,000 00
7th. For retracing and resurveying fraudulent and erroneous work in Arkansas, at a rate not exceeding four dollars per mile.....	15,000 00
8th. For correcting detached erroneous surveys in Arkansas, at a rate not exceeding six dollars per mile.....	1,560 00
9th. For surveying in Louisiana, at augmented rates.....	20,000 00
10th. For the survey of private claims in Florida, under the act of 28th June, 1848, including the work now under contract.....	10,000 00
11th. For completing certain surveys in Florida; including scaffawork, at a rate not exceeding six dollars per mile, in consequence of the difficulties attending the execution of the same.....	10,000 00
12 h. For running and marking the base and meridian lines in Oregon, as required by the third section of the act of 27th September, 1850, (Acts 1st session 31st Congress, p. 111,) estimated at four hundred and fifty miles.....	9,000 00
13th. For surveying in Oregon, at a rate not exceeding eight dollars per mile, as authorized by the third section of the act of 27th September, 1850, (Acts 1st session 31st Congress, p. 112,) to wit: sixty townships, averaging seventy-two miles.....	34,560 00
14th. For compensation to certain deputies for arduous and difficult surveys executed by them under the appropriations made by Congress since the 3d March, 1841; for the surveys of detached lines, and those made since the 3d March, 1845; for the correction of erroneous and defective lines, being the difference between the price paid said deputies and that authorized by law, to wit:	
For surveys of detached lines.....	\$1,299 52
For correction of erroneous and defective lines.....	394 95
	1,694 47
Total.....	284,514 47

## H.

## REPORTS OF SURVEYORS GENERAL.

SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
Dubuque, November 11, 1850.

SIR: In compliance with the provisions of law and the requirements of your department, I have the honor to submit my annual report, in triplicate:

*Surveys out of the appropriation for fiscal year ending June 30, 1850.*

For original surveys out of this appropriation, I entered into thirty several contracts; the first dated on the 9th of July, 1849, and the last on the 22d of June, 1850.

These contracts provided for the survey into township lines of five million sixty-seven thousand eight hundred and forty acres, located as follows:

In the State of Wisconsin	-	-	-	-	184,320
State of Iowa	-	-	-	-	2,280,000
Territory of Minnesota	-	-	-	-	2,603,520

And of the subdivision into sections of four million eighty-eight thousand one hundred and twenty-five acres, distributed thus:

In the State of Wisconsin	-	-	-	-	1,185,085
State of Iowa	-	-	-	-	2,672,640
Territory of Minnesota	-	-	-	-	230,400

Of the whole apportionment to this district, there has been expended for surveys—

In the State of Wisconsin	-	-	-	-	\$14,880 00
State of Iowa	-	-	-	-	26,710 00
Territory of Minnesota	-	-	-	-	12,440 00

The surveys in the State of Iowa are referable to the three dollars per mile maximum, below which they have fallen, however, eleven hundred dollars.

The surveys in Wisconsin and Minnesota are both referable to the five dollars per mile maximum, which, in consequence of the great number of township lines in Minnesota, and the high price necessarily paid for these lines, will be very nearly reached.

The apparent disproportion of the sums expended for surveys in Iowa and Wisconsin, respectively, arose from the more immediate inducements to immigrants, and the greater number of actual settlers and settlements upon the unsurveyed lands of the former than those of the latter, and the fact that the following season would find this relation reversed by the Menomonié lands being opened to survey, and a necessity thus created of applying to Wisconsin even a very large share of the apportionment.

Upon the receipt of your instructions of June 4, 1849, advising me of the amount of this appropriation that had been placed at my disposal, it was my design to have closed all surveys thus provided for with the year for which the appropriation was made; but this design was not fully accomplished for reasons explained in my letter of 24th of June last, marked H.

Twenty-nine of the thirty contracts above named are completed, and full return thereof made to your office. The execution of the remaining one, situated upon and skirting the Mississippi river for a distance of more than sixty miles, has been seriously interrupted and retarded by exceedingly high water. An advance return of the work under this contract has been made, and the final return is expected a few days hence.

Twenty-eight of the thirty contracts above alluded to were entered into between the 9th of July, 1849, and the 29th of the following September. The season was unusually favorable, enabling all those deputies whose districts were located upon prairie, with a single exception, to complete their surveys before interruption from frost, and affording every facility for faithful and accurate surveying.

*Character of the country surveyed.—Pine-timbered lands.*

The limit of the country embraced by the surveys out of this appropriation is as wide as its character is various. A straight line drawn through this office from the most distant survey in Iowa, to the farthest one in Minnesota, measures more than five hundred and fifty miles; and the country changes from wide plains to high hills and precipitous bluffs; and from undulating prairie, dotted with and skirted by woodland, to dense forests of evergreen, interspersed with tangled swamps and deep miry marshes.

The distinctive character of the portion of Iowa compassed by these surveys is generally the same as has been described in previous reports—possessing a rich and highly cultivable soil, and being in other respects well adapted to the pursuit of agriculture. Of the northwesterly part, however, it may be said that the surface is more than usually level; there is a want both of streams and timber, and a limited section abounds in ponds and inundated flats.

The primary object of the surveys, both in Wisconsin and Minnesota, was, in the former to bring into market, and in the latter to define the location and boundaries, of the pine-timbered lands. This object is fully accomplished, though the result is not as favorable as was anticipated by this office, and does not sustain the estimates elsewhere made of the quantity of this timber existing upon these lands.

The pine timber stretches over a vast area of country, but wherever the surveys have been carried is interspersed with, and forms but a small proportion of, the timber of which the forest is composed. The streams at some points, and many of the small lakes, are belted with this timber; but these belts are very narrow. A large proportion of many of them have already been prostrated, a part consumed, and the remainder left to rot; and a swarm of laborers are constantly employed, not in the development of resources, (as is true of the agriculturist and miner,) but in their impoverishment. This wasteful consumption of timber is constantly increasing; and notwithstanding the rapid progress made by the detailed surveys, there has not yet been brought into market any considerable quantity of this class of lands. But the surveys out of the appropriation of 30th of September last, and those out of the appropriation that will be made at the approaching session of Congress, will together form a sum that will enable the surveys to reach many, and all the most important localities, and will place it in the power of the President, by the first of

January, 1852, to expose to sale the major part of the pine-timbered lands of Wisconsin and Minnesota.

Upon the subject of these lands there is hereto appended (marked I) a copy of the report of the deputy engaged last season upon the upper St. Croix river, to a point north of the mouths of Snake and Kettle rivers. His survey is supposed to have included the larger part of the pine timbered lands bordering this river and its tributaries, and he reports the existence of more pine than has been noticed in the report of any previous or other deputy.

#### *Examination and correction.*

Out of this appropriation (1849-'50) I contracted, in one case, for the correction or extension, and in another for the examination of original surveys, confined, in the first instance, to the survey of an island or unsurveyed tract represented to exist in Sheboygan lake, in township 16, range 20 east, Wisconsin; and, in the other, to a portion of township 90, range 3 west, Iowa, reported by residents of this township to have been omitted in the original survey. The contract for the examination in the field of the case last named was made on the 9th and closed on the 30th of April last, when the whole subject was reported to you with a request for further instructions. The survey of the island or unsurveyed tract in Sheboygan lake was found, upon examination, to be of an involved and difficult character, and which could only be executed with propriety at a certain season of the year. The deputy intrusted with this work reported on the 4th of September last that the abundance of rain and consequent high water had operated adversely to the execution of the work, but that he held himself in readiness to execute it upon the first occurrence of a favorable season.

#### *Unsurveyed lands in Iowa, Wisconsin, and Minnesota.*

About seven-eighths of the whole area of the State of Iowa has been purchased of and vacated by the respective Indian tribes originally occupying it, and the remaining eighth is still possessed and occupied by the Sioux tribe. About two-thirds of its whole area is surveyed. Of the unsurveyed part the base lines are already run; and when the northern boundary shall have been established, the surveys will be as simple in character as the country is easy of access.

The treaty of the 18th of October, 1848, extinguished the last Indian title to lands in the State of Wisconsin, except a narrow strip adjoining its meridian boundary, owned by the Chippewas, and containing perhaps 70,000 acres; and the "Oneida reservation," containing 65,400 acres; consequently the whole State, with these trifling exceptions, is now open to survey. Of the part lying east of the fourth principal meridian somewhat more than one-half is already surveyed, nearly all of which was executed prior to the establishment of this office, and all was run by offset or independent meridians and with the magnetic needle exclusively. Hence the surveys about to be extended over the recent Indian cession, or from the principal meridian eastwardly, can scarcely be expected to form common corners with these surveys, even if there existed no intervening obstacle; but a most serious obstacle does exist in the surveyed strip lying upon either

side of the Wisconsin river, midway of the meridian and old surveys, executed eleven years since, independently of all other surveys (except a random base line commencing in the principal meridian,) and not a single township of which was closed. In view of the recent provisions for immediate surveys in this region, I have carefully considered and matured a plan for their execution—one that contemplates independent corners at some points, but which consults the harmony as well as accuracy of the surveys, to the furthest extent possible.

West of the fourth principal meridian the surveys are a little more than one-half completed, so that of the entire area of Wisconsin nearly five-eighths is surveyed. The unsurveyed part is doubly difficult of access, and much of it doubly difficult of survey; and for the performance of which the five dollars per mile maximum is not too high, and a less maximum than this would certainly be too low.

All the territory of Minnesota not owned and occupied by Indian tribes is surveyed into townships, comprising about one hundred and forty-four townships, equal to 3,317,760 acres; the southerly, thirty-three of which, equal to 760,320 acres, have been surveyed into sections; and fifteen more, skirting the Mississippi river and rendered fractional by it, equal to 184,320 acres, are in process of subdivision survey and nearly completed. These fifteen townships adjoin, upon the south, the sectional surveys executed in 1847, and extend north of Sauk rapids and to a point only thirty miles south of Fort Gaines. They are traversed by the Red river road, are dotted with civilized habitations, and already bear strong marks of agricultural industry. It is designed to resume the subdivision surveys in this Territory as soon as funds are placed at my disposal, and to complete all such as have been or may hereafter be reported to be valuable for agricultural or lumbering purposes.

#### *System of survey.*

After a careful examination of the system of public land surveys as practised under existing laws and instructions, (which I have, during the last two years, had the opportunity of witnessing upon an extended scale,) I think it as perfect as the controlling circumstances under which it is practised will permit. The act of the 20th May, 1785—since modified but not essentially changed—originating the existing system of surveying the public lands, although it does not specially point out, fairly admits of a comprehensive and scientific application. But to such an application, in its strict sense, two important obstacles have existed, still exist, and perhaps will continue to exist throughout the survey of the public domain:

1st. The expenditure of that share of the annual appropriation for surveys assigned to this district has been restricted to a period never exceeding and often less than one year; while the instructions accompanying the notice of the amount thus apportioned have in each case required the survey of such lands as would command the most ready sale. It has been found by the surveyor general, that, in order to conform to these instructions, the subdivision into sections must follow closely upon the survey of the township lines. The rapidity with which the settlements have advanced, and, in consequence, the pressing demands for surveys that should expose the lands to immediate sale, has seemed to forbid, and certainly has

operated to prevent, the introduction of a system requiring *more time* in its reduction to practice.

2d. The inviolable practice has been to survey no lands until the Indian title thereto was extinguished and the Indian occupancy terminated. Hence the surveys have followed in the track of the aboriginal cessions, and these cessions have been obtained without any reference to the accommodation of the surveys, and have been so limited in area and so various and irregular in figure as not to admit of the proper establishment of a basis for the surveys, which, after much reflection, I believe would most properly have consisted in marking given parallels without reference to civil divisions, and at stated and equal distances, establishing true meridians. These preliminary standards should have been fixed with the utmost precision, and would thus have become a complete and effectual check upon the survey of townships. The system as at present applied aims at the same result, but the means are limited, and what should properly be executed by one man is compulsorily intrusted to many. Great advances, however, have been made towards accuracy within the last few years. The magnetic needle, except to show the deviation of the magnetic from the true meridian at stated points, has been discarded upon all but sectional lines, and an instrument which gives the true meridian, and is capable of tracing a parallel of latitude, has been substituted. I allude to Burt's patent solar compass, which in theory is strictly accurate. The solar apparatus, upon the present plan of construction, is so circumscribed that perhaps perfect accuracy is not attainable; although, in the hands of a careful and faithful officer, who understands it thoroughly and will test its adjustment very often, the errors will, in all instances, be very slight. It might be enlarged, but its portability would thus be destroyed; and it would, particularly where its use is at present most indispensable, be lost to the service. Due reference is had to the figure of the earth, both in the establishment of base and meridian lines; but the discrepancies that are inseparable from a practice limited as before described, and restricted to a certain rate per mile, are not referred to frequent lines of known and indisputable accuracy, as would have been the case had the above suggested plan of preliminary standards been adopted. These discrepancies, however, are slight and compensative; and, what is of primary importance, the quantity of land is, in all instances, accurately determined.

I therefore cannot recommend any change in the present practice of surveying the public lands, unless it be, as before indicated, in the prior survey of parallels and meridians, by which the deputy may correct himself, and by which any departure from a correct survey in the field may be readily detected upon examination of the notes. These standards should be, if practicable, established during the existence of the Indian title, and before the detailed surveys can be either demanded or expected. This plan would but slightly increase the cost of surveying at first, and, it is evident, would cost no more in the end; especially when it is considered that the bounds of these large tracts will be marked with the proper quarter sections, sections, townships, and ranges, and that they will thus become the basis for the prosecution of a survey in any direction. Instead of running the whole country into townships, as is now absolutely necessary, no more will be required to be townshipped than is needed for immediate subdivision. The surveys within any one, or any part of any one, of

these large tracts, may be pretermitted without retarding, in the slightest degree, the surveys elsewhere.

This plan has vast advantages over an examination in the field before payment is made, or personal supervision, however instituted, because he who examines, as well as he by whom the survey was made, whether conscious of it or not, is liable to error from the same or similar causes. Should each be wrong and the error be accumulative—a result as likely to occur as any other—the examiner would feel compelled to report adversely, whereas a correction would leave the work at last no better than it was at first. A personal check in the field, to guard against dishonesty of deputies, I think may, and I am certain should, in all cases be avoided by appointing honest men at first. Such an arrangement would be equal in expense with one that would increase the accuracy and character of the surveys without lessening the responsibility or respectability of its agents.

#### *Lands recommended for survey.*

The localities in the respective divisions of this district most eligible for survey out of the appropriation for which I had the honor to submit an estimate on the 29th ultimo, have, to some extent, been already pointed out in this report. It is of the highest importance that the pine bearing lands of Wisconsin and Minnesota be thrown upon the market at the earliest day practicable. These lands are cultivable only to a limited extent, but throughout the various localities there are distributed arable lands, timbered in large proportion by sugar-maple, and sometimes in small proportion by pine. Wherever the pine timber is abstracted, the land, not being tillable, is thereafter unsaleable, and the surrounding lands which are adapted to agriculture are thus lessened in value by their great distance from a produce market. Whereas, should the pine-bearing and agricultural lands be brought into market simultaneously, the interests of the lumberman and farmer being reciprocal, both would be benefited in a high degree—the former in being saved the exorbitant price heretofore paid for the transportation of his supplies, and the latter an equal amount in the home consumption of his produce. Thus, by the lands being speedily surveyed, the pine timber may be made to sell—not only the lands upon which it stands, but many of the adjoining lands—and also to develop in a high degree the essential resources and advance the interests of the State and Territory in which these lands are situated. For these reasons it is my design to apply the surveys to these lands as early as possible, and to the utmost extent consistent with your instructions and the interests of the other portions of the district.

The settlers upon Bad river and Madaline island, Lake Superior, as I am informed by a communication upon this subject from an authentic source, are desirous of the survey of these localities. If the apportionment out of the appropriation of 30th of September last should be sufficiently large to cover these, in addition to the surveys urgently necessary in another part of Wisconsin, I shall accommodate these distant settlements with the surveys requested.

In Iowa, the surveys adjoining the southern boundary of the State, those necessary to bring into market a tract eighteen miles of width and one hundred and twenty of length, adjoining the Missouri river, and a limited number in the northeast corner of the State, may be said to be

pressingly necessary, and such parts as shall not have been reached out of the appropriation recently made, will be provided for out of the first funds placed in my hands and applicable to this object.

#### *Corners in prairie.*

The season is now too far advanced to contract for surveys in parts of the district where monuments are to be made exclusively of earth. Such monuments, when properly made, and made at a proper season of the year, or when the ground is free of frost, are very durable, as experience fully testifies. The sod, which is very thick and tough, can be so cut and laid as that the grass will continue to grow; while the indentation caused by the removal of the sod, and a considerable quantity of earth from beneath it, forms an additional and perhaps more lasting evidence of the corner. But during the presence of frost the labor of excavation is tenfold greater, while the mound and pit are proportionably less durable. The sod is necessarily so mutilated as to destroy the grass roots, and when the mounds thaw out they flatten, and the pits tend to fill up. That deputies are able to give security and willing to enter into contract where all the evidences of corners are to consist of earth and sod, at a season when the probabilities are against their being able to complete their work before the occurrence of frost, and with the certainty of pecuniary loss if they abandon the field, is not an argument that should influence the surveyor general adversely to the public interest. There are but six months of the year when proper evidences of corners in this district can be constructed of earth and sod, and these are the months between April and November. And I will here respectfully suggest, that, in order to render the evidences of surveys upon the ground more conspicuous and lasting, the surveyor general be required, in future, to cause the surveys upon the prairies to be executed exclusively within the six months above named. By this change, however, the plats of surveys out of the appropriations made late in the season cannot be transmitted in time to be embraced in the proclamation of sales for the current year; but when transmitted, will represent surveys the evidences of which upon the ground are perfect.

In the timbered portions of the district, surveys, in the absence of deep snow, may be executed as well in winter as in summer. The low temperature and short days are objectionable, but the absence of foliage and the ice-bridged waters are advantageous.

#### *Office building.*

The protection against destruction by fire of the building used as the office of the surveyor general is a matter of the first importance, as becomes strikingly evident when the extent and value of its contents are estimated. The cost that would attend the effort to replace what might and probably would be lost in this event, suggests the necessity of the utmost precaution, both as to locality and construction. In consequence of its proximity to other and numerous tenements, the building occupied in 1846 was vacated for another, which was entirely detached and located in the suburbs of the city. Within the last year, however, several buildings have been erected adjacent to the one last named, and which ren-



dered it peculiarly susceptible of danger from fire. Hence the selection of another office became imperative; and in making it I have had in view a *permanent location*, and one which should render another removal unnecessary.

A substantial fire-proof building, of ample dimensions, divided into suitable and convenient rooms, finely finished, and occupying an isolated position, has been built this season, at my suggestion, by a gentleman who owns the contiguous lands upon every side, and who agrees not to erect, nor permit to be erected, any building within a stated distance of the office. Into this building I removed the office at the commencement of the present quarter. With this removal are associated safety from fire, capaciousness, a more healthful atmosphere, and increased quietude.

Internally every requisite precaution is believed to be observed. The floor under and around the stoves is covered with zinc, the flues are properly protected and cleaned, and neither gunpowder, friction matches, nor other substance likely to cause accidental fire, is allowed within the office. The furniture is all portable, and such parts as require them are furnished with strong iron handles. The records and papers that may have been in use during the day are all returned to their proper depository at night, and the office is never entirely deserted.

#### *Boundary of Green Bay and Chippewa land districts.*

By the first section of the act of 3d of March, 1847, entitled "An act to create an additional land district in the Territory of Wisconsin," etc., the Wisconsin river, from the line of townships 29 and 30 to the north boundary of the State, is the line of division between the Green Bay and Chippewa land districts. I respectfully request that this boundary may be changed, so that a range line, instead of the said river, will divide these districts. In conforming to the present boundary, it will be necessary to construct an additional plat for every township rendered fractional by this river, and every entry of land lying upon the respective banks of the river will have to be made at two offices, now, by any practicable route, three hundred miles apart.

#### *Separation of the surveys in Wisconsin from those in Minnesota.*

The act for the discontinuance of the office of the surveyor general, etc., approved June 12, 1840, requires that whenever the surveys and records within any State shall be completed, the surveyor general shall deliver all the records and papers pertaining thereto to the officer appointed by the proper authorities to receive them.

In order to comply with this law, it is incumbent upon the surveyor general to cause separate returns of surveys, numbering from the same base, but lying in different States. Compliance with this requirement is without difficulty or expense, when the boundaries are defined prior to the survey of the contiguous lands; but when the surveys precede such boundaries, much difficulty may be experienced and expense incurred in causing the requisite separation. An instance of the latter case has occurred in this district. During the year 1847-'48, and before the boundary of Wisconsin and Minnesota was fixed upon, the surveys were pushed rapidly forward, the subdivision surveys being extended along

the St. Croix river, from its junction with the Mississippi river, very nearly or quite to the point where the meridian boundary, as defined by act of 6th of August, 1846, will intersect it. The field-notes and plats of these surveys consequently embraced lands upon either and both sides of the boundary, wherever a township was traversed by the St. Croix.

During the quarter closing on the 30th ultimo, I directed a part of the regular force of my office to the separation of the field-notes and plats above named. The field-notes of three large districts of township lines, the subdivision and traverse of thirteen townships, and the original plats of the same thirteen townships, had to be, and now have been, copied, examined and certified.

#### *Office work.*

The following notice of work performed within the year omits what has been mentioned in this report, and simply states the leading divisions of work to which the attention of the office has been addressed:

1. A large correspondence, to which has been given the most punctual and faithful attention.

2. The original field-notes of the survey of thirty-six hundred and eighty-six miles of township lines, and of ten thousand two hundred and eighty-five miles of sectional lines, have been received of the deputies and subjected to a careful and critical examination.

3. The original field-notes of the traverse of seven hundred and thirty miles of lakes and navigable rivers have been platted, the anomalous area of the adjoining lots calculated, and tables of the courses and distances for each township respectively entered upon the original, and copied to the Commissioner's plats.

4. One hundred and seventy-seven original township plats, upon a scale of two inches to the mile, have been projected from field-notes, colored and the fractional area adjoining the north and west boundaries completed and entered; two copies of each of these plats have been made, one for your own and another for the proper district land office, making an aggregate of five hundred and thirty-one plats.

5. Five hundred and seventy index diagrams have been made, to preface the records and transcripts of original field-notes.

6. Original lists, descriptive of the land and corners in two hundred and ninety townships, have been prepared, copies thereof made, and transmitted to the officers having charge of the sales in the respective land districts.

7. The original field-notes of two hundred and seventy-four townships have been recorded and placed on file in this office.

8. Transcripts of original field-notes for preservation at the capital, of two hundred and eighty-one townships, have been made and transmitted to your office.

*List of accompanying papers.*

- A.—Diagram of the State of Wisconsin and a part of the Territory of Minnesota, showing the location and aggregate of the public surveys within each, and the action of this office thereon.
- B.—Diagram of the State of Iowa, embracing similar data to that expressed upon diagram A.
- C.—Closing statement of surveys contracted for out of the appropriation of 12th August, 1848, which, with statement No. 9 of my last annual report, forms a complete history of the surveys out of this appropriation.
- D.—Statement of the surveys out of the appropriation of 3d of March, 1849.
- E.—Summary of my salary account for the fourth quarter of 1849, and the first, second and third quarters of 1850.
- F.—Summary of my disbursement account for the periods indicated in E.
- G.—Estimate of requisite appropriations for salaries and clerk hire, and for continuing the public surveys in this district, during the year ending June 30, 1852.
- H.—Explanation of the causes of delay in completing the surveys out of the appropriation of 3d of March, 1849.
- I.—Report of the deputy upon the township lines of upper St. Croix.
- K.—Copy of so much of my correspondence with the United States geologist for Wisconsin and Iowa, as is necessary to shew the number of maps and diagrams furnished him.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. H. BOOTH,  
*Surveyor General.*

HON. J. BUTTERFIELD,  
*Commissioner of the General Land Office,*  
*Washington, D. C.*

*Statement of surveys contracted for out of the appropriation of August 12, 1848, which were not finished at the date of my last annual report.*

Date of contract.	Style of work.	Name of contractor.	State.	Account of deputy with plats transferred to General Land Office.	Total number of miles.	Amount of contract.
December 11, 1848...	Subdivision.....	Guy H. Carleton.....	Iowa.....	March 13, 1850.....	<i>Miles. chs. lks.</i> 319 51 05	\$879 00
Do...15, 1848...	...do.....	John Ball.....	...do.....	November 10, 1849..	63 50 73	159 08

SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
 Dubuque, November 11, 1850.

C. H. BOOTH, Surveyor General.

## Statement of surveys contracted for out of the appropriation of March 3, 1849.

Date of contract.	Style of work.	Name of contractor.	State or Territory.	Account of deputy with plats transferred to General Land Office.	Total number of miles.			Amount of contract.
					Miles.	chs.	Uks.	
July 9, 1849.....	Town lines.....	John M. Smith.....	Minnesota.....	November 21, 1849..	267	14	31	\$2,137 43
Do.....	do.....	do.....	do.....	January, 30, 1850...	156	69	53	1,254 95
Do.....	do.....	James E. Freeman.....	Wisconsin and Minnesota.	February 8, 1850....	407	03	17	3,256 31
Do.....	do.....	James M. Marsh.....	Iowa.....	September 29, 1849..	327	27	59	1,309 37
Do.....	do.....	do.....	do.....	November 3, 1849... 301	49	47		1,206 47
July 12, 1849.....	Subdivision.....	Alexander Anderson.....	Wisconsin.....	December 11, 1849..	691	45	67	2,766 28
July 13, 1849.....	do.....	A. K. Eaton.....	Iowa.....	April 3, 1850.....	537	72	94	1,479 25
Do.....	do.....	Henry B. Welsh.....	Wisconsin.....	November 14, 1849..	239	46	63	958 33
Do.....	do.....	do.....	do.....	April 3, 1840.....	242	69	83	971 49
July 16, 1849.....	Town lines.....	John Ball.....	Iowa.....	September 20, 1849..	300	68	95	1,203 44
Do.....	do.....	do.....	do.....	November 3, 1849... 297	02	34		1,188 11
July 17, 1849.....	Subdivision.....	Jesse T. Jarrett.....	Wisconsin.....	December 29, 1849..	597	21	85	2,389 09
July 18, 1849.....	do.....	George R. Stuntz.....	do.....	February 25, 1850... 559	26	40		2,237 32
Do.....	do.....	Thomas J. McKean.....	Iowa.....	January 23, 1850... 551	28	84		1,516 24
July 19, 1849.....	do.....	John Parker.....	do.....	December 10, 1849.. 357	74	54		984 31
August 6, 1849.....	Town lines.....	Theodore Conkey.....	Minnesota.....	June 24, 1850.....	192	25	46	1,538 54
Do.....	do.....	do.....	do.....	August 13, 1850... 364	15	17		2,913 51
August 7, 1849.....	Subdivision.....	Louis V. Davis.....	Iowa.....	November 19, 1849.. 360	41	92		991 44
August 8, 1849.....	do.....	Henry Maddin.....	Wisconsin.....	May 8, 1850.....	538	11	38	2,152 56
August 10, 1849.....	do.....	S. D. Woodworth.....	Iowa.....	March 3, 1850.....	359	26	06	988 14
August 11, 1849.....	do.....	Edwin James, jr.....	do.....	March 23, 1850... 358	78	92		987 21
August 13, 1849.....	Town lines.....	John W. Ellis.....	do.....	January 15, 1850... 571	52	35		2,286 61
August 20, 1849.....	Subdivision.....	S. W. Durham.....	Wisconsin.....	January 29, 1850... 410	27	51		1,641 37
Do.....	do.....	do.....	do.....	May 24, 1850..... 252	37	21		1,009 86
September 22, 1849.....	do.....	E. S. Norris.....	Iowa.....	April 24, 1850... 449	77	67		1,237 41
Do.....	do.....	J. J. E. Nerman.....	do.....	March 2, 1850... 484	57	88		1,332 98
Do.....	do.....	William H. Henderson.....	do.....	May 8, 1850..... 361	27	81		993 70

D—Continued.

Date of contract.	Style of work.	Name of contractor.	State or Territory.	Account of deputy with plats transferred to General Land Office.	Total number of miles.		Amount of contract.	
					Miles	chs. fcs.		
September 24, 1849...	do.....	John D. Evans.....	Iowa.....	April 30, 1850.....	480	48	31	\$1,321 66
Do.....	do.....	James Jackson, jr.....	do.....	March 19, 1850.....	308	65	12	849 23
Do.....	do.....	Samuel C. Wiltse.....	do.....	November 20, 1849..	359	09	27	987 56
Do.....	do.....	William J. Neely.....	do.....	February 13, 1850..	387	42	86	1,065 72
September 25, 1849...	do.....	John G. McDonald.....	do.....	April 19, 1850.....	479	09	95	1,317 59
September 27, 1849...	do.....	William Leffler.....	do.....	April 24, 1850.....	179	40	29	493 63
Do.....	do.....	do.....	do.....	June 8, 1850.....	180	51	67	496 77
September 29, 1849...	do.....	W. Albert Patterson.....	do.....	April 9, 1850.....	359	56	08	989 17
April 9, 1850.....	Examination.....	Thomas J. McKean.....	do.....	April 30, 1850.....				126 50
May 30, 1850.....	Subdivision.....	John T. Everett.....	do.....	October 17, 1850....	543	29	74	1,358 42
June 7, 1850.....	Resurvey.....	Albert G. Ellis.....	Wisconsin.....					
June 22, 1850.....	Subdivision.....	John Ryan.....	do.....					

SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE, Dubuque, November 11, 1850.

G. H. BOOTH, Surveyor General,

## SALARY ACCOUNT.

1849.			1850.		
Oct. 1	To this amount due surveyor general from 3d quarter of 1849.....	\$84 57	Jan. 18	By treasury draft No. 6340 on int. warrant No. 738.....	\$3,975 00
Dec. 31	To amount due surveyor general and his clerks for services rendered during 4th quarter of 1849, ending this date.....	4,029 59	18	By this amount due surveyor general, and charged to 1st quarter of 1850.....	139 16
		4,114 16			4,114 16
1850.			Mar. 27	By treasury draft No. 325 on treasury warrant No. 1120 f.....	4,130 00
Jan. 18	To this amount due surveyor general from 4th quarter of 1849.....	139 16			
April 1	To amount due surveyor general and his clerks for services rendered during 1st quarter of 1850, ending this date.....	3,885 02			
1	To this amount due United States, and carried to credit of 2d quarter of 1850.....	105 82			
		4,130 00			4,130 00
July 1	To this amount due surveyor general and his clerks for services rendered during 2d quarter of 1850, ending this date.....	4,015 63	April 1	By this amount due U. States from 1st qr of 1850..	105 82
	To this amount due United States, and carried to credit of 3d quarter of 1850.....	360 19	June 12	By treasury draft No. 675 on treas. int. war. No. 1460	534 86
		4,375 82	12	By treasury draft No. 676 on treas. int. war. No. 1460	1,019 91
			12	By treasury draft No. 677 on treasury int. warrant No. 1460, on St. Louis.....	2,715 23
					4,375 82
Oct. 1	To this amount due surveyor general and his clerks for services rendered during 3d quarter of 1850, ending this date.....	3,636 74	July 1	By this amount due the United States from 2d quarter of 1850.....	360 19
	To this amount due the United States, and carried to credit of 4th quarter of 1850.....	298 45	Oct. 17	By treasury draft No. 1149 on treasury warrant No. 1919.....	3,575 00
		3,935 19			3,935 19
			Oct. 1	By this amount due U. States from 3d qr. of 1850...	298 45

DR.

*The United States in account current with C. H. Booth, surveyor general.*

CR.

## DISBURSEMENT ACCOUNT.

1849.			1850.		
Sept. 30	To this amount due surveyor general from 3d quarter of 1849.....	\$397 08	Jan. 18	By treasury draft No. 6350 on int. warrant No. 758.....	\$665 00
Dec. 31	To amount disbursed during 4th quarter of 1849....	293 22	18	By this amount due surveyor general, and charged to 1st quarter of 1850.....	25 30
		690 30			690 30
1850.			Mar. 27	By treasury draft No 328 on treasury warrant No. 1123.....	425 00
Jan. 18	To this amount due the surveyor general from 4th quarter of 1849.....	25 30			
April 1	To amount disbursed during 1st quarter of 1850....	150 77			
1	To this amount due United States, and carried to credit of 2d quarter of 1850.....	248 93			
		425 00			425 00
July 1	To this amount disbursed during 2d quarter of 1850..	362 64	April 1	By this amount due U. States from 1st qr. of 1850..	248 93
1	To this amount due the United States, and carried to credit of 3d quarter of 1850.....	236 29	June 19	By treasury draft No. 691 on treasury warrant No. 1471.....	350 00
		598 93			598 93
Sept. 30	To amount disbursed during 3d quarter of 1850....	510 10	July 1	By this amount due U. States from 2d qr. of 1850..	236 29
	To amount due the United States, and carried to credit of 4th quarter of 1850.....	76 19	Oct. 17	By treasury draft No. 1148 on treasury warrant No. 1914.....	350 00
		586 29			586 29
			Oct. 17	By this amount due U. States from 3d qr. of 1850 ..	76 19

Doc. No. 9.



## G.

*Estimate of appropriations for continuing the public surveys in the States of Wisconsin and Iowa, and the Territory of Minnesota, for the year ending June 30, 1852.*

For township and sectional lines in the Menomonee cession of October 18, 1848, under the \$5 per mile maximum	-	\$25,000	00
For township and sectional lines in Iowa under the \$3 per mile maximum	-	24,000	00
For surveys in such parts of the Territory of Minnesota as may have been acquired of the Indians	-	6,000	00
For incidental expenses of office	-	3,000	00
		<u>58,000</u>	<u>00</u>

C. H. BOOTH,  
*Surveyor General.*

SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE, *Dubuque.*

*Estimate of appropriation for salary of surveyor general and regular clerks, and for compensation of "piece" clerks, for year ending June 30, 1852.*

For salary of surveyor general and clerks in his office, as per act of 10th of August, 1846	-	\$8,300	00
For compensation to clerks for recording plats, recording and transcribing field-notes, and making lists descriptive of corners	-	5,000	00
		<u>13,300</u>	<u>00</u>

C. H. BOOTH,  
*Surveyor General.*

SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
*Dubuque, November 11, 1850.*

## H.

SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
*Dubuque, June 24, 1850.*

SIR: I understand my instructions in relation to the time and size of contracts to require that all the surveys out of any particular appropriation shall be forwarded to your office in time to be embraced in the proclamation of sales for the next year; or, in other words, that the surveys shall be completed and transmitted by the close of the year for which the appropriation was made. To comply with my instructions in this respect, and in that also requiring the exclusive survey of such lands as will

command the most ready sale, has been my most constant aim, but has been partially defeated by circumstances to which I will briefly refer.

Early in July last, and immediately upon the receipt of my instructions for surveys in 1849, I assigned to Théodore Conkey, esq.—a tried and esteemed deputy of this office—a district of township lines in the Territory of Minnesota. The part of his district skirting the Mississippi, from its high inducements to settlers, demanded early survey; to enable me to accomplish which, Mr. Conkey was required to make an advance return of his surveys, and to prosecute his work as rapidly as accuracy would warrant.

A westwardly bend of the river, of which this office had no knowledge, caused his district to exceed its estimated size by about one hundred and fifty miles, and protracted its execution beyond the period at which an advance return was required, and to a period when it was impossible to make one—thus defeating the purpose of subdividing in 1849 the skirt of country noticed above.

All his supplies had to be packed upon men's backs; and such were the obstacles encountered, that progress was next thing to impossible. His assistants twice "struck" for higher wages, and twice deserted him, refusing to work for any wages, causing him to suspend work until their places could be filled from the settlements outside his district.

He completed his survey about mid-winter, and returned home to be immediately attacked with acute rheumatism, which, although repeatedly urged by this office to make return of his work, effectually prevented his doing so until the 24th of April last. His notes were found to be inadmissible, of which he was immediately advised. He replied that his health had greatly improved, and that he would be at the office in a very few days, but was unavoidably detained to the 17th inst. He has now taken the field to correct that portion of his work not accepted, and is expected to complete the same in about two months.

Until Mr. Conkey's surveys were received no definite information was had in relation to the size of his contract, further than it had greatly exceeded the preliminary estimate; hence, until then, it was not known with sufficient certainty whether the amount left at my disposal would justify any other than the surveys contracted for on the 23d inst., the execution of which was of primary importance. Upon the reception of his work it was perceived that there would be \$1,500 or \$2,000 applicable to important surveys in Iowa, and the contract of the 30th ultimo was accordingly entered into.

But for these facts all the surveys out of the 1849 appropriation would have been completed and returned to your office before the close of the present fiscal year, as it was my anxious desire and firm determination that they should have been.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. H. BOOTH,  
*Surveyor General.*

HON. J. BUTTERFIELD,

*Commissioner of the General Land Office, Washington, D. C.*

## I.

DUBUQUE, February 2, 1850.

SIR: The district of township lines, with the survey of which I had the honor to be intrusted by you on the 9th day of July last, is timbered, as nearly as I can estimate, as follows: One-sixth by white, yellow, and pitch-pine, five sixths of which is unfit for lumber; one sixth by aspen; one sixth by white and yellow birch; one sixth by balsam; and one-third by tamarack, spruce, lina, elm, ash, oak, and iron-wood — their prevalence following the order here named. The pine is so interspersed among other timber as to be of difficult access; indeed, two sections could scarcely be found upon which the pine is sufficiently dense to employ a company of "loggers" one winter.

Townships 41 of ranges 17 and 18, townships 41 and 42 of ranges 20 and 23, and townships 37 and 38 of range 18, contain the most and best pine—are adjacent to streams of sufficient size to float logs; and portions, I have no doubt, of these townships, would sell if immediately surveyed and brought into market. I say *immediately*, because much of the pine has already disappeared, and much more will disappear, this and every succeeding winter, before the companies of "loggers," who make a lodgment wherever they can find a grove or skirt of this timber of such size as to occupy them during the winter.

Townships 37, 38, 39, and 40, of ranges 20 and 21, (except the tamarack and spruce swamps, which are abundantly interspersed through them,) possess a dry cultivable soil, and should on that account, I think, be surveyed.

The townships not enumerated above would not sell if brought into market, and therefore, I think, should not be surveyed.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JAS. E. FREEMAN,  
*Deputy Surveyor.*

C. H. BOOTH, Esq.,  
*Surveyor General U. S.*

## K.

NEW HARMONY, IA., April 16, 1850.

SIR: Will you have the kindness to forward, as soon as convenient, township maps, six inches to the township, of additional surveys on the St. Croix, Snake, and Kettle rivers, not heretofore forwarded, and a connected map of the same; also, the additional townships in the Rush river survey? Please also furnish connected maps of the surveys in Iowa, of the country bordering on the Des Moines, Iowa, and Missouri rivers, as far north as the surveys have been extended.

I am now engaged in preparing the final report, and it will be a convenience to me to have the maps referred to as soon as the business of your office will allow.

Very respectfully,

D. D. OWEN,  
*U. S. Geologist, Iowa and Wisconsin.*

C. H. BOOTH, Esq.,  
*Surveyor General, Iowa.*

SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
*Dubuque, May 21, 1850.*

SIR: Please to receive herewith, colored diagrams, upon a scale of one mile to an inch, of the subdivision of nine townships of the Rush river country, and nine of the St. Croix river country—being an accurate illustration of the topography in those townships, as laid down upon the official plats of survey, viz:

Township No. 22,	of range 14;
“ “ 23,	“ 15 and 16;
“ “ 24,	“ 15 and 16;
“ “ 25,	“ 15 and 16;
“ “ 28,	“ 15 and 16;
“ “ 33,	“ 21;
“ “ 34,	“ 21;
“ “ 35,	“ 18, 19 and 21;
“ “ 36,	“ 18 to 21 inclusive.

You are thus furnished plats of all the subdivision surveys of and within the tract designated in your communication of the 16th ultimo, that have been executed at this date.

Herewith you will also receive a connected map of all the recent surveys upon, and west of, Des Moines river, in Iowa—whether of township lines or subdividing—and a similar map of the township line surveys upon St. Croix, Snake, Kettle, Rum, and Mississippi rivers, in the State of Wisconsin and Territory of Minnesota.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. H. BOOTH, *Surveyor General.*

DR. D. D. OWEN, *U. S. Geologist,*  
*New Harmony, Posey county, Indiana.*

SURVEYOR'S OFFICE, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS,  
*October 28, 1850.*

SIR: Since the date of my last annual report, and the failure of the department to respond to any of the several communications touching the future operations of this office, and the unexpended balances of former appropriations; conceiving it to be the determination of the department, under then existing circumstances, from prudential considerations, to withhold its sanction and instructions until some further action of Congress was had in regard to the continuation of this office, I deemed it my duty to reduce the clerical force previously employed, to a number barely sufficient to keep up the ordinary and indispensable business of the office, and at intervals of remission therein to carry forward such other work as was stated in that report to be most essential to be done. I therefore reduced the number to three, who, in addition to keeping up the regular records and files of the office and perfecting indices to those records, and arranging and systematizing the whole, have prepared *special* indices for 1,000 field books and re-covered and re stitched them; have examined and compared with the originals 155 transcripts of field books, 35 of which have been rejected in consequence of illegibility of the writing and want

of sufficient margin to admit of proper binding, which with 25 others have been copied from the originals and compared, and are now ready for transmission to the General Land Office; which, with the exception of a few fragments and the notes of suspended surveys, completes the transcripts intended for that purpose.

Descriptive lists for the Fayetteville, Clarkesville, and Washington districts have been completed. There remain for completion 58 for the Little Rock, 243 for the Batesville, and 146 for the Helena district, to which may be added about 300 prepared under the late surveyor general, which must necessarily be rejected in consequence of the careless, rude, and almost illegible manner in which they have been written.

The foregoing, together with furnishing the several registers' offices with diagrams of subdivisions according to the act of Congress of 5th April, 1832, whenever called for by them, constitute the principal work performed within this office since the date of my last annual report.

Statement A, hereto annexed, presents a view of the condition of contracts entered into under the late surveyor general, and the work therein embraced not completed on the 15th October, 1849.

No. 1, dated the 23d March, 1849, entered into by John W. Garretson, has been finally closed, as stated in note *a*.

No. 2, entered into by Charles H. Pelham on the 18th October, 1848, has been entirely abrogated, and the work placed under contract with other deputies, as stated in note *b*.

The field-books of the work embraced in this contract were forwarded to this office by Colonel Pelham under the care of a Mr. Fontain, during the absence of the late surveyor general and before the office came under my charge, and placed by him in the hands of a merchant of this city, who subsequently handed them to me as a bundle or package belonging to my office. Coming thus into the possession of the office, and having been opened and found to be books of the field-notes of surveys, I placed them under examination, and finding them without the affidavit required by the act of Congress of the 8th August, 1846, and replete with manifest errors, and bearing the impress of great carelessness and disregard both of law and instructions, I gave notice to Colonel Pelham that, before any further instructions could be issued to him from this office, it would be necessary for him to repair hither and explain satisfactorily, if he could, the nature of his work.

After some months delay he visited the office, but utterly failed to make the required explanations; whereupon I informed him I should abrogate his contract entirely, and appoint some competent person to examine his work; and as much thereof as should be found to be "faithfully and correctly executed according to law and the instructions of the surveyor general," should be paid for; but upon a more critical examination of the act of the 8th August, 1846, above referred to, I found that there was no possible way of legalizing the work, as Colonel Pelham could not *safely* swear that the work had been *faithfully* and *correctly* done, nor could the deputy who might be intrusted with its examination make the required affidavit, unless he had done the *entire* work, or had had it "executed under *his immediate personal superintendence*."

A portion of the work included in this contract had been done by Dr. James E. Pelham, son of Colonel Pelham, and, as far as can be determined by the tests of this office, correctly done, with the exception of a very short

line of meanders, which was incomplete; but not being embraced *in terms* in the contract of Dr. Pelham, it was thought necessary (I presume) to its proper legalization that it should be *specifically* set forth as a part of some contract, and therefore it was included in that of his father, Colonel Pelham, with instructions *verbally* given, as he alleges to me, by his brother William, late surveyor general, to copy his son's notes and adopt and return them as his own.

There being on file in this office *only* copies of the field notes of Dr. Pelham, the originals (I suppose) being in the hands of his father, and he (the Doctor) having gone to California, there was no alternative left but to place this work under contract anew as original work.

No. 3, dated the 14th December, 1848, entered into by John J. Bean, remains precisely as it was at the date of my last report, having heard nothing from Mr. Bean except incidentally that he had gone to California. For the precise condition of this work, see note *c* of statement A.

No. 4, entered into by Robert W. Macklin, and dated the 1st October, 1844, likewise stands as at the date of my last report; and, comprising minute fractions of two townships, and amounting to only about three miles of survey, is doubtless too inconsiderable to attract the notice of the deputy; and not knowing his place of residence, or whether he still resides within this State, I have not been enabled to call his attention to the subject. See note *d* of statement A.

Statement B presents the condition of contracts for the survey of the public lands in the district of Arkansas since the transmission of my last annual report.

The contract of David W. Lowe, entered into on the 5th of October, 1850, is for the completion of all the work except township 13 north, range 4 east, (the contract of Mr. Garretson) embraced in the annulled contract of Colonel C. H. Pelham, as explained under statement A.

The contract of John W. Garretson, entered into on the 18th October, 1850, is for the resurvey or retracement, as the case may be, of township 13 north, range 4 east, which was also embraced in the annulled contract of Charles H. Pelham.

The above and foregoing comprises, mainly, a statement of the work, both in the field and within this office, which has engaged the labor and attention of the force thereof since the transmission of the report of the 15th October, 1849; and as there has been no action either of the department or of Congress upon the various subjects therein presented to their consideration, and as these subjects have lost none of their consequence and importance by the delay, I beg that they may be taken and considered, together with the accompanying lists, exhibits and estimates, with the reasons therefor; as a part of this report, merely adding that frequent calls are made by respectable and intelligent citizens for resurveys or retracement of the old surveys, with many and grievous complaints of the erroneous and fraudulent condition of the old surveys; and recapitulating, in the accompanying statement of estimates marked C, the items embraced in statement D of that report, respectfully asking that each item may be taken into the estimates to be furnished by your department to the appropriate committee of the House for insertion in the general appropriation bill at the approaching session of Congress, with the exception *only* of the items for salary of the surveyor general and compensation of the clerks in his office, which are inserted and to be considered as estimated for the fiscal

year ending the 30th June, 1852, the appropriations for these purposes for the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1851, having been made by the Congress just transpired; and the item for incidental expenses, which may be made to embrace the present and next fiscal year ending 30th June, 1852, or either, at the discretion of the department.

I have thus estimated for the salary of the surveyor general and compensation for his clerks for the fiscal year ending the 30th June, 1852, for the reason that the salary appropriation, and the principal part of that for compensation for the clerks, will be exhausted by the close of the present fiscal year, which will leave the department without any fund, known to me, (having been furnished no list of balances of former appropriations,) upon which requisitions could be made for these purpose, during nearly one entire fiscal year.

And for similar reasons, and the fact that there was no appropriation for the incidental expenses of this office for the present fiscal year, I have placed this item, as above stated, at the discretion of the department.

All which is respectfully submitted.

L. GIBSON,  
*Surveyor General of Arkansas.*

J. BUTTERFIELD, Esq.,  
*Commissioner General Land Office, Washington City.*

A.

Statement showing the condition of the contracts which were not closed on October 15, 1849—the date of the last annual report from this office.

Number.	Date of contract.	Contractors.	Time allowed— months.	Estimated amount of miles.	Price per mile.	Estimated amount.	Amount of surveys returned.			Amount of account adjusted at the General Land Of- fice.	Remarks on the condition of the work.
							<i>Ms.</i>	<i>chs.</i>	<i>lks.</i>		
1	1849. Mar. 23	Jno. W. Garretson.	3	60	\$4	\$240 00	74	35	49	\$297 77	(a.) Surveys returned, examined, and approved; plats made and furnished to the register and commissioner, and accounts paid.
2	1848. Oct. 18	Chas. H. Pelham..	4	312	4 & 6	1,750 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	(b.) Field-notes of the surveys of the connexion of the public surveys, with the State line in township 21 north, ranges 1 to 9, and 19 to 34 inclusive, west of the fifth principal meridian; and township 21 north, ranges 1, 2, and part of 3 east, and fractional township 20 north, range 16 west; and township 21 north, range 19 west, returned to this office without the affidavit required by the act of Congress of August 8, 1846; in consequence of which they were suspended, and subsequently rejected, and the contract entirely abrogated for gross and inexplicable errors; and the surveys on the State line have been given to D. W. Lowe to execute under his contract of October 5, 1850; and township 13 north, range 4 east, placed under contract to J. W. Garretson October 18, 1850.
3	Dec. 14	Jno. J. Bean.....	4½	180	4	720 00	180	12	98	.....	(c.) Survey executed and field-notes returned, but suspended from approval. Work supposed to be correctly executed, but not according to instructions; plats made, but not disposed of.
4	1844. Oct. 1	R. W. Macklin...	4	3	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	(d.) The portion of this contract not completed is fractional townships 1 and 2 north, range 33 west, which have likewise been surveyed, but original notes not returned, (a copy on file;) not paid for, or plats made out.



## B.

Statement showing the condition of contracts for the survey of the public lands in the State of Arkansas entered into since the date of the last annual report from this office, dated October 15, 1849.

Date of contract.	Contractors.	Time allowed.	Lands embraced in contract.	Estimated amount of miles.	Price per mile.	Estimated amount of dollars.	Amount of survey returned.	Amount of account to be adjusted at General Land Office.	Remarks.
1850. ct. 5	D. W. Loye .....	Mos. 6	Connexion with the Missouri line in township 21 north, ranges 1, 2, and 3 east; township 22 north, ranges 4 and 5 east; township 21 north, ranges 1 to 9 west; township 21 north, ranges 19 to 34 west; part of township 19 north, range 20 west; fractional township 20 north, range 16 west, (north of White river; ) fractional township 21 north, range 19 west, (north of White river.)	333	\$6	2,000	Mts. chs. lks.		
18 Aug. 10	Jno. W. Garretson .. .....do.....	1½	Township 13 north, range 4 east..... South boundary section 31, township 2 north, range 4 west; no contract, but the work done under special instructions from this office.	60 1	4 6	240 6	2 22 88	\$13 71	Survey returned, examined, and approved; plats made out, sent to Register and Commissioner; account will be sent to Commissioner for adjustment 4th quarter of this year.

Doc. No. 9.

## C.

*Estimate for the surveying district of Arkansas, for office and field-work,  
for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1851.*

No. 1. For retracing and resurveying 4,300 miles of old, fraudulent and erroneous work, half at \$3 per mile, and half at \$4 per mile	\$15,000 00
2. For correcting 260 miles of detached erroneous surveys, at \$6 per mile	1,560 00
3. For surveying 240 miles of unfinished fragments in townships scattered over the State, at \$6 per mile	1,440 00
4. For completing 150 miles of surveys now under contract, at \$4 per mile	600 00
	<hr/> 18,600 00 <hr/> <hr/>

*Incidental expenses of office, viz :*

House rent	\$300 00
Fuel and servant hire	160 00
Stationery, book-binding, &c.	300 00
	<hr/> 760 00 <hr/> <hr/>

*Salary for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1852, viz :*

Salary of the surveyor general	\$2,000 00
Salary of 3 regular clerks	2,800 00
Compensation of 2 clerks to draught and compute areas, to be paid for by the job	2,000 00
Compensation of 2 clerks to record field-notes for use of this office, to transcribe them for General Land Office, and make descriptive lists for registers' offices, to be paid for by the 100 words	2,000 00
	<hr/> 8,800 00 <hr/> <hr/>

SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
*Detroit, November 12, 1850.*

SIR: In conformity with your instructions of the 16th ultimo, and agreeably to the usage of this office, I submit herewith a report, with accompanying papers, (marked A, B, C, D, E, F, and G,) showing the progress and condition of the surveys and office work connected therewith in this district for the year ending on the 5th instant, together with a general statement of receipts and disbursements incident to surveying the public lands, my salary account for the current year, and an estimate of appropriations deemed necessary for the operations of this office for the fiscal year ending on the 30th June, 1852—a copy of which estimate was forwarded to your office on the 31st ultimo.

All the papers pertaining to the surveys in Indiana having, on the 15th December last, been turned over to the authorities of that State, the surveys and office work since that period have been confined solely to the State of Michigan.

The additional resurveys around the private claims on the river Raisin, including also the survey of the public land at the mouth of that river, have been completed during the past year; and a connected map of the whole, together with separate plats of each township, have been furnished your office, in compliance with instructions from your predecessor of 1st June, 1847. Copies of those plats would have been furnished to the register also, in accordance with the same instructions, but they have been retained for the reasons set forth in the eighth paragraph of my letter to you of 29th May last, transmitting the maps above referred to, with the accounts of the deputies who made the surveys.

The twenty-three townships situated north of the third correction line in the lower peninsula have been put under contract; but, owing to great irregularities in the township lines, it was found impracticable to close the work east of the meridian upon the old surveys north of it, and on this account two of the townships were left unsurveyed. In the other seven townships (of the twenty-three before mentioned) lying east of the meridian, the original surveys of the township lines were found so defective and erroneous that a resurvey of the whole was indispensably necessary to enable the deputies to proceed with the subdivisions; and although three districts of subdivisions, made in 1840, join these townships on the north and east, no mention seems to have been made, or notice taken, of these defects and errors; and it is found from the reports of the deputies that the whole of the old work, both township lines and subdivisions north of the third correction line and east of the meridian, will have to be resurveyed. The two districts south of this, subdivided by W. R. Coon and T. Pattison in 1839, and heretofore reported as fraudulent, are in no better condition than the surveys just named, as appears from the report of Mr. Burnham, who has just returned from examinations in that region, which will be forwarded with his account in a few days.

A district of ten townships situated near Saginaw bay, subdivided in 1837 by Henry Nicholson, has been resurveyed and corrected during the past season by William A. Burt, esq., who was one of the sureties in the bond of Mr. Nicholson, given to insure the faithful performance of his contract. Five of the townships were entirely resurveyed, and the other five corrected and completed, so that the whole district is now in

good condition; and it will be unnecessary for the United States to prosecute further the suit against Mr. Nicholson or his bondsmen in this contract. Mr. Burt's field-notes of these resurveys and corrections have not yet been received, but his returns are daily expected.

Resurveys have also been made in other districts that were reported fraudulent in the field-notes of examinations made last year, but as these examinations were made in a superficial manner, giving, it is true, sufficient evidence of the imperfect character of the original surveys in each district, but not in every township, the deputies intrusted with the resurveys were required, before commencing the resurvey of any township, to ascertain the character of the old surveys, and not to make any resurveys where they were unnecessary. Twelve townships have been resurveyed under one contract in the district subdivided in 1839 by Messrs. Sibley & Hodgson, situated near Grand Traverse bay. The field-notes of three of these have been returned to this office, and the account, with the plats, have been forwarded to your office. The field notes of the remainder are daily expected.

Other townships have been resurveyed in the same district, as also in the district north of the third correction line, embracing the point of land on the west side, and forming Grand Traverse bay, but the deputy is still in the field, and it is not known how far he has progressed with his work.

The lands in this vicinity are valuable, both from their fine agricultural character, and because of the easy access to navigable water. A settlement has already commenced on the west side of the bay, and considerable land has been sold in the vicinity; but the bad condition of the surveys renders it very difficult to identify the tracts purchased, and has deterred many who would otherwise have purchased from entering these lands. It is reported by persons residing at this settlement that the surveys north of the third correction line are very defective, so that the same difficulty is there experienced in locating the lands purchased.

It had for a long time been thought desirable that the islands in the Kalamazoo river should be surveyed, but great delay was experienced in consequence of the inadequate allowance by the act of 1837 for that purpose, and no competent deputy could be found willing to undertake the work at the price per mile allowed by that act. Owing, however, to their situation in a rich agricultural region, it was thought that the interest of the government would be promoted by having them surveyed and brought into market. A faithful deputy was therefore appointed, and all the islands that were large enough to pay the expense arising therefrom have been surveyed, and the account of the deputy, with diagrams of the islands, have been forwarded to your office.

Islands in the Saginaw river have been reported to this office as large enough to be surveyed, and William A. Burt, esq., who was resurveying in the vicinity of Saginaw, was instructed to survey them, but in consequence of the lateness of the season he was obliged to leave the field without undertaking the work.

The islands were found as reported, however, and will be surveyed by some deputy next season, who will be instructed also to survey all the unsurveyed islands in the Saginaw bay, some of which are represented to be very valuable for fishing purposes.

*Upper Peninsula.*

In the five unfinished contracts there were twenty-seven townships remaining unsurveyed at the close of the operations in the field last year. Four of these contracts have been completed, viz: Mr. Ives's, Mr. Mellen's, Mr. Wells Burt's, and Mr. Carleton's. The field notes of the two deputies first named have been received at this office, and those of the others are daily expected. The other contract (Mr. Merryweather's) is not yet finished. The field-notes of five of the townships have been returned during the summer, but the deputy is still in the field, and it is not known what further progress he has made in his surveys. Besides this, five new contracts were given out, embracing *twenty-eight* townships lying east of Chocolate river, all of which have been surveyed, and the field-notes will be returned within a few days. This leaves but *twenty-four* unsurveyed townships east of Grand Island, which may be surveyed next season, besides carrying on the surveys in the western portion of the peninsula in the mineral region, if an adequate appropriation is made by Congress in accordance with my estimate herewith transmitted.

The only surveys made this year in what has been termed the mineral region, are the ten townships embraced in the contract of Mr. John Burt, situated west of the Escanawba river, and north of the fourth correction line, joining the subdivisions that have been made in the "iron region," of which they may be considered a portion.

In consequence of the reduction of the price of these lands to the minimum price of other public lands, the demand for them will doubtless be greatly increased. A flourishing settlement has been established on the coast of Lake Superior, a few miles northwest of the mouth of Chocolate river, at the head of Marquette or Iron bay. It has already a township organization, and being the point of export for iron from the mines which are in that vicinity, it will increase from year to year till it becomes, as it may perhaps now be said to be, one of the most important points in the Lake Superior country.

Besides the examinations made by Mr. Carter in this peninsula, the account for which, with his report, were transmitted to your office with my letter of the 7th instant, the district embracing Grand Island, subdivided by Mr. S. W. Higgins in 1845, has been thoroughly examined by Mr. William Ives and Mr. Z. B. Searls, whose contracts for this season joined it on the east and west. In the report of Mr. Ives, which has just been received and will be transmitted in a few days, frauds are developed, in the meandering of lakes particularly, which in no way could have been detected by the most critical examination of the field-notes, for the meanders of a lake may be made out much more nicely and accurately upon *paper* than on the ground, and they may be represented where they do not exist, or enlarged or changed at pleasure to suit the interest or convenience of the deputy, as seems to be the case in many of the examinations that have been made; and yet if the notes are made out with care, there is no way by which such frauds can be detected except by examination of the surveys on the ground.

Such facts as these show the necessity of having examinations made in all public surveys, and I am fully persuaded that a more thorough and disinterested examination should be made of most of the country where fraudulent surveys are supposed to exist.

The practice heretofore obtained in this office has been to appoint some regular deputy to make these examinations. However competent and faithful the deputy may be, (and none other have been appointed,) it is still liable to objections, for the reason that he might be strongly interested, or, at least, under strong temptations to pronounce surveys fraudulent when he supposed he might obtain a contract for resurveying at an increased price for the work which the law now provides. In my judgment, it would be a saving of many thousand dollars to the government if some provision should be made for the appointment of an *inspector of surveys*, who should be precluded from all expectation of getting any contract for resurveying—an individual, wholly disinterested, whose duty should be to examine the work of any deputy, as directed by the surveyor general, and upon whose report this office would be better able to judge of the propriety of resurveys.

There is much of the lower peninsula which should be faithfully examined, and some portion of the upper peninsula also; and there will be surveys enough which are believed to be erroneous to keep an inspector in constant employment for some time to come, and enough which should be immediately resurveyed to absorb the whole of the appropriation made by Congress for that object the present year, and those estimated for the year to come.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

CHARLES NOBLE,  
*Surveyor General.*

J. BUTTERFIELD, Esq.,  
*Commissioner.*

## SALARY ACCOUNT.

DR. *The United States in account with Charles Noble, surveyor general northwest of the Ohio.* CR.

1849. Dec. 31	To amount paid surveyor general and clerks, 4th quarter 1849.....	\$2,482 02	1849. Oct. 1	By balance of account for 3d quarter 1849.....	\$157 02
1850. Mar. 30	To amount paid surveyor general and clerks, 1st quarter 1850.....	2,314 02	Dec. 27	By treasury draft No. 6255 on treasury warrant No. 723, for.....	2,325 00
July 1	To amount paid surveyor general and clerks, 2d quarter 1850.....	2,335 98	1850. Mar. 30	By treasury draft No. 400 on treasury warrant No. 1190, for.....	2,325 00
Oct. 28	To amount paid surveyor general and clerks, 3d quarter 1850.....	2,326 55	July 1	By treasury drafts Nos. 689 and 690 on treasury warrant No. 1469, for.....	2,325 00
			Oct. 13	By treasury draft No. 1152 on treasury warrant No. 1918, for.....	2,325 00
				By amount to balance.....	1 55
		<u>9,458 57</u>			
	Balance due surveyor general on above account...	\$1 55			<u>9,458 57</u>

SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE, Detroit, November 12, 1850.

CHARLES NOBLE, Surveyor General.

Doc. No. 9.

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*Estimate of appropriations required for the payment of the salary of the surveyor general northwest of the Ohio, and for the salaries of the clerks in his office, for the fiscal year ending on the 30th June, 1852.*

For compensation of surveyor general, per 10th section of the act of May 18, 1796	-	-	-	-	\$2,000 00
For compensation of clerks in his office, per 1st section of the act of May 9, 1836	-	-	-	-	6,300 00
For compensation of clerks to be employed in transcribing field-notes for preservation at the seat of government	-	-	-	-	1,350 00
					<hr/>
					9,650 00
					<hr/>

*Estimate of appropriations required for surveying the public lands, and for incidental expenses in the district composed of the States of Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan, for the fiscal year ending on the 30th June, 1852.*

For subdividing sixty townships in the "mineral region," thereby completing the survey of the <i>copper region</i> , upper peninsula, Michigan, averaging 70 miles each, at a rate not exceeding \$6 per mile	-	-	-	-	\$25,200 00
For subdividing twenty-four townships east of Grand Island, thereby completing the surveys in the upper peninsula westward to that point, averaging 70 miles each, at \$4 per mile	-	-	-	-	6,720 00
For resurveying twenty-five townships in the lower peninsula, averaging 70 miles each, at a rate not exceeding \$6 per mile	-	-	-	-	10,500 00
For stationery, binding, printing, and postage	-	-	-	-	350 00
For office rent and fuel	-	-	-	-	400 00
For services of laborer or messenger	-	-	-	-	120 00
					<hr/>
					43,290 00
					<hr/>

CHARLES NOBLE,  
*Surveyor General.*



*General statement of receipts and disbursements incident to surveying the public lands in the district composed of the States of Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan, for the year ending on the 30th September, 1850.*

1849.		DR.		1849.		CR.	
Oct.	1	To balance of account for 3d quarter, 1849.....	\$129 74	Dec.	16	By treasury draft No. 6,256 on treasury warrant No. 724, for.....	\$350 00
Dec.	31	To amount of disbursement for 4th quarter, 1849..	212 54	Dec.	31	By cash received of sundry persons during 4th quarter, 1849.....	7 50
1850.				1850.			
April	1	To balance of account for 4th quarter, 1849, credited to the United States by my predecessor in his account rendered April 27, 1850.....	15 22	March	28	By treasury draft No 388 on treasury warrant No. 1178, for.....	200 00
April	1	To amount of disbursement 1st quarter, 1850.....	100 88	June....		By treasury drafts Nos. 687 and 688 on treasury warrant No. 1470, for.....	325 00
July	1	To amount of disbursement 2d quarter, 1850.....	376 33	Aug. 6		By cash received of surveyor general at Dubuque.	49 00
Oct.	28	To amount of disbursement 3d quarter, 1850.....	195 91	Oct. 13		By treasury draft No. 1151 on treasury warrant No. 1917, for.....	250 00
		To amount to balance.....	150 88				
			<hr/> 1,181 50				<hr/> 1,181 50
				Balancé due the United States on the above account.			<hr/> 150 88

SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
Detroit, November 12, 1850.

CHARLES NOBLE, Surveyor General.

Doc. No. 9.

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A.

Statement showing the condition of surveys under contracts that were unfinished on the 5th of November, 1849, the date of the last annual report.

Names of contractors.	Character of surveys.	Date of contract.	Townships returned.	Miles returned.	Amount of account transmitted.	Remarks.
A. Merryweather.	Subdivisions ..	June 8, 1849	Townships 41, 42, and 43 north, range 17 west; townships 42 and 43 north, range 18 west.	<i>Miles chs lks.</i> .....	.....(*).....	This contract is not yet completed.
			Townships 42 and 43 north, range 19 west; township 43 north, range 20 west.	197 32 07	\$789 60	
John Burt.....	.....do.....	April 27, 1849	Townships 41 and 42 north, ranges 29 and 30 west; townships 41, 42, 43, 44, and 45 north, range 31 west; township 41 north, range 32 west.	624 28 66	3,746 15	Contract completed.
Zelotez B. Searls..	.....do.....	.....do.....	Townships 42, 43, 44, and 45 north, range 32 west.	292 35 91	1,754 69	Do.
William Ives.....	.....do.....	June 7, 1849	Township 45 north, ranges 8 and 9 west; townships 43, 44, and 45 north, ranges 10 and 11 west.	572 02 67	2,288 14	The balance of this contract was embraced in statement B of last year's report; contract now finished.
William Burt.....	.....do.....	June 14, 1849	Township 54 north, range 31 west; township 50 north, ranges 32, 33, and 34 west; township 52 north, ranges 33 and 34 west.	321 40 21	1,276 01	
James H. Mullett.	.....do.....	June 27, 1849	Townships 37 and 39 north, range 28 west; townships 37, 38, and 39 north, range 29 west; townships 39 and 40 north, ranges 30 and 31 west.	306 33 35	1,685 29	Surveys all completed; account for 3 townships not yet transmitted.
Harvey Mellen. ...	.....do.....	June 29, 1849	Townships 45, 46, and 47 north, range 2 west; townships 45, 46, and 47 north, range 3 west; townships 46 and 47 north, ranges 4 and 5 west.	513 60 42	2,065 02	Notes returned, but not yet platted.
			Townships 44 and 45 north, ranges 4 and 5 west.	.....	.....(*).....	

Wells Burt.....	.....do.....	.....do.....	Townships 50 and 51 north, range 5 west; townships 47, 48, 49, 50, and 51 north, range 6 west; townships 48, 49, and 50 north, range 7 west.	438 28 85	1,753 44	
			Townships 45 and 46 north, range 6 west; townships 45, 46, and 47 north, range 7 west	.....	(*)	Surveys completed in the field; returns not yet received.
Guy H. Carleton..	.....do.....	July 14, 1849	Townships 42, 43, 44, and 45 north, range 12 west; townships 42 and 45 north, range 13 west.	391 61 79	1,567 09	
			Townships 43 and 44 north, range 13 west.	.....	(*)	Surveys completed; returns not yet received.

\* Accounts not yet made up.

SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE, *Detroit, November 12, 1850.*

CHARLES NOBLE, *Surveyor General.*

Doc. No. 9.

## B.

Statement of contracts entered into since the date of the last annual report, showing the progress of surveys therein up to the present date.

Name of contractor.	Date of contract.	Time allowed.	Townships embraced in contract.	Estimated miles.	Price per mile.	Notes of townships returned.	Miles returned.	Amount of account transmitted.	Remarks.
Lucius Lyon.....	1850. April 19	1851. Feb. 1	Township 27 north, ranges 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16 west; township 28 north, ranges 7, 8, 9, and 10 west; township 29 north, ranges 7, 8, and 9 west; township 30 north, ranges 7, 8, and 9 west; or, in lieu thereof, other townships not exceeding.....	1,020	\$5	Township 27 north, ranges 7, 8, and 9 west.	Miles. chs. lks 186 76 09	\$934 76	Resurveys. In all 12 townships resurveyed; notes of 9 not yet returned.
Hiram Burnham...	April 19	Jan. 1	Townships 31, 32, and 33 north, range 2 east; townships 31, 32, and 33 north, range 3 east.	390	4	.....	.....	.....	Four townships surveyed; notes not yet returned.
Austin Burt.....	April 19	Jan. 1	Township 31 north, ranges 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 west; township 34 north, ranges 1 and 2 west; and township 31 north, range 1 east.	560	4	Township 31 north, ranges 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 west; township 34 north, ranges 1 and 2 west; township 31 north, range 1 east.	.....	.....	Field-work completed, and notes all returned. Office work in progress.

William Burt.....	April 30	Jan.	1	Township 32 north, ranges 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 west; township 33 north, ranges 1 and 2 west; and townships 32 and 33 north, range 1 east.	640	4	Township 32 north, ranges 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 west; township 33 north, ranges 1 and 2 west; townships 32 and 33 north, range 1 east.	Field-work completed, and notes returned. Office work completed.
William Ives.....	April 20	Jan.	1	Townships 44, 45, 46, and 47 north, range 16 west; townships 44, 45, 46, and 47 north, range 17 west.	500	4	.....	Field-work completed; notes not yet returned.
John Burt.....	April 26	Jan.	1	Townships 41, 42, 43, 44, and 45 north, range 27 west; townships 41, 42, 43, 44, and 45 north, range 28 west.	630	6	.....	Field-work completed; notes not yet returned.
Z. B. Serls.....	April 26	Jan.	1	Townships 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, and 48 north, range 21 west.	313	4	.....	Field-work completed; notes not yet returned.
Wells Burt.....	April 26	Jan.	1	Townships 46, 47, 48, 49, and 50 north, range 8 west.	360	4	.....	Field-work completed; notes not yet returned.
Harvey Mellen.....	April 26	Jan.	1	Townships 46, 47, 48, 49, and 50 north, range 9 west.	300	4	.....	Field-work completed; notes not yet returned.
Guy H. Carleton...	May 10	Jan.	1	Townships 44 and 45 north, range 14 west; townships 44 and 45 north, range 15 west.	250	4	.....	Field-work completed; notes not yet returned.

SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
*Detroit, November 12, 1850.*

CHARLES NOBLE, *Surveyor General.*

*List of township plats and descriptive sheets made from surveys returned since November 5, 1849, and on file in this office, and of copies sent to proper officers, with date of transmission.*

Townships—north.	Ranges—west.	Land district.	Number of plats made.					Date of transmission to Commissioner.	Date of transmission to Register.	Date of transmission to Foster and Whitney, U. States geologists.	No. of descriptive sheets made.		
			Office.	Commissioner.	Register.	Foster and Whitney.	Total.				Office.	Register.	Total.
45, 46, and 47.....	2 and 3.....	Lake Superior	6	6	6	.....	18	Mar. 14, 1850	May 30, 1850	1850.	6	.....	6
46 and 47.....	4 and 5.....	do	4	4	4	.....	12	do	do	.....	4	.....	4
50 and 51.....	5.....	do	2	2	2	.....	6	do	do	.....	2	.....	2
47, 48, 49, 50, and 51.....	6.....	do	5	5	5	.....	15	do	May 30 & July 22, 1850.	.....	5	.....	5
48, 49, and 50.....	7.....	do	3	3	3	.....	9	do	May 30 & July 22, 1850.	.....	3	.....	3
45.....	8 and 9.....	do	2	2	2	.....	6	Feb. 13, 1850	May 30, 1850	.....	2	.....	2
42, 43, 44, and 45.....	10 and 11.....	do	8	8	8	.....	24	Feb. 13 & June 15, 1850.	May 30 & July 22, 1850.	.....	8	.....	8
42, 43, 44, and 45.....	12.....	do	4	4	4	.....	12	April 15, 1850	May 30, 1850	.....	4	.....	4
42 and 45.....	13.....	do	2	2	.....	4	Sept. 3, 1850	Not sent.....	.....	.....	2	.....	2
42 and 43.....	19.....	do	2	2	2	.....	6	Feb. 20, 1850	Aug. 27, 1850	.....	2	.....	2
43.....	20.....	do	1	1	1	.....	3	do	July 22, 1850	.....	1	.....	1
41 and 42.....	17.....	do	2	2	1	.....	5	Not sent.....	Not sent.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
42 and 43.....	18.....	do	2	2	.....	4	do	do	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
37 and 39.....	28.....	do	2	2	2	2	8	April 10, 1850	Aug. 27, 1850	June 25	.....	.....	.....
38 and 40.....	28.....	do	2	2	.....	4	Suspended.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
37, 38, 39, 41, and 42.....	29.....	do	5	5	5	5	20	Mar. 15 & Ap'l 10, 1850.	May 30 & Aug. 27, 1850.	June 25	2	2	4
40.....	29.....	do	1	1	.....	2	Suspended.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

39, 40, 41, and 42.....	30.....	do.....	4	4	4	4	16	Mar. 15 & Ap <sup>r</sup> l 10, 1850.	May 30, July 22, and Aug. 27, 1850.	June 25	2	2	4
39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, and 45..	31.....	do.....	7	7	7	7	28	Mar. 15 & Ap <sup>r</sup> l 10, 1850.	May 30, July 22, and Aug. 27, 1850.	...do...	5	5	10
41, 42, 43, 44, and 45.....	32.....	do.....	5	5	5	5	20	Mar. 15 & Ap <sup>r</sup> l 13, 1850.	May 30 & July 22, 1850.	...do...	5	5	10
50.....	32, 33, and 34.....	do.....	3	3	3	3	12	Mar. 18, 1850	May 30, 1850	...do...	3	3	6
52.....	33 and 34.....	do.....	2	2	2	2	8	do.....	July 22, 1850	...do...	2	2	4
54.....	31.....	do.....	1	1	1	1	4	do.....	May 30, 1850	...do...	1	1	2
22.....	3.....	Grand river.....	1	1	1	...	3	Dec. 4, 1849	Not sent.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
26.....	7.....	do.....	1	1	1	...	3	do.....	do.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
27.....	7, 8, and 9.....	do.....	3	3	3	...	9	Aug. 1, 1850	do.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Diagrams of 30 islands in the Kalamazoo river.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Aug. 29, 1850	Aug. 29, 1850	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total.....	.....	.....	80	80	72	29	261	.....	.....	.....	57	20	77

SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE, *Detroit, November 13, 1850.*

CHARLES NOBLE, *Surveyor General.*

## D.

*List of plats recorded since th 15th of November, 1849, not included in statement C.*

Townships—north.	Ranges.	Land districts.	No. of plats made.
21, 22, 23, 24, 25, and 26.....	5 E.....	Saginaw.....	6
21, 22, 23, 24, 25, and 26.....	6 E.....	do.....	6
21, 23, and 24.....	3 E.....	do.....	3
21, 22, 23, and 24.....	4 E.....	do.....	4
23, 24, and 25.....	7 E.....	do.....	3
11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, and 19.....	13 E.....	do.....	9
11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, and 19.....	14 E.....	do.....	9
11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18.....	15 E.....	do.....	8
11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16.....	16 E.....	do.....	6
15, 16, 17, and 18.....	6 W.....	Grand River.....	4
16, 17, and 18.....	7 W.....	do.....	3
16, 17, and 18.....	8 W.....	do.....	3
21.....	9 & 10 W.....	do.....	2
22.....	14 W.....	do.....	1
21 and 22.....	15 W.....	do.....	2
21 and 22.....	16 W.....	do.....	2
21 and 22.....	17 W.....	do.....	2
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10.....	1, 2, 3, 4, & 6 W.....	do.....	50
1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, and 10.....	5 W.....	do.....	7
4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10.....	7 W.....	do.....	7
1, 2, and 3.....	7 W.....	Kalamazoo.....	3
New plats, of eight townships, adjoining the private claims on the river Raisin, one copy each for this office and Commissioner.....		Detroit.....	16
One connected map of private claims, with public surveys adjoining, compiled from the field-notes, with copy for General Land Office.			
			136

SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
Detroit, November 12, 1850.

CHARLES NOBLE,  
Surveyor General.



E.

Statement of field-notes recorded since November 5, 1849, (the date of the last annual report.)

Townships—north.	Ranges.	State.	Number of pages recorded.	Remarks.
21, 22, 23, and 24.....	1 E.....	Michigan.	1, 102	Resurveyed. Records for preservation in the surveyor general's office in Detroit.
21, 22, 23, and 24.....	2 E.....			
21, 22, 23, and 24.....	3 E.....			
21, 22, 23, 24, and 25.....	4 E.....			
21, 22, 23, 24, 25, and 26.....	5 E.....			
21, 22, 23, 24, and 25.....	6 E.....			
36 and 37.....	19 W (islands).....	Michigan.	710	Records.
36.....	20 W...do.....			
40.....	16 W.....			
39 and 40.....	17 W.....			
38, 39, and 40.....	18 W.....			
37, 38, 39, and 40.....	19 W.....			
38, 39, and 40.....	20 W.....			
38, 39, and 40.....	21 W.....			
38, 39, and 40.....	22 W.....			
37, 38, 39, and 40.....	23 W.....			
63.....	36, 37, 38, and 39 W.	Michigan.	655	Records.
64.....	36, 37, 38, and 39 W.			
65.....	34, 35, 36, and 37 W.			
66.....	34 and 35 W.....			
67.....	34 W.....	Michigan.	29	Records.
30 islands in the Kalamazoo	.....			
Total pages.....	.....	.....	2, 496	

SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
 Detroit, November 12, 1850.

CHAS. NOBLE, Surveyor General.

## F.

List of descriptive notes made since November 5, 1849, not included in statement C.

Townships—north.	Ranges.	Land district.	Number of copies.		
			Office.	Registrar.	Total.
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10....	1 to 6 west....	Grand river....	60		60
1, 2, and 3.....	7 to 16 west....	Kalamazoo....	30		30
1.....	17 west....	do....	1		1
4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10.....	7 to 16 west....	Grand river....	70		70
8, 9, and 10.....	17 west....	do....	3		3
11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17....	1 east....	Saginaw....	7		7
11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16.....	2 east....	do....	6		6
12, 13, and 14.....	6 east....	do....	3		3
12, 13, 14, and 15.....	7 east....	do....	4		4
39, 40, and 43.....	9 west....	Lake Superior....	3	3	6
39, 40, 42, and 43....	10 west....	do....	4	4	8
38, 39, 40, 42, and 43....	11 west....	do....	5	5	10
38, 42, 43, 44, and 45....	12 west....	do....	5	5	10
45, 46, and 47.....	2 west....	do....	3	3	6
45, 46, and 47.....	3 west....	do....	3	3	6
46 and 47.....	4 & 5 west....	do....	4	4	8
49 and 50.....	6 west....	do....	2	2	4
50 and 51.....	5 west....	do....	2		2
47, 48, and 51.....	6 west....	do....	3		3
48, 49, and 50.....	7 west....	do....	3		3
45.....	8 west....	do....	1		1
44 and 45.....	9 west....	do....	2		2
44 and 45.....	10 west....	do....	2		2
44 and 45.....	11 west....	do....	2		2
42 and 43.....	19 west....	do....	2		2
42 and 43.....	20 west....	do....	2		2
42.....	21 west....	do....	1		1
41.....	22 & 23 west....	do....	2		2
46 and 47.....	24 west....	do....	2	(*)	2
46, 47, 48, and 49....	25 west....	do....	4		4
46, 47, 48, 49, 50, and 51....	26 west....	do....	6	(*)	6
51 and 52.....	27 west....	do....	2	(*)	2
51 and 52.....	28 west....	do....	2	(*)	2
51, 52, and 53.....	29 west....	do....	3	(*)	3
51, 52, and 53.....	30 west....	do....	3	(*)	3
51, 52, and 53.....	31 west....	do....	3	(*)	3
35 and 36.....	24 west....	do....	2		2
33, 34, 35, and 36.....	25 west....	do....	4		4
32, 33, 34, and 35.....	26 west....	do....	4		4
31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 46, 47, and 48....	27 west....	do....	8		16
32, 33, 46, 47, and 48....	28 west....	do....	5		10
41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, and 48....	29 west....	do....	8		16
41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, and 48....	30 west....	do....	8		16
41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48 & 54....	31 west....	do....	9		18
41, 42, 43, 44, 45, and 50.....	32 west....	do....	6		12
41.....	18, 19, 20, & 21 west....	do....	4		8
50, 52, 66, and 67.....	33 west....	do....	4		8
50, 52, 65, 66, and 67.....	34 west....	do....	5		10
56.....	30 west....	do....	1	(*)	1
55 and 56.....	31 west....	do....	2	(*)	2
51, 52, 53, 54, 55, and 56.....	32 west....	do....	6	(*)	6

F—Continued.

Townships--north.	Ranges.	Land district.	Number of copies.		
			Office.	Register.	Total.
51, 53, 54, 55, 56, and 57 .....	33 west .....	Lake Superior....	6	..(*)	6
55 and 56 .....	34 west .....	do.....	2	..(*)	2
65 and 66 .....	35 west .....	do.....	2	2	4
63, 64, and 65 .....	36 west .....	do.....	3	2	6
63, 64, and 65 .....	37 west .....	do.....	3	2	6
63 and 64 .....	38 west .....	do.....	2	2	4
63 and 64 .....	39 west .....	do.....	2	2	4
			356	108	464

NOTE.—(\*) This mark indicates that the register's copies have been made, but were embraced in former reports.

SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE, *Detroit, November 12, 1850.*

CHARLES NOBLE, *Surveyor General.*

SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
Donaldsonville, La., November 4, 1850.

SIR: As required by your letter of October 16, 1850, I have the honor to present you the annual report of this office, showing the operations of the department in surveys and office-work since the 18th of October, 1849, the date of my last annual report, and enclose you the documents mentioned herein, in triplicate, illustrative of the situation of the surveying operations in the State, viz:

*Document marked A—Tabular statement of contracts.*—In this document appear two contracts which have existed since the year 1841, and which have not yet been completed; I refer to those in the names of H. O. Terrell and of John H. Dickerson. It is believed that the last-mentioned surveyor has left the State, as he has not for two years past made any communications to this office showing an intention to complete his contract. In my letter to you of the 16th of July, 1850, I have given lists of defects in his surveys, and have recommended a complete resurvey of the townships in his contracts, and again respectfully urge it. The field notes returned by Mr. Terrell have not yet received that examination which would justify me at present in condemning his work. Sufficient evidence, however, is known to create strong suspicions as to its correctness, and, as soon as proper examinations are had, a report will be made to you of the result.

In neither of these two contracts is the security sufficient to justify payments to be made for surveys executed under them, even if those surveys were done to the satisfaction of this office, and I have retained them in the statement because they have not yet been formally cancelled.

It will be seen that there are several other contracts which have likewise existed for a long time; but these have nearly all been renewed, and the time extended for their completion, with the written consent of the sureties, who have entered into additional bonds for the faithful performance of the surveys.

The surveys under these contracts have not progressed during the past year with as much rapidity as was desired, owing to the overflow of the Mississippi river and other rivers and bayous in this State. This has not only prevented the surveyors from completing their contracts at the times specified, but, unfortunately for large portions of the State, has carried devastation and almost ruin to many, from whose fatal effects years of patient toil and exertion will be required to enable the planter to recover what he has lost.

Notwithstanding these difficulties, there have been returned to the office field-notes of twenty-five townships, besides surveys of private claims made under special orders of survey. These returns for the most part are very complicated, containing many private claims, which always require great accuracy and judgment in their location. There are not many townships containing public lands exclusively in the State, now remaining to be surveyed, that would pay for the cost of survey, unless those included within the limits of the claims of the "Baron de Bastrop" and "Maison Rouge" be finally decided by the courts to belong to the United States. With regard to these claims, I again urge upon the government the necessity of a speedy settlement of the controversy, which is due alike to the owners of the claims, as it is to the settlers upon the lands.

There are some surveys required to complete certain townships in the

southwestern district, bordering upon the Sabine river, marked D on the diagram of the State; but as your instructions of October 17, 1850, forbid surveys to be made when the greater part of the lands in a township is unfit for cultivation, and as the lands in these townships are of this character, I have not proposed a survey of them, nor of others in a similar situation.

There are also three townships on the west side of Red river, in the northwestern district, marked A on the diagram, which should be surveyed; but as the validity of the "Grappe" reservation, which covers a portion of these lands, is now *sub judice*, they must be deferred until a decision be made.

*Document marked B—Statement of the liabilities of the department for surveys under contracts, and for surveys under special instructions, exclusive of the Greensburg district, La.*—The estimated amounts which would be due to H. O. Terrell and to John H. Dickerson when their surveys are completed I have retained in this statement, because the amounts will always be due for these surveys, whether made by these surveyors or by others. If the contracts had been annulled prior to the date of my last annual report, I would have included them in the list of proposed surveys; and as sufficient funds have lately been appropriated for all the liabilities of the office, including these townships, I propose to let them out under contract when duly authorized by you, upon the report dated July 16, 1850, upon Dickerson's work, and upon the report upon that of H. O. Terrell, hereafter to be sent up.

The liabilities above referred to amount to \$37,173 78; and the late appropriations in these districts for liabilities and proposed surveys, with the unexpended balances of former appropriations, amount to \$63,281 01; thus leaving a fund of \$26,107 23, as stated in this document, to be used for all proposed surveys.

*Document marked C—Statement of the liabilities of the department for surveys under contracts in the Greensburg district, La.*—The liabilities in this district amount to \$10,312 38; and the late appropriations with unexpended balances amount to \$14,208 71; thus creating a surplus of \$3,896 33, to be used on account of all proposed surveys in the district.

*Document marked D—Estimate for proposed surveys, exclusive of the Greensburg district, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1852.*—These proposed surveys are very necessary, being principally in townships containing confirmed claims which sooner or later must be surveyed and represented upon the township maps. The amount is perhaps much smaller than might have been anticipated, considering the many townships in the State, especially in the southeastern district, that have been found, or are strongly suspected to be, necessary to be resurveyed on account of miscllosures therein and in the erroneous location of claims. The reason is, that I have estimated for those only that I know, by retraction and other rigid examinations, absolutely required correction.

The force of the office, as may be seen by referring to the amount of office work performed during the year, has been actively and laboriously engaged in a critical examination, protraction and calculation of surveyors' returns, and in making and copying documents sent up to the different offices connected with the department, and consequently not much could be done in retraction of old-suspected surveys with a view of ascertaining the precise extent of their defects; but it is confidently expected that

this service will be particularly attended to the coming year, as the greater part of the late surveys returned to the office has been already examined and approved, and more force can hereafter be spared for this purpose.

The proposed surveys in these districts amount to \$13,682; which added to those of last year, amounting to \$16,938, make a total of \$30,620 of proposed surveys not yet contracted for.

According to document B, there is a balance of \$26,107 23 applicable to these surveys; consequently there is the additional sum of \$4,512 77 only to be appropriated for proposed surveys for the year ending June 30, 1852, as fully appears per document D herewith.

*Document marked E—Estimates for proposed surveys in the Greensburg district, Louisiana, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1852.*—By act of Congress approved August 29, 1842, and Commissioner's letter of instructions, dated July 31, 1844, it is apparent that the whole of this district is intended to be resurveyed.

The proposed surveys are for townships not heretofore acted upon; and if the amount asked for be appropriated, enough will be on hand, it is believed, to complete the district.

In this list there are several townships that contain but very few claims, and there are others having none; and it might be supposed, at the first glance, that a resurvey of these might not be necessary, and this expense saved to the government. In justification of these proposed resurveys, I would state that in many adjacent townships similar to those now under consideration, and which had been originally surveyed by the same surveyor, the old lines were found to have been very badly marked, and the old corners nearly obliterated; and I have felt convinced that if a resurvey was necessary in one case, it would be necessary in another, where the same circumstances existed; besides, these resurveys will close and complete the district, which is a consideration not to be entirely overlooked.

These proposed surveys amount to \$8,527, and there is an available balance of \$3,896 33, per document C—consequently the small sum of \$4,630 67 is all that is necessary to be appropriated to complete the district.

*Document marked F—Estimate of funds required to meet the liabilities of the department, in all its branches for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1852.*—This document has been fully prepared from balances stated in documents marked D and E. The sums have been estimated for in as economical a view as possible, consistent with the requirements of the public service, and it is hoped that all will be granted.

*Document marked G—List of documents representing surveys prepared in the office and transmitted to the General Land Office and to the registers' offices since the 18th of October, 1849.*—The force of the office during the past year has been extensively engaged in very laborious examinations of surveyors' returns, protraction of maps, calculation of areas, copying documents for the General Land Office, registers' offices, and for individuals. It is confidently believed that the amount and execution of work despatched will favorably compare with the majority of past years. Increased efforts will be made on the part of this office to advance the public service; to the end that the surveys in the State may soon be finished, the titles to the lands completed, and all sources of litigation upon this account prevented.

There have been transmitted to the General Land Office, viz:

Township maps	-	-	-	-	57
Diagrams representing surveys	-	-	-	-	44
Plats of private claims	-	-	-	-	5
Letters and reports	-	-	-	-	148

Total	-	-	-	-	<u>254</u>
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To the register of the Greensburg district, viz:

Township maps	-	-	-	-	16
Diagrams representing surveys	-	-	-	-	4
Plats of private claims	-	-	-	-	59
Letters	-	-	-	-	49

Total	-	-	-	-	<u>128</u>
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To the register of the southwestern district, viz:

Township maps	-	-	-	-	5
Diagrams of surveys	-	-	-	-	3
Letters	-	-	-	-	21

Total	-	-	-	-	<u>29</u>
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To the register of the northwestern district, viz:

Township maps	-	-	-	-	4
Diagrams of surveys	-	-	-	-	5
Letters	-	-	-	-	10

Total	-	-	-	-	<u>19</u>
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To the register of the district north of Red river, viz:

Township maps	-	-	-	-	9
Diagram	-	-	-	-	1
Letters	-	-	-	-	17

Total	-	-	-	-	<u>27</u>
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To the register of the southeastern district, viz:

Township maps	-	-	-	-	23
Diagrams	-	-	-	-	20
Plat of private claims	-	-	-	-	1
Letters	-	-	-	-	47

Total	-	-	-	-	<u>91</u>
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Letters have been written to deputy surveyors upon the subject of the public surveys, and to individuals, amounting to 297—thus showing to have been prepared and transmitted from this office:

Maps	-	-	-	-	114
Diagrams	-	-	-	-	77
Plats of claims	-	-	-	-	65
Letters	-	-	-	-	589

Total documents during the year	-	-	-	-	<u>845</u>
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In addition to this, the personal calls of individuals at the office for copies of documents and for other information have been numerous.

*Document marked H—List of deputy surveyors commissioned since the 1st of June, 1849.*

*Document marked I—Diagram of the State of Louisiana.*—This document represents townships which are considered complete, or in which further surveys are unnecessary; those which have been surveyed, but which, upon proper protraction, may require correction; those which are defective, and require resurvey or additional surveys to complete them; those unsurveyed and of such swampy or marshy character as to render their cultivation entirely impracticable, and those proposed to be surveyed. Upon this diagram has been placed as much of the topography of the State as was practicable.

Having thus given a list of the documents herewith sent up, with a short explanation following each in regular order, it will now be necessary to make a few additional remarks upon other subjects.

#### *Survey of confirmed claims.*

It has been the policy and practice of the federal government for many years past to cause these claims to be surveyed by United States surveyors and at the public expense. This is a wise regulation. It produces uniformity in returns, and secures their proper location and representation upon the township maps. If the owners of these claims were required to pay for the surveys, many claims would never be located, because, in some instances, the expense would be as much as the claims were worth; and the government not knowing private from public property, might sell lands—as has been done in many instances—covered by these claims, thus creating great dissatisfaction among citizens, and usually ending in protracted litigation. The number of confirmed claims to be located by this office amounts to nearly *nine thousand*, of which about *six thousand five hundred* have been surveyed and represented upon the township maps; leaving nearly *two thousand five hundred* unsurveyed and unrepresented. Of the *six thousand five hundred* surveyed claims, many, in the southeastern district especially, will require correction; while all those in the Greensburg district not located since the year 1844 are to be resurveyed. Of the *two thousand five hundred* unsurveyed claims, a considerable number are situated in townships completed prior to the act of Congress confirming them, so that in surveying such claims many township maps will require to be corrected or amended. The incorrect and imperfect manner in which claims have been surveyed in times past, and their incomplete connexion with the lines and corners of the public surveys, have been one of the most fruitful sources of difficulty which this office has encountered, and it is towards the final settlement of these surveys that the efforts of the department should now principally be directed. As the unsurveyed claims are scattered over many townships, and as contracts in the usual form could not well be made with surveyors for such detached surveys, I have thought it would be the best mode of completing these surveys, and the least expensive to the government, to employ a surveyor at a yearly salary, and to pay his necessary expenses. His duty would be to survey all confirmed claims not heretofore located which are in townships not



requiring correction in other particulars, and he should give bond with good sureties for the faithful performance of all surveys intrusted to him.

It is believed that there is sufficient employment for at least one year; but if it should happen otherwise, the surveyor could be advantageously employed as a clerk in this office. In document F I have estimated for this service and for the necessary expenses, and recommend the subject to your favorable consideration.

*Approval of township maps.*

It is ascertained that Gideon Fitz, esq., surveyor south of Tennessee, placed his official signature to about *one hundred and one* township maps, and to a great number of plats of surveys of private claims in this State, subsequent to the 3d of March, 1831, the date of the act of Congress establishing this office.

The Supreme Court of the United States has decided that he had no authority to approve documents after the above date; and the consequence is, that these maps and plats will have to be re-examined and approved to give them authenticity. This subject was alluded to in my last year's report; and I again present it for your consideration.

*Selection of swamp lands granted to the State of Louisiana by act of Congress approved March 2, 1849.*

In conformity with your instructions upon this subject, dated April 18, 1850, which were delivered to me on the 9th of May last, by John Wilson, esq., I have to report that with the valuable aid of that gentleman, and after consultation with the officers of the State, the manner of making these selections was put into successful operation. The governor appointed A. D. Woodridge, esq., the State engineer, general agent; also two of the surveyors of this department, viz: Messrs. Wm. J. McCulloh and J. C. Taylor, to select generally throughout the State, and other surveyors to select in those townships *only* which they had surveyed.

I am happy to state that the utmost cordiality and uniformity of opinion have existed between the State officers and those of this department relative to the manner of proceeding to the selections themselves and to the appointment of agents.

Considerable progress has been made towards the completion of those selections, and no inconsiderable credit is due to the State agents for their exertions bestowed upon this subject, and for the amount of labor done by them since they commenced operations, as may be seen by the following synopsis:

In the southeastern district selections have been made in two hundred and forty-five townships, in which the surveyed swamp lands amount to - - - - - 1,146,003.10 acres.  
And the estimated amount of unsurveyed swamp lands is - - - - - 1,164,983.76 do

Total in this district - - - - - 2,310,986.86 do

In the southwestern district selections have been made in three hun-

dred and one townships, in which the amount of surveyed swamp land is	-	-	-	-	-	1,777,277.76 acres.
And the estimated amount of unsurveyed swamp lands is	-	-	-	-	-	1,520,457.21 do
Total in this district	-	-	-	-	-	<u>3,297,734.97 do</u>

In the district north of Red river, selections have been made in two hundred and twenty-two townships, in which the surveyed swamp lands amount to	-	-	-	-	-	1,894,573.10 acres.
And the estimated unsurveyed swamp lands amount to	-	-	-	-	-	48,663.39 do
Total in this district	-	-	-	-	-	<u>1,943,236.49 do</u>

In the Greensburg district, selections have been made in fifty-three townships, in which the surveyed swamp lands amount to	-	-	-	-	-	193,370.27 acres.
And the estimated unsurveyed swamp lands amount to	-	-	-	-	-	9,554.62 do
Total in this district	-	-	-	-	-	<u>202,924.89 do</u>

In the northwestern district selections have been made in ninety-eight townships, in which the surveyed swamp lands amount to	-	-	-	-	-	482,133.55 acres.
And the estimated unsurveyed swamp land amounts to	-	-	-	-	-	12,180.00 do
Total in this district	-	-	-	-	-	<u>494,313.55 do</u>

*Recapitulation.*—Total number of townships in which swamp lands have been selected, nine hundred and nineteen.

Surveyed swamp lands selected	-	-	-	-	-	5,493,357.78 acres.
Estimated unsurveyed swamp lands selected	-	-	-	-	-	2,755,838.98 do
Total of swamp lands in the state thus far selected	-	-	-	-	-	<u>8,249,196.76 do</u>

From this gross amount there must be subtracted the number of acres of these lands heretofore disposed of by sale or otherwise, and the remaining will be the net amount accorded to the State of Louisiana in the townships selected.

In connexion with this subject, it is proper to state that, in addition to the ordinary duties of surveyor general, I have personally examined every township map in which selections have been made, and every section and part of section selected, in order to satisfy myself that the quality of these lands was such as was required to inure to the State by the above-mentioned act of Congress and your instructions. The field-notes of the surveys on file in this office were strictly examined by the agents, and the selections were based upon them in nearly all cases.

All of, which is respectfully submitted.

R. W. BOYD,  
Surveyor General of Louisiana.

HON. J. BUTTERFIELD,  
Commissioner of the General Land Office, Washington City.

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A.

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STATEMENT  
OF  
SURVEYING CONTRACTS  
IN THE  
STATE OF LOUISIANA.

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## A.—Tabular statement of surveying

Date.	Name of contractor.	District.	Expiration of con- tract	Time extended.	Estimated number of miles.
Nov. 20, 1840	H. O. Terrell . . . . .	Southwestern .	May 20, 1841	.....	187½
Nov. 23, 1840	John H. Dickerson ..	.....do.....	July 1, 1841	.....	125
Oct. 3, 1842	Richardson & Powell.	Southeastern ..	July 1, 1843	July 1, 1846	.....
Oct. 7, 1842	Walsh & Campbell..	Southwestern .	July 31, 1843	Nov. 1, 1850	276 433
Oct. 28, 1842	Andrew Crawford . . .	Southeastern ..	Jan. 1, 1843	.....	190
Aug. 1, 1845	Silas Taylor . . . . .	Greensburg...	Aug. 1, 1846	Nov. 1, 1849	345

contracts in the State of Louisiana.

Price per mile.	Amount of contract.	Amount paid.	Remarks.
\$8	\$1,500 00	Uncertain.	See account, amounting to \$9,094, voucher No. 4, first quarter of 1844, for surveying in township 3, range 3 east; townships 5 and 6 south, range 4 east; township 8, ranges 2, 3, and 4 east, upon which Mr. Terrell admits to have received but \$1,180. An account for surveys in township 5 south, range 4 east, amounting to \$1,514 17, approved September 26, 1848, was sent up on the 28th September, 1848, but is not yet settled. Field-notes of township 3, south, range 3 east, have been returned and are approved. Field-notes in township 6 south, range 4 east, have likewise been returned, but have not yet been fully examined; defects are known to exist, which must be corrected before they can be approved. The bond upon this contract is insufficient. Township 8 south, ranges 2, 3, and 4 east, have been given to A. L. Fields for resurvey, as per contract of March 11, 1848. The above field-notes of township 6, range 4 east, do not state that the resurvey was or was not made upon the old lines; which is absolutely necessary to be stated.
8	1,000 00	....do....	Field-notes returned, which are very defective. A total resurvey recommended in surveyor general's letter of July 16, 1850, to the Commissioner. See accounts, amounting to \$8,385 42, voucher No. 1, first quarter of 1843, and voucher No. 6, first quarter of 1844, for the survey of townships 8, 9, and 10 south, ranges 5 and 6 east, being for the whole contract.
6 & 8	5,000 00	\$20,398 60	Field-notes of the whole contract have been returned. Township 11 south, range 12 east, (east of the Mississippi river,) not yet fully examined. Map of township 11 south, range 15 east, (west of the river,) with account amounting to \$629 03, approved and sent up June 27, 1850, but not yet settled. Map of township 13, range 14 east, and sketches of sections in townships 13 and 14, range 13 east, (east of the river,) with account amounting to \$304 66, approved and sent up September 19, 1850, but not yet settled.
4	1,104 00	Uncertain.	Contract cancelled October 13, 1847, except for townships 10 and 11 south, ranges 3 and 4 east. Field-notes of townships 10 and 11 south, range 4 east, were returned to the office; but, being insufficient, were sent back to the surveyor for correction. Mr. Walsh, one of the contractors, is dead, and the completion of the work now rests with Mr. Campbell. See voucher No. 2, first quarter of 1844, and voucher No. 1, second quarter of 1844, amounting to \$3,450 19, for surveys in these townships; see, also, voucher No. 10, third quarter of 1844, amounting to \$777 25, for the survey of townships 10, 11, and 12 south, range 7 west.
8	3,384 00		
5 & 8	1,300 00	....do....	Field-notes of township 5, ranges 10 and 11 east, returned, but are not complete. Township 5, range 9 east, not yet returned. The surveys under this contract have been retarded in consequence of the sickness of the surveyor and on account of the excessive high water caused by several large "crevasses," which took place in the vicinity during the past two years. See voucher No. 5, first quarter of 1844, amounting to \$2,498 85, for the survey of township 5, ranges 9, 10, and 11 east, being for the whole contract.
8	2,760 00	4,769 06	All the surveys in this contract returned, approved, and paid for, except township 5 south, range 13 east, which has been retarded on account of very high water

Date.	Name of contractor.	District.	Expiration of contract.	Time extended.	Estimated number of miles.
*Dec. 1, 1846	J. Claxton Taylor...	Greensburg...	Dec. 1, 1847	June 1, 1851	.....
*Oct. 25, 1847	Silas Taylor .....	.....do.....	July 1, 1848	Feb. 1, 1851	280
*Dec. 15, 1847	Henry Washington..	North of Red river.	Dec. 15, 1848	Dec. 1, 1850	.....
*Jan. 7, 1848	Wm. J. McCulloh...	.....do.....	Jan. 1, 1849	Jan. 1, 1851	.....
Jan. 28, 1848	A. G. Phelps.....	Southwest and north of Red river.	July 1, 1848	Dec. 1, 1848	150
Feb. 14, 1848	G. W. Morse'.....	Northwestern .....	.....do.....	.....	125
†Mar. 11, 1848	A. L. Fields.....	Southwestern..	Dec. 1, 1848	Dec. 1, 1850	485
*May 30, 1848	G. S. Walmsley.....	Northwestern.	Jan. 1, 1849	Jan. 1, 1851	50 275
*Dec. 19, 1848	Samuel C. Hepburn..	Greensburg ...	Dec. 1, 1849	.....do.....	275
Jan. 26, 1849	Aaron Vandorn .....	North of Red river.	Nov. 1, 1849	May 1, 1850	122 221
*Feb. 13, 1849	Wilson C. Robert...	Southwestern..	May 1, 1849	Jan. 1, 1851	216
*Feb. 24, 1849	W. W. Farmer .....	North of Red river.	Feb. 1, 1850	Sept. 1, 1850	375
*May 12, 1849	Joseph Troskolawski.	Greensburg ...	May 1, 1850	Jan. 1, 1851	370
May 17, 1849	Aaron Vandorn .....	Southeastern ..	Oct. 1, 1849	.....	60
*May 17, 1849	A. W. Warren.....	.....do.....	May 17, 1850	June 1, 1851	562½

\* New or additional bonds have been given for these contracts.

† The written consent of the sureties has been given for an extension of time to complete the surveys in this contract.

Continued.

Price per mile.	Amount of contract.	Amount paid.	Remarks.
\$7 and 8	\$3,720 00	\$2,481 65	Townships 7 and 8, range 1 west; townships 7 and 8, range 1 east; township 7, range 2 east; township 8, ranges 8 and 9 east; township 9, ranges 8 and 9 east; have not yet been returned, for various causes, but principally on account of sickness of the surveyor and of high water. The other townships in the contract have been surveyed, approved, and paid for.
8	2,240 00	2,078 06	Township 1, ranges 12, 13, and 14 east; not yet returned, but are nearly finished, and the balance of the contract completed and accounts settled.
(i)	3,600 00	2,980 14	Township 15 north, range 2 east; township 13 north, range 3 east; township 12 north, range 5 east; township 13 north, range 5 east; township 12 north, range 4 east, have been completed as far as the "Maison Rouge" claim would permit, and the accounts settled. The other townships in the contract have not been completed on account of high water. The surveyor is now in the field.
(i)	2,160 00	2,837 57	Townships 16 and 17 north, ranges 2 and 4 east, surveyed, approved, and paid for. Balance retarded on account of high water.
8	1,200 00	1,675 08	Township 3 north, range 2 west, and township 5 north, range 3 west; returned, but not finally examined. Balance of the contract surveyed, approved, and paid for.
8	1,000 00	1,753 28	Township 9 north, range 7 west, completed and paid for. The portion of township 9 north, range 8 west, returned, but not finally examined.
8	3,880 00	.....	No returns yet made. Surveys are progressing.
4	2,400 00	1,908 85	Township 7 north, range 6 west, returned and nearly ready for approval. Township 10, range 8 west, not yet returned.
6			Township 6 north, range 6 west, and township 8 north, range 6 west, completed and paid for.
8	2,200 00	4,114 85	Townships 3 and 5 south, range 14 east, not yet returned. Surveys retarded on account of high water. Balance of contract completed and paid for.
6	2,500 00	758 51	Township 18 north, ranges 3 and 4 east, not yet returned on account of high water. Balance of the contract completed and paid for.
8	1,728 00	.....	Surveys retarded on account of excessive overflow.
8	3,000 00	756 53	Township 20 north, range 3 east, completed and paid for. Balance of the contract retarded on account of high water, but is nearly complete.
8	2,960 00	716 20	Township 4 south, range 2 west, completed and paid for. Township 3 south, range 2 west, returned, but not finally examined. Townships 1 and 2 south, range 2 west, not yet finally surveyed.
8	480 00	.....	Surveys retarded on account of overflow, and awaiting the decision of the Secretary of the Interior upon the claims of Lafayette warrant No. 3 and Ursin Bouligay R. and R. No. 500. See surveyor general's report, dated August 27, 1849.
8	4,500 00	1,189 20	Township 12 south, range 4 east, and a part of township 11, range 4 east, completed and account settled. Balance of the contract retarded principally on account of high water.

† Originally \$6, but increased to \$8.

## B.

Statement showing the liabilities of the surveyor general's office at Donaldsonville, Louisiana, for surveys under contracts and instructions in the four other districts.

Districts and description of surveys.	Estimated number of miles.	Price per mile.	General appropriation.	Augmented rates.	Surveyors' names.	Date of contracts or instructions.	Remarks.
<i>Southwestern district.</i>							
Township 6 south, range 4 east.....	.....	\$8	.....	\$1,625 82	H. O. Terrell.....	Nov. 20, 1840	Field-notes returned; but not yet fully examined. Errors and omissions are known to exist, which will require correction. (See doc. A herewith.)
Township 8 south, range 5 east; township 8 south, range 6 east; township 9 south, range 5 east; township 9 south, range 6 east; township 10 south, range 5 east; township 10 south, range 6 east.	.....	8	.....	8,385 42	John H. Dickerson..	Nov. 23, 1840	Field-notes returned, which are very defective. A total resurvey is recommended in surveyor general's letter of July, 16, 1850. (See accounts; voucher 3, first quarter, 1843, and voucher 6, first quarter, 1844, for survey of the whole contract.) (See remarks in document A herewith.)
Township 10 south, range 3 east; township 10 south, range 4 east; township 11 south, range 3 east; township 11 south, range 4 east.	.....	8	.....	3,450 19	Walsh & Campbell..	Oct. 7, 1842	See voucher 2, first quarter, 1844, and voucher 1, second quarter, 1844, for \$3,450 19. The surveyor, Mr. Campbell, informs me that complete returns will be made during the last quarter of the present year. (See remarks in document A herewith.)
Township 3 north, range 2 west, 60 miles; township 5 north, range 3 west, 30 miles.	90	8	.....	720 00	A. G. Phelps.....	Mar. 25, 1847	Field-notes returned, but not fully examined.



<i>North of Red river.</i>							
Township 5 north, range 3 west, 20 miles...	20	8	.....	160 00	A. G. Phelps.....	Jan. 28, 1848	Filed-notes returned, but not fully examined.
<i>Southwestern district.</i>							
Township 7 south, range 2 east, 70 miles; township 7 south, range 3 east, 70 miles; township 7 south, range 4 east, 120 miles; township 8 south, range 2 east, 80 miles; township 8 south, range 3 east, 60 miles; township 8 south, range 4 east, 85 miles.	485	8	.....	3,880 00	A. L. Fields.....	Mar. 11, 1848	Surveys are progressing.
Township 1 north, range 7 east, 60 miles; and the traverse of Bayou Des Glaizes in townships 1 and 2 north, range 5 east; township 1 north, range 6 east; township 1 south, range 6 east.	216	8	.....	1,728 00	W. C. Robert.....	Feb. 13, 1849	Surveys are nearly finished.
<i>Northwestern district.</i>							
Part of 9 north, range 8 west .....	50	8	.....	400 00	G. W. Morse.....	Feb. 14, 1848	Surveys returned, but are not yet ready for approval.
Township 7 north, range 6 west .....	170	8	.....	1,360 00	} G. S. Walmsley ...	May 30, 1848	{ Surveys returned, but not yet finally examined. Surveys not yet returned.
Township 10 north, range 8 west, 50 miles ..	50	4	\$200 00 .....				
<i>North of Red river.</i>							
Township 14 north, range 3 east, 80 miles; township 15 north, range 3 east, 80 miles; township 13 north, range 4 east, 80 miles; township 14 north, range 4 east, 70 miles; township 15 north, range 4 east, 70 miles.	380	8	.....	3,040 00	Henry Washington..	Dec. 15, 1847	Surveys now progressing, and will be soon finished.
Township 18 north, range 3 east, 90 miles; township 18 north, range 4 east, 130 miles.	220	8	.....	1,760 00	Aaron Vandorn.....	Jan. 26, 1849	
Township 19 north, range 3 east, 80 miles; township 19 north, range 4 east, 100 miles; township 20 north, range 4 east, 115 miles.	295	8	.....	2,360 00	W. W. Farmer.....	Feb. 24, 1849	Surveys are nearly finished.
Division line between L. Egan, B. 283, and A. Dougherty, B. No. 154, in township 7 north, range 10 east, according to a decision of the register and receiver.	.....	10 p	er day & exp	50 00	Silas Taylor.....	Sept. 21, 1850	Survey made and returned, but not yet examined.

B—Continued.

Districts and description of surveys.	Estimated number of miles.	Price per mile.	General appropriation.	Augmented rates.	Surveyors' names.	Date of contracts or insructions.	Remarks.
<i>Southeastern district, west of Mississippi river.</i>							
Township 11 south, range 15 east, 80 miles; township 12 south, range 15 east, 70 miles; township 12 south, range 16 east, 17 miles.	167	\$8	.....	\$1,336 00	Richardson & Powell	Oct. 3, 1842	Surveys returned. Map of township 11 south, range 15 east, and account sent up June 27, 1850.
<i>Southeastern district, east of Mississippi river.</i>							
Township 11 south, range 12 east, 5 miles; township 13 south, ranges 13 and 14 east; and township 14 south, range 13 east:	43	8	.....	344 00	Richardson & Powell	Oct. 3, 1842	Surveys made, but not fully examined. A claim in township 11 south, range 12 east, to be surveyed. Map of township 13 south, range 14 east; and sketches in townships 13 and 14, range 13 east, with account sent up September 19, 1850.
<i>Southeastern district, west of Mississippi river.</i>							
Township 5 south, range 9 east; township 5 south, range 10 east; township 5 south, range 11 east; part of township 4 south, range 10 east; part of township 6 south, range 10 east; and part of township 6 south, range 11 east.	.....	5 & 8	.....	2,498 85	Andrew Crawford...	Oct. 28, 1842	Surveys are progressing since the fall of the high waters.
Township 3 south, range 8 east ..... Township 12 south, range 20 east; township 13 south, range 20 east; township 13 south, range 23 east; township 13 south, range 24 east; township 13 south, range 25 east; township 14 south, range 23	60	8	.....	480.00	Aaron Vandorn.....	May 17, 1849	See statement in document A.

east; township 14 south, range 24 east; township 14 south, range 25 east; town- ship 6 south, range 9 east.	8	3,310 80	A. W. Warren	May 17, 1849	
<i>Southeastern district, east of Mississippi river.</i>					
Township 11 south, range 2 east; part of township 10 south, range 2 east; town- ship 11 south, range 5 east; township 12 south, range 5 east.	8	284 70	Chas. J. Cabell	Nov. 7, 1849	Account approved and sent up March 4, 1850, but not yet paid.
Examinations in townships 15 and 16 south, range 12 east; township 16 south, range 13 east; township 17 south, ranges 14 and 15 east; township 18 south, ranges 15 and 16 east; township 19, ranges 16 and 17 east, of J. B. Womack's old work.					
Total liabilities		\$200 00	37,173 78		
Of the appropriation of \$21,623, act of June 17, 1844; there remains			641 25		
12,000, act of Mar. 3, 1845.....do.....			423 44		
3,704, act of Aug. 10, 1846.....do.....			3,704 00		
21,000, act of Mar. 3, 1847.....do.....			1,471 99		
14,230, act of Aug. 12, 1848.....do.....			9,490 33		
30,550, act of Sept. 30, 1850.....do.....			30,550 00		
17,000, act of Sept. 30, 1850.....do.....			17,000 00		
Total appropriation unexpended..			63,281 01		
Balance, amounting to.....			26,107 23		Which may be used for the proposed surveys in document D of last year, and for the proposed surveys in document D herewith.

SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE, Donaldsonville, Louisiana, November 4, 1850.

R. W. BOYD, Surveyor General, Louisiana.

Doc. No. 9.

## C.

Statement showing the liabilities of the surveyor general's office at Donaldsonville, Louisiana, for surveys under contracts and instructions, Greensburg district, Louisiana.

Surveyors' names.	Dates of contracts or instructions.	Description of surveys.	Estimated No. of miles.	Price per mile.	Total amount.	Remarks.
Silas Taylor.....	Aug. 1, 1845	Township 5 south, range 13 east.....	100	\$8	\$800 00	Surveys retarded on account of high water, but are nearly finished.
J. Claxton Taylor.....	Dec. 1, 1846	Township 7 south, range 1 west, 90 miles; township 8 south, range 1 west, 60 miles; township 7 south, range 1 east, 100 miles; township 8 south, range 1 east, 90 miles; township 7 south, range 2 east, 90 miles; townships 8 and 9 south, ranges 8 and 9 east, 35 miles;	465	8	3,720 00	Some progress has been made towards the completion of these townships; they are full of private claims, and are difficult to resurvey; which, with sickness of the contractor, and high water, have prevented the completion of the contract.
Silas Taylor.....	Oct. 25, 1847	Township 1 south, range 12 east, 70 miles; township 1 south, range 13 east, 70 miles; township 1 south, range 14 east, 100 miles.	240	8	1,920 00	Part of these surveys retarded on account of high water; complete returns may soon be expected.
S. C. Hepburn.....	Dec. 19, 1848	Township 3 south, range 14 east, 30 miles; township 5 south, range 14 east, 25 miles.	55	8	440 00	Surveys partly made; balance retarded on account of high water.
Joseph Troskolawski...	May 12, 1849	Township 1 south, range 2 west, 90 miles; township 2 south, range 2 west, 100 miles; township 3 south, range 2 west, 100 miles;	290	8	2,320 00	Field-notes of township 3 south, range 2 west, returned, but not finally examined; complete returns may soon be expected.
					9,200 00	
To which should be added the following unsettled accounts, viz:						
George C. Vanzandt, sent up December 22, 1846.....					726 27	
H. T. Williams, sent up June 30, 1847.....					386 11	
Total amount of liabilities.....					10,312 38	

Of the appropriation of \$11,650, per act of March 3, 1845, there remains .....	2,671 15	
Of the appropriation of \$20,400, per act of August 10, 1846, there remains .....	8,325 56	
Of the appropriation of \$3,212, per act of September 30, 1850, there remains .....	3,212 00	
<b>Total appropriation unexpended .....</b>	<b>14,208 71</b>	
<b>Balance, amounting to .....</b>	<b>3,836 33</b>	Which may be used for the proposed surveys in document E of last year, and proposed surveys in document E herewith.

SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE, Donaldsonville, La., November 4, 1850.

R. W. BOYD, Surveyor General, Louisiana.

*Estimate for proposed surveys in the State of Louisiana, exclusive of the Greensburg district, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1852.*

Districts and townships.	Estimated number of miles.	Price per mile.	Amount at augmented rates.	Remarks.
<i>North of Red river.</i>				
Township 7 north, range 4 east .....	96	\$8	\$768 00	Claims to be surveyed and connexions taken; old work miscloses in many instances, and some original surveys necessary.
Township 10 north, range 7 east .....	15	8	120 00	Location of the claims of Santiago del Rio and Pedro Poze, and connexions.
Township 12 north, range 6 east .....	7	8	56 00	Location of the claim of Gilberte Gillardo, and connexions.
Township 11 north, range 8 east .....	15	8	120 00	Location of the claims of Julian de Leon and Antoine Courcel, and connexions.
<i>Northwestern.</i>				
Township 11 north, range 8 west .....	100	8	600 00	Resurvey of private claims and public lands, rendered necessary by the fact that the surveys on the west boundary are very defective. (See surveyor general's letter of June 22, 1850.)
Township 22 north, range 7 west .....	60	7	420 00	Correction of old work found very defective. (See surveyor general's report of April 25, 1850, to the Commissioner.)
Township 22 north, range 9 west .....	66	7	462 00	.....do.....do.....do.....do.....do.
Township 22 north, range 11 west .....	78	7	546 00	.....do.....do.....do.....do.....do.
Township 23 north, range 9 west .....	72	7	504 00	.....do.....do.....do.....do.....do.
Township 23 north, range 10 west .....	72	7	504 00	.....do.....do.....do.....do.....do.
Township 23 north, range 11 west .....	72	7	504 00	.....do.....do.....do.....do.....do.
Township 23 north, range 12 west .....	66	7	462 00	.....do.....do.....do.....do.....do.
<i>Southwestern.</i>				
Township 11 south, range 5 east .....	80	8	640 00	Location of claims, and corrective surveys required. (See surveyor general's letter of April 29, 1850, to the Commissioner.)
Township 17 south, range 9 east .....	50	8	400 00	Ordered by Commissioner's letter of May 7, 1850.
Township 16 south, range 10 east .....	20	8	160 00	Location of claims, and connexions necessary.

*Southeastern, west of the Mississippi river.*

Township 3 south, range 9 east.....	65	8	520 00
Township 7 south, range 12 east.....	5	8	40 00
Township 10 south, range 12 east.....	20	8	160 00
Township 12 south, range 16 east.....	100	8	800 00
Township 13 south, range 16 east.....	20	8	160 00
Township 12 south, range 17 east.....	80	8	640 00
Township 13 south, range 17 east.....	40	8	320 00
Township 14 south, range 18 east.....	60	8	480 00
Township 14 south, range 19 east.....	80	8	640 00
Township 14 south, range 20 east.....	70	8	560 00
Township 15 south, range 16 east.....	30	8	240 00
Township 15 south, range 17 east.....	20	8	160 00
Township 15 south, range 18 east.....	20	8	160 00
Township 15 south, range 20 east.....	70	8	560 00
Township 15 south, range 21 east.....	70	8	560 00
Township 17 south, range 19 east.....	20	8	160 00
Township 17 south, range 20 east.....	5	8	40 00
Township 17 south, range 21 east.....	7	8	56 00
Township 19 south, range 17 east.....	40	8	320 00
Township 20 south, range 29 east.....	10	8	80 00

Location of claims; old surveys misclose in many instances.  
 Location of the claim of Valerian Allain, and connexions necessary.  
 Location of back pre-emptions, and the necessary connexions.  
 Location of claims and back pre-emptions, and some original surveys; old surveys misclose in several instances:  
 ...do.....do.....do.....do.....do.....do  
 This township miscloses considerably; only two connexions of the claims to the township boundaries are given. Complete survey necessary.  
 Claims to be resurveyed, and connexions taken to the boundaries and section lines.  
 Original surveys, and claim of C. B. Florian.  
 ...do.....do.....do.....do.....do.....do  
 ...do.....do.....do.....do.....do.....do  
 That part east of Bayou Terre-Bonne, in order to complete the township. Old field-notes very defective.  
 Claims to be surveyed which have not yet been located.  
 ...do.....do.....do.....do.....do.....do  
 Original surveys, and location of claim of C. B. Florian.  
 ...do.....do.....do.....do.....do.....do  
 Location of the claim of Valentin Saulet.  
 Location of the claim of J. E. D. Liyaudais, N. 203.  
 ...do.....do.....do.....do.....do.....do  
 Location of private claims, and necessary connexions.  
 ...do.....do.....do.....do.....do.....do

*Southeastern, east of the Mississippi river.*

Township 11 south, range 6 east.....	70	8	560 00
	1,771		13,682 00
To which add the amount of proposed surveys in document D of last year.....			16,938 00
Total amount of proposed surveys of last and present years....			30,620 00
Deduct amount available, as per document B herewith.....			26,107 23
Balance.....			4,512 77

Locations of claims, and necessary connexions. (See letter to the Commissioner dated September 23, 1850.)  
 to be appropriated for proposed surveys for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1852.

E.—*Estimate for proposed surveys in the Greensburg district, State of Louisiana, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1852.*

Townships.	Estimated number of miles.	Price per mile.	Total, at augmented rates.	Remarks.
Township 4 south, range 10 east.....	70	\$8 00	\$560 00	Private claims to be located. Old surveys from reports of surveyors in adjoining townships necessary to be remarked.
Township 5 south, range 10 east.....	75	7 00	525 00	Old surveys from reports of surveyors in adjoining townships necessary to be remarked.
Township 5 south, range 11 east.....	66	7 00	462 00	Old surveys to be retraced and remarked.
Township 6 south, range 1 west.....	98	8 00	784 00	Location of private claims and other surveys absolutely necessary. Complete survey necessary.
Township 6 south, range 1 east.....	125	8 00	1,000 00	Do do do do do
Township 6 south, range 10 east.....	60	7 00	420 00	Unsurveyed claims supposed to lie in this township. Old surveys to be retraced and remarked.
Township 6 south, range 12 east.....	72	7 00	504 00	Old surveys to be retraced and remarked.
Township 7 south, range 13 east.....	72	7 00	504 00	Do do do
Township 7 south, range 14 east.....	72	7 00	504 00	Do do do
Township 8 south, range 7 east.....	60	8 00	480 00	Claims to be located, and public surveys necessary to complete the township.
Township 8 south, range 4 east.....	120	8 00	960 00	Claims to be surveyed and proper connexions to be taken. A complete resurvey recommended.
Township 9 south, range 4 east.....	30	8 00	240 00	Do do do do do
Township 5 south, range 4 east.....	66	8 00	528 00	A few claims to be surveyed and old work to be retraced and remarked.
Township 6 south, range 4 east.....	66	8 00	528 00	Old surveys to be retraced and remarked.
Township 7 south, range 4 east.....	66	8 00	528 00	Do do do
Total.....	1,118		8,527 00	
To which add amount of proposed surveys in document E of last year.....			17,680 00	
Total amount of proposed surveys of last and present years.			26,207 00	
Appropriation of September 30, 1850, for proposed surveys.....		\$17,680 00		
Amount available, as per statement in doc. C.		3,896 33		
			21,576 33	
Balance, amounting to.....			4,630 67	to be appropriated for proposed surveys for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1852.



## F.

*Estimate of funds required to be appropriated for the surveying department in the State of Louisiana, for the compensation of surveyor general, clerks, and contingent expenses of the surveyor general's office, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1852.*

	Amount.	Augmented rates.	Total.
<i>For surveys.</i>			
For proposed surveys, including office work, in the State of Louisiana, exclusive of the Greensburg district, as per balance shown in document D.....		\$4,512 77	
For proposed surveys, including office work, in the Greensburg district, as per balance shown in document E.....		4,630 67	
Salary of a surveyor to locate private claims not yet surveyed, and which lie in townships not under contract.....		1,500 00	
Necessary expenses of said surveyor, including chainmen, marker, and travelling expenses.....		1,500 00	
Total for surveys at augmented rates.....			\$12,143 44
<i>Compensation of surveyor general and clerks.</i>			
Salary of surveyor general.....	\$2,000 00		
Salaries of clerks to be employed in the current business of the office.....	4,000 00		
Salaries of two clerks, to be employed in protracting and calculating surveyors' returns.....	2,400 00		
Salary of one draughtsman, to be employed in copying maps and diagrams for transmission to the General Land Office and to the registers' offices...	1,200 00		
Salary of two clerks, to reprotract old surveys considered defective, in order to discover what resurveys are necessary in each township.....	2,400 00		
Total.....			12,000 00
<i>Contingent expenses.</i>			
Rent of rooms for surveyor general's office.....	400 00		
Stationery, furniture, postage, freight bills, book binding, &c.....	470 00		
Fuel, ice during summer.....	66 00		
Servant hire.....	96 00		
Total.....			1,032 00
Total amount of appropriations required.....			25,175 44

SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
Donaldsonville, Louisiana, November 4, 1850.

R. W. BOYD,  
Surveyor General of Louisiana.

## G.

List of documents representing surveys transmitted to the General Land Office, and to the district offices, since October 18, 1849.

General Land Office.	Register's office.	Remarks.
<i>Greensburg district.</i>		
Map of township 2 south, range 9 east.....	Map of township 2 south, range 9 east.....	Corrective surveys, under act of August 29, 1842.
Map of township 3 south, range 13 east.....	Map of township 3 south, range 13 east.....	Do do do
Map of township 4 south, range 2 east.....	Map of township 4 south, range 2 east.....	Do do do
Map of township 3 south, range 8 east.....	Map of township 3 south, range 8 east.....	Do do do
Map of township 4 south, range 3 east.....	Map of township 4 south, range 3 east.....	Do do do
Map of township 4 south, range 12 east.....	Map of township 4 south, range 12 east.....	Do do do
Map of township 2 south, range 3 east.....	Map of township 2 south, range 3 east.....	Do do do
Map of township 3 south, range 9 east.....	Map of township 3 south, range 9 east.....	Do do do
Map of township 1 south, range 8 east.....	Map of township 1 south, range 8 east.....	Do do do
	31 plats of claims.....	Principally in township 1 south, range 4 east, made from the field-notes of corrective surveys.
Map of township 2 south, range 14 east.....	Map of township 2 south, range 14 east.....	Corrective surveys, under act of August 29, 1842.
1 diagram.....	.....	Section 62, township 1 south, range 14 east, corrective surveys, under act above mentioned.
1 diagram.....	1 diagram.....	Sections 36 and 40, in township 2, range 13 east, corrective surveys, under act above mentioned.
1 diagram.....	1 diagram.....	Sections 1 and 48, in township 3, range 13 east, corrective surveys, under act above mentioned.
Map of township 1 south, range 3 east.....	Map of township 1 south, range 3 east.....	Corrective surveys, under act above mentioned.
Map of township 4 south, range 7 east.....	Map of township 4 south, range 7 east.....	Do do do
	28 plats of claims.....	Principally in township 3, range 2 east, made from the field-notes of original and corrective surveys, under act above mentioned.
1 diagram.....	1 diagram.....	Sections 39 and 43, township 2, range 14 east, corrective surveys, under act above mentioned.
Map of township 4 south, range 13 east.....	Map of township 4 south, range 13 east.....	Corrective surveys, under act above mentioned.
Map of township 4 south, range 14 east.....	Map of township 4 south, range 14 east.....	Do do do
1 diagram.....	.....	Section 49, township 5 south, range 13 east, corrective surveys, under act above mentioned.
Map of township 1 south, range 9 east.....	Map of township 1 south, range 9 east.....	Corrective surveys, under act above mentioned.

1 diagram .....	.....	Section 47, township 1 south, range 10 east.
1 diagram .....	.....	Section 63, township 2 south, range 10 east.
1 plat of claim .....	.....	Simon Rodrigues, under act of January 8, 1849, in township 7 south, range 10 east.
1 diagram .....	1 diagram .....	Sections 17, 18, 19, and 20, township 7 south, range 10 east.
Map of township 4 south, range 2 west .....	Map of township 4 south, range 2 west .....	Corrective surveys, under act of August 29, 1842.
1 diagram .....	.....	Sections 53 and 54, township 4 south, range 1 west.
1 diagram .....	.....	Section 38, township 5 south, range 2 west.
<i>Southeastern district, east of Mississippi river.</i>		
Map of township 14 south, range 14 east. . . . .	Map of township 14 south, range 14 east. . . . .	Original surveys,
Map of township 17 south, range 15 east. . . . .	Map of township 17 south, range 15 east. . . . .	Do
Map of township 18 south, range 16 east. . . . .	Map of township 18 south, range 16 east. . . . .	Do
Map of township 19 south, range 16 east. . . . .	Map of township 19 south, range 16 east. . . . .	Do
Map of township 19 south, range 17 east. . . . .	Map of township 19 south, range 17 east. . . . .	Do
1 diagram .....	.....	Sections 37, 39, 40, 42, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, and 70, township 14 south, range 14 east, on a scale of 10 chains per inch.
Original surveys.		
Map of township 15 south, range 13 east. . . . .	Map of township 15 south, range 13 east. . . . .	Do
Map of township 16 south, range 13 east. . . . .	Map of township 16 south, range 13 east. . . . .	Do
Map of township 15 south, range 14 east. . . . .	Map of township 15 south, range 14 east. . . . .	Do
Map of township 16 south, range 14 east. . . . .	Map of township 16 south, range 14 east. . . . .	Do
Map of township 18 south, range 15 east. . . . .	Map of township 18 south, range 15 east. . . . .	Do
1 diagram .....	1 diagram .....	Sections 25, 26, 35, and 36, township 14 south, range 13 east, original surveys.
1 diagram .....	1 diagram .....	Sections 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 38, and 39, township 8 south, range 1 east, corrective surveys.
1 diagram .....	1 diagram .....	Sections 37, 38, and 39, township 9 south, range 2 east, corrective surveys.
1 diagram .....	1 diagram .....	Section 16, township 8 south, range 1 west, corrective surveys.
1 diagram .....	1 diagram .....	Section 1, township 9 south, range 1 west, corrective surveys.
<i>Southeastern district, west of Mississippi river.</i>		
1 diagram .....	1 diagram .....	Section 40, township 17 south, range 21 east.
<i>Southeastern district, east of Mississippi river.</i>		
1 diagram .....	1 diagram .....	Sections 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, and 53, township 12 south, range 8 east, corrective surveys.
Map of township 19 south, range 18 east. . . . .	Map of township 19 south, range 18 east. . . . .	Original surveys.
Map of township 19 south, range 19 east. . . . .	Map of township 19 south, range 19 east. . . . .	Do

General Land Office.	Register's office.	Remarks.
<i>Southeastern dist., east of Miss. river—Cont'd.</i>		
Map of township 20 south, range 18 east....	Map of township 20 south, range 18 east...	Original surveys.
Map of township 20 south, range 19 east....	Map of township 20 south, range 19 east...	Do
Map of township 21 south, range 18 east....	Map of township 21 south, range 18 east...	Do
Map of township 21 south, range 19 east....	Map of township 21 south, range 19 east...	Do
Map of township 22 south, range 19 east....	Map of township 22 south, range 19 east...	Do
Map of township 22 south, range 20 east....	Map of township 22 south, range 20 east...	Do
Map of townships 22 & 23 south, range 21 east	Map of townships 22 & 23 south, range 21 east	Do
<i>Southeastern district, west of Mississippi river.</i>		
Map of township 11 south, range 15 east....	Map of township 11 south, range 15 east...	Corrective surveys.
1 diagram.....	1 diagram.....	Representing conflicts in township 11 south, range 15 east, on a scale of 20 chains per inch.
1 diagram.....	1 diagram.....	Sections 18, 61, 62, 63, 64, 68, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 77, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 131, 132, and 133, in township 15 south, range 16 east, corrective surveys.
1 diagram.....	1 diagram.....	Section 71, township 16 south, range 16 east, corrective surveys.
1 plat of claim.....	1 plat of claim.....	John Guillot, report 274, section 80, township 15 south, range 15 east.
1 diagram.....	1 diagram.....	Sections 36, 37, 40, and 80, township 15 south, range 15 east.
1 diagram.....	1 diagram.....	Back pre-emption of A. Le Blanc, section 37, township 4 south, range 11 east.
1 diagram.....	1 plat of claim.....	Back pre-emption of A. Le Blanc, section 37, township 4 south, range 11 east.
Map of township 12 south, range 19 east....	Map of township 12 south, range 19 east...	Corrective surveys.
1 diagram.....	1 diagram.....	Sections 1 and 34, township 12 south, range 18 east, corrective surveys.
1 diagram.....	1 diagram.....	Sections 25, 26, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, and 33, township 12 south, range 20 east, corrective surveys.
1 diagram.....	1 diagram.....	Sections 51, 52, 53, and 54, township 13 south, range 20 east, corrective surveys.

*Southeastern district, east of Mississippi river.*

Map of township 12 south, range 4 east....  
Map of township 12 south, range 4 east....  
1 diagram.....

Map of township 12 south, range 4 east....  
1 diagram.....

*Southeastern district, west of Mississippi river.*

1 diagram.....  
1 diagram.....

1 diagram.....  
1 diagram.....

*Southeastern district, east of Mississippi river.*

Map of township 13 south, range 14 east....  
1 diagram.....

Map of township 13 south, range 14 east....  
1 diagram.....

1 diagram.....  
1 diagram.....

1 diagram.....  
1 diagram.....

*Southwestern district.*

1 diagram.....  
1 diagram.....  
1 diagram.....  
1 diagram.....

Map of township 3 north, range 1 east....  
Map of township 4 north, range 1 east....  
Map of township 3 north, range 2 east....  
1 plat of claim.....

Map of township 3 north, range 1 east....  
Map of township 4 north, range 1 east....  
Map of township 3 north, range 2 east....

Map of township 10 south, range 10 east....  
1 diagram.....  
Map of township 2 south, range 1 east....  
1 diagram.....

Map of township 10 south, range 10 east....  
1 diagram.....  
Map of township 2 south, range 1 east....  
1 diagram.....

Corrective surveys.  
On a scale of 20 chains per inch.  
Sections 56 to 72, inclusive, and sections 77, 78, and 80, township 11 south, range 4 east, corrective surveys.

Section 99, and lot 3 of section 111; township 15 south, range 17 east.  
Sections 52 and 53, township 8 south, range 12 east.

Original surveys.  
On a scale of 10 chains per inch; sections 38 to 57, inclusive, and sections 68 to 76, township 13 south, range 14 east.  
On a scale of 10 chains per inch; sections 37 to 52, inclusive, township 13 south, range 13 east.  
On a scale of 10 chains per inch; sections 62, 63, and 64, in township 14 south, range 13 east.

Sections 12 and 22, township 12 south, range 5 east, corrective surveys.  
Section 42; township 13 south, range 5 east.  
Sketch of Vermilion river, in township 15 south, range 3 east.  
Sketch of section 6, township 14 south, range 5 east, original surveys.  
Sections 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 49, and 50, township 11 south, range 6 east, corrective surveys.

Corrective surveys.  
Do  
Do  
Charles Cappel, act of August 5, 1848, lot 2, section 27, township 2 north, range 4 east.  
Original surveys.  
Section 34, township 2 south, range 1 east.  
Original surveys.  
Sections 2 and 4, township 7 north, range 10 east, district north of Red river, for a decision upon conflicts.

General Land Office.	Register's office.	Remarks.
<i>Northwestern district.</i>		
Map of township 5 north, range 4 west.....	Map of township 5 north, range 4 west.....	Corrective and original surveys.
Map of township 9 north, range 7 west.....	Map of township 9 north, range 7 west.....	Corrective surveys.
1 diagram.....	1 diagram.....	Scale 10 chains per inch; division of section 43, township 9 north, range 7 west, corrective surveys.
1 diagram.....	1 diagram.....	Sections 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 53, 54, 55, and 56, township 9 north, range 6 west, corrective surveys.
1 diagram.....	1 diagram.....	Sections 7, 8, 72, 73, 92, and 93; township 8 north, range 7 west, corrective surveys.
1 diagram.....	1 diagram.....	Sections 2, 12, 37, and 38; township 8 north, range 8 west, corrective surveys.
1 diagram.....	1 diagram.....	Sections 1, 12, and 37, township 10 north, range 11 west, corrective surveys.
1 plat of claim.....	.....	Jared Cable, R. and R. No. 166, section 37, township 10 north, range 11 west.
Map of township 8 north, range 6 west.....	Map of township 8 north, range 6 west.....	Corrective surveys.
Map of township 6 north, range 6 west.....	Map of township 6 north, range 6 west.....	Corrective and original surveys.
<i>District north of Red river.</i>		
1 diagram.....	1 diagram.....	Subdivision of lot 7, section 24, township 12 north, range 8 east.
Map of township 23 north, range 12 east, ...	Map of township 23 north, range 12 east...	Corrective surveys.
1 diagram.....	.....	Secs. 31, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, and 39, township 8 north, range 6 east.
1 plat.....	.....	Claim of John Henry, B. No. 1755, sections 44, 37, 39, and 37, in townships 7 and 8 north, ranges 6 and 7 east.
Map of township 16 north, range 8 east.....	Map of township 16 north, range 8 east.....	Corrective and original surveys.
Map of township 17 north, range 4 east.....	Map of township 17 north, range 4 east.....	Corrective surveys.
Map of township 20 north, range 3 east.....	Map of township 20 north, range 3 east.....	Do
Map of township 17 north, range 8 east.....	Map of township 17 north, range 8 east.....	Corrective and original surveys.
Map of township 12 north, range 5 east.....	Map of township 12 north, range 5 east.....	Corrective surveys.
Map of township 17 north, range 2 east.....	Map of township 17 north, range 2 east.....	Original surveys.
Map of township 13 north, range 5 east.....	Map of township 13 north, range 5 east.....	Do
Map of township 12 north, range 4 east.....	Map of township 12 north, range 4 east.....	Corrective and original surveys.

G—Continued.

RECAPITULATION.

Maps sent to General Land Office.....	57
Maps sent to Register's office.....	57
Total.....	<u>114</u>
Diagrams sent to General Land Office.....	44
Diagrams sent to Register's office.....	33
Total.....	<u>77</u>
Plats of claims sent to General Land Office.....	5
Plats of claims sent to Register's office.....	60
Total.....	<u>65</u>

SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
*Donaldsonville, La., November 4, 1850.*

R. W. BOYD,  
*Surveyor General, Louisiana.*

## H.

*List of persons commissioned by Robert W. Boyd, surveyor general, Louisiana, as deputy surveyors for the District of Louisiana.*

Names.	Date of commission.	Date of oath.	Residence.	How employed.
Albert G. Phelps.....	July 10, 1849.....	July 10, 1849.....	Parish of Rapides.....	Contract in southwestern district.
A. L. Fields.....	do.....	July 13, 1849.....	Franklin.....	do.....do.....do.
G. S. Walmsley.....	do.....	July 23, 1849.....	Parish of Natchitoches..	Contract in northwestern district.
W. W. Fatmer.....	do.....	do.....	Parish of Ouachita.....	Contract in district north of Red river.
G. W. Morse.....	do.....	do.....	Parish of Natchitoches!	Contract in northwestern district.
Andrew Crawford.....	do.....	August 11, 1849.....	Parish of Point Coupee..	Contract in southeastern district.
J. Claxton Taylor.....	do.....	July 12, 1849.....	Baton Rouge.....	Contract in Greensburg district.
Henry Waller.....	July 12, 1849.....	do.....	do.....	
William G. Waller.....	do.....	July 16, 1849.....	do.....	
Silas Taylor.....	July 18, 1849.....	July 18, 1849.....	Donaldsonville.....	Contract in Greensburg district.
A. W. Warren.....	July 26, 1849.....	July 26, 1849.....	do.....	Contract in southeastern district.
Joseph Troskolawski.....	July 27, 1849.....	July 27, 1849.....	Baton Rouge.....	Contract in Greensburg district.
Henry Washington.....	August 25, 1849.....	August 25, 1849.....	Donaldsonville.....	Contract in district north of Red river.
Thomas Hunter.....	August 27, 1849.....	August 27, 1849.....	Natchitoches.	
William J. McCulloh.....	September 3, 1849.....	September 3, 1849.....	Donaldsonville.....	Contract in district north of Red river.
Abner D. Miner.....	do.....	do.....	New Iberia.	
John J. Knowlton.....	September 13, 1849..	September 13, 1849..	West Feliciana.	
C. F. Berens.....	do.....	do.....	Parish of Plaquemine.	
Thomas H. Weightman.....	September 26, 1849..	September 26, 1849..	Thibodaux.	
F. O. Dugas.....	October 8, 1849.....	October 8, 1849.....	Parish of St. Martin's.	
Charles J. Cabell.....	do.....	do.....	Donaldsonville.....	Contract in Greensburg district.
A. J. Powell.....	October 20, 1849.....	October 20, 1849.....	do.....	Chief clerk surveyor general's office.
Samuel C. Hepburn.....	October 25, 1849.....	October 25, 1849.....	do.....	Contract in Greensburg district.
Andrew B. Clark.....	November 12, 1849..	November 12, 1849..	Moorehouse.	
Aaron Vandorn.....	November 22, 1849..	November 22, 1849..	New Orleans.....	Contract in district north of Red river and south-east district.
Alexander Close.....	April 15, 1850.....	April 15, 1850.....	St. Landry.	



SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
St. Augustine, Florida, October 31, 1850.

SIR: I have the honor to submit my annual report, accompanied with maps, marked A, exhibiting the state and condition of the surveys of the lands in Florida, and those under contract. Tabular statements also accompany, marked B, C, and D, explanatory of the field labor and fiscal condition of this office. Since my last annual report, Michael Garrison, Henry Wells, George Watson, Benjamin F. Whitner, John M. Irwin, and John Jackson have completed their contracts granted by my predecessor, and their work has been approved and reported. The plats of surveys by Irwin and Jackson, within the twenty-mile reserve around the Indian boundary, prepared for the local offices, are still withheld in accordance with your instructions. Contracts for the survey of the public lands were granted by me during the summer and fall of 1849, to M. A. Williams, R. W. B. Hodgson, and A. H. Jones. The two former have completed their contracts and returned their work, which has been approved and reported. Mr. Jones has completed and returned his work in twelve townships; which I have approved and reported. The work in the remaining townships embraced in his contract has not yet been executed; and the reason assigned by him for not having executed it within the time limited, was the sickness of himself and his assistants, which obliged him to discontinue his field operations. A. M. Randolph, R. W. Norris, Alexander Mackay, and D. H. Burr, have completed their contracts for the surveys and location of private land claims, and their work has been approved and reported. Tabular statements, marked E and F, exhibit, the former the number of private claims which have been surveyed and located since the 30th June, 1849, and the latter the contracts which have been recently granted for the survey and location of the remaining claims. The survey of the public lands will be proceeded with as early as practicable, to an extent commensurate with the limited appropriation assigned to this office.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

B. A. PUTNAM,  
*Surveyor General.*

JESSEIN BUTTERFIELD, Esq.,  
*Commissioner General Land Office, Washington, D. C.*

B.

Statement of contracts for surveying the public lands in the State of Florida, which have been surveyed and returned to the office of the surveyor general in the year ending September 30, 1850.

Date of contract.	Name of contractor.	Time allowed.	Price per mile.	Miles returned.	Amount of contract.	Miles named in contract, not yet estimated from the returns of surveys.	Amount estimated from the number of miles named in contract, not yet estimated from returns of surveys.	Remarks.
				Miles chs. lks.				
October 11, 1849.	Alfred H. Jones.....	August 1, 1850....	\$4	868 48 67	\$3,474 43	.....	.....	Four townships completed and returned to General Land Office. Eight townships in this office completed and ready to return.
August 30, 1849..	M. A. Williams.....	March 1, 1850....	4	418 22 86	1,674 27	.....	.....	Work completed and returned to General Land Office.
October 22, 1849.	R. W. B. Hodgson..	April 22, 1850....	4	431 37 31	1,724 86	.....	.....	Five townships completed and returned to General Land Office. One township suspended in this office now completed and ready to return.
December 11, 1849	John Westcott.....	June 11, 1850....	4	623 37 15	2,493 86	.....	.....	Work completed and returned to General Land Office.
March 4, 1850....	John M. Irwin.....	May 1, 1850.....	5	22 43 59	112 72	.....	.....	do.....do.....do.
March 27, 1846..	Michael Garrison...	October 1, 1846...	4	352 56 46	1,410 80	.....	.....	do.....do.....do.
Sept. 27, 1848....	George Watson, jr....	April 27, 1849....	4	572 40 61	2,290 52	.....	.....	do.....do.....do.
Nov. 13, 1848....	Benjamin F. Whitner	June 30, 1849....	4	609 16 31	2,436 82	.....	.....	do.....do.....do.
Dec. 1, 1848....	Henry Wells.....	July 1, 1849....	4	551 39 12	2,188 75	.....	.....	do.....do.....do.
March 9, 1849....	John M. Irwin.....	September 9, 1849.	4	652 73 03	2,611 65	.....	.....	do.....do.....do.

## C.

*Estimate for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1851.*


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For the survey of public lands .....	\$15,000
For the survey of private land claims in Florida, under the act of June 28, 1848, including the work now under contract.....	10,000
For resurveys in Florida, at a rate not exceeding five dollars per mile, in connexion with the survey of the private land claims in Florida, under the act of June 28, 1848, including the work under contract .....	10,000
For completing certain surveys in Florida, at a rate not exceeding six dollars per mile, in consequence of the peculiar difficulties attending the execution of the same, on account of swamps, lakes, marshes, &c., and for scrap work.....	10,000
<i>Salaries.</i>	
Salary of surveyor general.....	2,000
For clerks in his office, as now by law appropriated.....	3,500
<i>Contingencies.</i>	
For contingent expenses of surveyor general's office.....	500
For compensation to contingent draughtsmen, clerk, copyist, and field-note clerks, in addition to what may remain unexpended of the apportionment for these purposes of the present year.....	1,800

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**SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,**  
*St. Augustine, Florida, October, 1850.*

**B. A. PUTNAM, Surveyor General.**

*Statement of contracts for surveying private claims in the State of Florida, which have been surveyed and returned to the office of the surveyor general, in the year ending September 30, 1850.*

Date of contract.	By whom granted.	Names of contractors.	Time allowed.	Claims and connexions.	Price per mile.	Resurveys, in connexion with private claims.	Price per mile.	Amount of contract.	Remarks.
1849. July 5	Surveyor General of Florida.	David H. Burr.....	1850. June 30	Mls.chs. lks. 603 42 02	\$10 00	Mls.chs. lks. 413 56 49	\$5 00	\$8,103 78	Work completed and returned to General Land Office, except townships which are now suspended in this office, and are not included in this estimate.
June 29	Surveyor General of Florida.	R. W. Norris.....	June 30	284 61 05	10 00	1,006 16 70	5 00	7,878 67	Work completed and returned to General Land Office.
July 28	Surveyor General of Florida.	A. M. Randolph ....	June 30	445 29 30	10 00	894 62 42	5 00	8,927 56	Work completed and returned to General Land Office.
July 6	Surveyor General of Florida.	Alex. McKay.....	June 30	170 15 76	10 00	623 39 88	5 00	4,819 46	Work completed and returned to General Land Office.

SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE, St. Augustine, Florida, September 30, 1850.

B. A. PUTNAM, Surveyor General.

E.

*Statement of private land claims in Florida, and the number which have been located subsequent to June 30, 1849.*

Number of claims located subsequent to June 30, 1849.		Estimated number of miles in the necessary resurveys in connexion with private claims.	Estimated number of miles of claim lines and connexions.
Confirmed by the courts.	Confirmed by Commissioner, register, and receiver.		
		<i>Miles. chains. links.</i>	<i>Miles. chains. links.</i>
27	203	2,938 15 49	1,503 68 13

**SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,**  
*St. Augustin, Florida, September 30, 1850.*

**B. A. PUTNAM, Surveyor General.**

## F.

*Statement of those contracts which have been recently let, for the survey of private claims in the State of Florida, for the ensuing season.*

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Doc. No. 9.

Date of contract.	Names of contractors.	Time allowed.	Number of miles.	Price per mile for claims and connexions.	Price per mile for resurveys in connexion with private claims.	Remarks.
October 19, 1850.....	A. M. Randolph....	June 30, 1850.....	200	\$10 00	\$5	Already in the field.
October 19, 1850.....	M. A. Williams....	June 30, 1850.....	200	10 00	5	Already in the field.

**SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,**  
St. Augustine, Florida, October 31, 1850.

B. A. PUTNAM, Surveyor General.

*Annual report, for 1850, of the Surveyor General of Illinois and Missouri.*

OFFICE SURVEYOR GENERAL OF ILLINOIS AND MISSOURI,  
City of St. Louis, November 20, 1850.

SIR: In accordance with the practice of the office and your instructions of the 17th ultimo, I have the honor to submit the following report of the operations within this district since the 28th of October, 1849, the date of the last annual report from this office. You will receive herewith accompanying documents, lettered from "A" to "H," as follows:

I.—RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES.

A.—*Statement showing "the receipts and disbursements for the salaries of the surveyor general of this district and his clerks, during the year, for surveying the public lands and private land claims in the States of Illinois and Missouri, under special appropriations, exclusive of the cost of surveying the public lands, the accounts for which are adjusted and paid to the deputy surveyors, at the Treasury Department; and showing, also, the balance of the public funds in the hands of the surveyor general at the end of the 3d quarter of 1850.*

Statement A of the last annual report exhibited a balance of the public funds in my hands, on the 24th October, 1849, amounting to \$1,787 62; since which time I have received in cash, for over-charges in the 3d quarter of 1849, \$7 96, and in remittances from the treasury of the United States \$21,411; the total receipts being \$23,206 58. Deduct from this the disbursements for the year, \$22,465 72, leaves the balance due the United States, viz: \$740 86.

By your instructions of the 22d July last, I was directed to pay to myself and clerks, for salaries of the 3d quarter of 1850, the balance of \$3,038 48 of the funds remitted to me for that purpose during former quarters, and still in my hands at the close of the 2d quarter. The accounts to be thus settled amounted to \$4,909 65, which have been paid to the said amount, leaving a deficiency of \$1,871 17, for which I made requisition on the 4th instant. The payments for the last quarter of the past fiscal year have not been made, with the exception herein stated, as I have not yet received the remittances for that purpose, asked in my letters of the 11th September last and 4th instant, for the reception of which, preparatory to finally closing the accounts for the year, I have delayed this report until the latest moment, in hopes that I might include the remittances for the quarter, and give the correct balance at the end of the year's transactions; but not having heard from you on the subject, I now find myself obliged to report the state of the accounts of the district as is here shown, since I have had no authority to use, for this purpose, funds belonging to other appropriations in my hands. To give the balance, however, as near as possible, I have in this statement considered the whole of the accounts as having been paid out of the public funds in my hands from the last quarter's settlement, and the general balance of \$740 86, as above shown in the result, for which I am accountable.

## II.—PUBLIC SURVEYS IN MISSOURI AND ILLINOIS.

The last year's report was accompanied by a statement (marked B) showing six contracts under the general appropriation of the 12th August, 1848, for public surveys in the States of Illinois and Missouri, completed between the 20th October, 1848, and the 28th October, 1849, and also one under the general appropriation of the 3d March, 1849, for surveys of like character, the last-mentioned contract having been entered into on the 25th October, 1849, with James Harris, for surveys in the southern part of Missouri, embracing the subdivision of township 25 north, range 3 east, of the 5th principal meridian, and the connexion of the public surveys with the new State line between Missouri and Arkansas, in township 21 north, range 1 east, townships 21 and 22 north, range 2 east, township 22 north, range 3 east, and township 21 north, ranges 1 to 9, west of the 5th principal meridian.

Mr. Harris has been in the field whenever the state of the country would permit, and has returned the field notes of the subdivisions of township 25 north, range 3 east, of the 5th principal meridian, being for 64 miles 38.96 chains, which were charged for in his account at the rate of \$3 per mile, amounting to \$193 46: and also the notes of the connexions with the State line in township 21 north, ranges 1 and 2 east, and township 21 north, ranges 1 to 9 west, of the 5th principal meridian, being for 36 miles 47.79 chains, charged at the rate of \$6 per mile, according to the instructions of the 11th and 22d November, 1848, amounting to \$219 59: making a total of 101 miles 6.75 chains, at \$413 05—which is the amount of Mr. Harris's account, as approved by me, receipted by him, and certified from this office to the General Land Office, on the 18th October last, for a direct settlement with him by the Treasury Department, pursuant to the instructions of the Commissioner, dated 2d September, 1844; the payment of which was to be made out of the \$10,000 apportionment to this district, made by the Commissioner out of the general appropriation of the 3d March, 1849, by his letter of the 16th June, 1849.

The unfavorable weather during the fall of last year prevented Mr. Harris from at that time completing the connexions with the southern boundary of this State, in township 21 north, range 3 east of the 5th principal meridian. He has, however, recently completed his surveys, and the field-notes have been returned, examined, and approved; the requisite accounts and plats of which will be constructed, certified, and transmitted, without delay.

## III.

*B.—Statement showing the contracts which were not closed on the 28th October, 1849, the date of the last annual report from this office, and the contracts since let out, under the appropriation of \$4,000 of the 12th August, 1848, and that of \$4,000 of the 3d March, 1849, for surveys in the southern part of Missouri, east of the meridian, at \$5 per mile, on account of the difficulties in executing surveys in that section of the State, owing to lakes, swamps, and marshes.*

The only contract shown on statement C, of last year's report, as having not been completed, or being so considered on the 28th October,



1849, was that of James Harris, for the subdivision of township 23 north, ranges 5 and 6 east, of the 5th principal meridian, in Missouri; but, as I have already stated in the preceding article of this communication, that work has since been completed and disposed of, and that deputy surveyor is now in the field progressing with the new surveys contracted for by him on the 4th ultimo. This statement exhibits five new contracts for the work embraced therein, being for the estimated amount of 1,220 miles, at \$6,110. The deputy surveyors, Messrs. Baker, Harris, and Snider, are now actively engaged in their operations, and Mr. Burton will soon take the field.

#### IV.—SOUTHERN AND NORTHERN BOUNDARIES OF MISSOURI.

1. *Southern boundary.*—The dividing line between Missouri and Arkansas was surveyed in 1845, by the commissioners appointed under the authority of laws enacted by those States, ratified by their legislatures, and approved by the Congress of the United States on the 15th February, 1845; and under instructions from your office, its connexions with the public surveys in this State have been contracted for and nearly completed, the delay having been occasioned by the inclemency of the weather and the heavy rains of the last fall, which prevented the deputy surveyors from availing themselves of the only suitable season usually occupied in field operations in the southern section of this State.

Mr. Harris's late returns to this office of his surveys in the townships hereinbefore mentioned, the accounts for which were certified to your office on the 18th of October last, together with those in the office now undergoing examination for their final disposition, embracing together the connexions with 74 miles 38.41 chains of the State boundary, completes the connexions of the public surveys with the whole of that line lying west of the St. Francis river, and on the parallel of 36° 30' north latitude. There now remains to be connected with that part of the boundary east of the St. Francis river, on the parallel of 36° north latitude, only 23 miles 50.38 chains, in township 16 north, ranges 9, 10, 11 and 12 east, of the 5th principal meridian, which you will perceive, by referring to statement B of this report, has been contracted for by Aaron Snider, who is now in the field. When his returns are received and approved by this office, the public surveys will all have been closed on both divisions of the State line between Missouri and Arkansas.

2. *Northern boundary.*—The division line between Missouri and Iowa having been fixed by a decree of the Supreme Court of the United States, on the old Indian boundary or "Sullivan's line," from the river Des Moines to the old northwest corner of the State of Missouri, and thence due west to the Missouri river, and a survey ordered to be made by commissioners under authority of the court, the commissioners were appointed, but in consequence of the death of one of them the duty was delayed until this spring, when Messrs. H. B. Hendershot, of Iowa, and William G. Minor, of Missouri, by joint letter of the 12th March last, informed me of their appointment by the Supreme Court as commissioners for that purpose, and requesting to be furnished from this office with certified copies of the field notes of the surveys of the line as made by John C. Sullivan in 1816, and George B. Sergeant in 1845. Deeming it proper that the commissioners should be placed in possession of the information they de-

sired, I caused copies of the instructions, field-notes, and diagrams of so much of the public surveys as were considered necessary to a full understanding of the subject to be made out; and they were delivered on the 25th of March to the surveyor on the part of Missouri, Robert Walker, esq.;, with a letter of that date to the commissioners, requesting that they would cause to be made such connexions of their work with the public surveys, near to which they might pass, as should be found convenient during the progress of their operations; and that this office might be furnished with a certified copy of their maps and field-notes of the line as established by them. These documents will become necessary in order that your instructions of the 16th June, 1849, may be carried out, and the proper connexions of the public surveys in the north of this State may be made with the established line as soon as the Supreme Court shall have approved of the survey of that boundary. I have understood that the commissioners have completed their work, and made their returns to the court, but they have not yet furnished this office with the copies requested; and, having received no intimation of the final approval of their surveys by the Supreme Court, I have taken no action towards closing up the public surveys south of that boundary, and now await the approval of the court previous to my letting out the whole of the unfinished surveys in the north and northwestern sections of this State.

V.—CORRECTION OF ERRONEOUS AND DEFECTIVE SURVEYS, AND SURVEY OF DETACHED LINES, IN ILLINOIS AND MISSOURI.

During the year surveys under this head have been made, and are now in progress, as follows:

*In Illinois.*

1st. On the 27th April last, Aaron Snider was instructed to complete the surveys of the sectional lines in township sixteen south, range two west, of the third principal meridian, in Illinois, left unfinished by the former deputy surveyor; and he was directed to rectify the discrepancies existing in that township between the lines of the public surveys and those of several of the private confirmed claims in its southwest sections, all which has been done.

2d. An error having been reported in the lines of the western tier of sections in township three south, range six west, of the third principal meridian, in Illinois, and causing much difficulty and litigation amongst the inhabitants of the township and that adjoining, it was deemed proper to have the matter examined into; and, on the 8th of May last, Jonathan Moore, esq., was directed to make the necessary examinations and corrections within that township, and that adjoining, in range seven west, which has been done, and the field-notes of Mr. Moore's as well as Mr. Snider's surveys are now in the office, and have been examined and the work approved. The proper plats, &c., are also made out, and, as soon as they are examined, will be returned to your office.

3d. In my report of the 28th October, 1849, I stated that the lakes and swamps formerly reported as impassable, and which had been consequently meandered by the deputy surveyors who surveyed townships 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24 north, range 3 east, and township 24 north, range 4 east, of the 4th principal meridian, in the Dixon district in Illinois, was considered at that

time valuable to the inhabitants of the neighborhood, who in a great measure depended upon them for their supply of hay, and that I had concluded to have them surveyed, &c. According to this intimation, I instructed William Pollock, esq., on the 10th May last, to extend the lines of the public surveys across the meandered swamps in the townships mentioned, in order that the land embraced in these natural meadows might be brought into market. But, from causes beyond the control of the deputy, the work has not yet been done; and Mr. Pollock informs me, in a recent letter, that he would await the winter season as the most suitable and convenient for the prosecution of his work, if it should meet the views of this office; and since the work will require old lines to be looked for, and much expense in addition to the usual surveys, thus probably enhancing the true value of this work to an amount more than the allowance by law, I have complied with his desire, and it is expected that he will soon complete the duty assigned him.

VI.—This office having been informed that several islands in the Mississippi river, belonging to the Illinois shore, in township 28 north, range 1 west, of the 4th principal meridian, would probably, from their extent, defray the cost of survey, Daniel Higbee, esq., was instructed on the 20th August last to examine them, and, if worth the while, to survey them, which he has done; and the field-notes and returns are now undergoing examination in this office. Similar steps have been taken to ascertain the situation of other islands in Illinois, reported to this office by yourself and others, some of which have been examined and found to be too small and of too little value to meet the expense of surveying them, whilst others are found worthy of being surveyed, and will be as soon as proper deputies can be obtained in their neighborhoods to do the work at the very low prices allowed for such detached work.

VII.—TRANSMISSION OF PLATS OF TOWNSHIPS RECENTLY SURVEYED IN MISSOURI, TO THE GENERAL AND DISTRICT LAND OFFICES.

The only plats transmitted during the year were those of township 25 north, range 3 east, and fractional township 21 north, ranges 1 and 2 east, and township 21 north, ranges 1 to 9 west, of the 5th principal meridian, in Missouri, surveyed by James Harris, and which were sent on the 18th of October last. They constitute in all thirty-six plats, of which twelve originals are on file in this office, and the remaining twenty-four, being copies, have been transmitted to the General Land Office and the register's office at Jackson, respectively. These plats exhibit an area surveyed during the year of 59,882.87 acres of the public lands situated in the southern part of Missouri.

VIII.—FIELD-NOTES OF PUBLIC SURVEYS COPIED FOR TRANSMISSION TO THE SEAT OF GOVERNMENT.

Under this head of the last year's report the field-notes of Illinois surveys were reported as completed and ready for transmission, and that the transcribing of those of Missouri had been suspended during the year. Since the date of that report, and upon the completion of the record of the field notes for transfer to Illinois, the work of this branch of the service has been renewed, and the copying of the Missouri field-notes nearly com-

pleted, and partially examined and corrected. The copies made since the resumption of this duty comprise sixty-one volumes of about four hundred and twenty pages each, embracing the notes of five hundred and fifty-one exterior lines of townships, two hundred and forty-six subdivisions of townships, fifty-two fractional or full townships in which there are meanders, and also some resurveys and operations that cannot herein be well detailed. These transcripts comprehend the surveys of late years in Missouri, the field-notes of which are more explicit, and consequently occupy more space, than those of surveys made many years past. Only seven volumes of the copies have been compared with and corrected by the originals, because other pressing duties have kept the examining clerks otherwise engaged. There remain about fifty volumes of Missouri field-notes to be transcribed for the General Land Office, on which a small force is now engaged, and they will soon be completed and forwarded to the department with the remainder of those for Illinois still in the office ready for transmission by some safe opportunity, when the duties of this office may be considered at an end in this respect, with the exception of field-notes of surveys to be made.

IX.—SURVEYS OF PRIVATE CLAIMS IN MISSOURI, CONFIRMED BY THE ACT OF 4TH JULY, 1836.

The work on these surveys for the past year has been chiefly confined to difficult researches respecting the private claims and the usual office-work, as follows: 1st. The surveys of nine private claims have been platted, described, and recorded. 2d. Three plats of private surveys, with their captions, but without descriptions, on account of the land having been sold or otherwise disposed of by the United States prior to the 4th July, 1836, have been made out. 3d. Eleven certificates of new location have been issued to the representatives of the confirmees for valid interferences with their claims; of which eight have been delivered to applicants upon their affidavits, or upon proof of their being the present owners of the claim. These certificates have been from time to time reported to your office, according to your instructions, and as they were issued or delivered. 4th. Four plats of surveys have been made out, showing six surveys—being for the use of this office and that of the Commissioner and registers in calculating the areas of the fractions adjoining the private surveys. 5th. Eighteen plats of surveys of private claims have been made out, certified, and transmitted; and, 6th. Eight original plats and descriptions of private surveys have been made out, examined, certified, and delivered, with certificates of new location, as above stated. From the increased number of diagrams and other documents returned from your office, showing the data necessary for the final disposition of the surveys of private claims, this office has been enabled to prosecute this branch of its duties with more activity than it has for several years past, and the completion of this work may be hoped for in a short time, so far as the nature of the case will admit. The exhibits of the state of the private land claims in this district, called for in your letter of 1st November, 1848, are progressing under the modifications approved of in your letter of the 10th August last; and it is expected that they will be completed during the year.

## X.—SURVEYS OF THE TOWNS AND VILLAGES IN MISSOURI NAMED IN THE ACTS OF 1812 AND 1824.

C.—This statement exhibits the work of the clerks of this office employed on the surveys of the towns and villages of Missouri during the year; and I regret to have to say that their time has not been wholly occupied with this important duty, since I have been under the necessity of employing them on other business requiring the most experienced hands in the office, and which could not be delayed. Several reports on their claims are prepared for your decision, and await being copied and entered in the proper books of this office. As soon as this is done, they will be transmitted without delay.

1. *St. Charles surveys.*—The surveys in and about St. Charles and its commons have produced much difficulty respecting the true location of the out-boundaries of the Marais Croche common-fields, and of the tracts claimed by the public schools. The plats transmitted to your office on the 7th July last have been objected to by the parties claiming the land, and the subject has been referred back to this office for re-examination; since which time evident mistakes in the early original surveys have been suggested by the parties, which seem to be probable, and call for investigation. An arrangement has, however, recently been entered into by the claimants and the authorities of the city, tending to fix definitely the front line of the common-field mentioned, which, if made satisfactory, will cure all difficulties in regard to the rear line, so far as they are concerned. To assist in this arrangement, I visited St. Charles in June last, taking with me the plats, &c., for inspection by the parties; and on their further invitation, I expect again to visit that place during the next month, to endeavor to arrange this matter to the satisfaction of the many claimants, and of the authorities of the city and the public schools; and also to take such evidence of the facts as they may present, tending to the settlement of some plan for the adjustment of this troublesome investigation, and prevent a repeated reference of the subject back to this office. Agreeably to your instructions founded upon my recommendation relative thereto, your approval of the suggestions respecting the action of the registers upon their reception from this office of the plats of the towns and villages of this district has been signified to those officers for their direction and guidance.

2. *Surveys of the unsurveyed lots in the common field near St. Louis, known as the Grand Prairie and Cal-de sac fields.*—In my last report I mentioned that Wm. H. Cozens, who had been intrusted with the survey of certain claims in these common fields, had not then made return of his operations, although more than three years had elapsed, and that I intended forthwith to appoint for this duty an experienced deputy to execute the surveys in his stead: I therefore appointed to that duty Wm. Milburn, esq., late surveyor general of this district, and perfectly acquainted with the whole subject, who has been engaged in the office for some time collecting the documents necessary for the survey, already once prepared for Mr. Cozens, and withheld by him, as reported in the last annual report. Whilst Mr. Milburn was engaged in this duty, applications were frequently made to me by the claimants to consider Mr. Cozens's surveys, and allow him time to make his returns so far as completed. After a mature consideration of the whole matter, the difficulty of again making a thorough examination of the records in the offices of the United States and the archives of the county for the information necessary, and in consideration

of the personal information and testimony of persons, some of whom are since deceased, gathered by Mr. Cozens during the four years he had had this business in hand, all of which is necessary in the execution of the surveys or the location of the claims in their proper places, I came to the conclusion that the most satisfactory and economical way of settling this long procrastinated business would be to waive all irregularity resulting from Mr. Cozens's delay, and I therefore agreed to receive and consider his report on its merits. He has consequently made his returns in part, and I expect the remainder in a few days. The anxiety of the owners of the lots to have their claims surveyed and certified, and the titles thereto brought within the purview of the laws of this State, is becoming importunate, and I shall lose no time in acting upon them at the earliest moment, and thus rid this office of a continued and serious annoyance. In my last report I also stated that certain papers relating to these surveys had been delivered to Mr. Cozens, and were withheld by him, and that I had placed the matter in the hands of the United States district attorney to compel their return to this office, but it is now hoped that the arrangement for receiving his report will render further process unnecessary.

#### XI.—MISCELLANEOUS WORK DONE IN THE OFFICE.

1. *Sixty plats and descriptions of the surveys of private claims* in Missouri, confirmed previous to 1836, have been made out during the year and recorded, preparatory to the issue of the patents thereon; and instructions for the survey of three other claims have been issued to deputy surveyors. Similar instructions are now in preparation for the survey of several other claims.

2. *Descriptive lists of townships in Illinois.*—It became necessary, before the transfer of the records of the land titles to the State of Illinois, that descriptive lists should be furnished complete to the registers in that State, according to law and instructions, and the office has accordingly actively prosecuted the work during the year. 544 descriptive lists reported last year as already made and in the office have been since examined and corrected, as well as the 223 then wanting; all which have been made out from the field-notes, and the whole 767 are now ready for delivery. The books of this office show entries of the transmission of a number of descriptive lists to the General Land Office and the offices of the several registers of the district, but many of which, it is ascertained, are not now on file in those offices. To complete the lists in the Illinois districts, a circular was addressed from this office on the 15th of August last, to the registers in that State, requesting them to make known what descriptive lists were still wanting in their respective land districts, without including those made out, or in preparation in this office; a list of which was furnished to each. In answer to this call, the register at Dixon reported that he had no descriptive lists in his office; at Kaskaskia 60 lists were required to complete his number; at Chicago there were wanted lists of all the townships situated between the two Indian boundaries of the treaty of St. Louis of the 24th August, 1816; making in all 257 descriptive lists required, in addition to those reported last year, to complete the files of the registers' offices, and they are now in the hands of two competent clerks. When completed and examined they will be transmitted with the 767 before mentioned, and this work, so far as relates to the Illinois surveys, will be finished.

*Descriptive lists of townships in Missouri.*—During the year, 53 de-

descriptive lists of townships interspersed with private surveys have been prepared for the Palmyra district in Missouri; and since it has been ascertained that some descriptive lists will be requisite to make up the files of the registers' offices in this State, the same method adopted for Illinois to ascertain the number missing in that State will be applied without delay in the case of Missouri, and the clerks set upon this work as soon as that for Illinois is completed, as above mentioned.

3. *Plats of subdivisions and diagrams of private surveys, &c.*—The subdivisions of township sections, including new or consolidated plats of old surveyed townships, and diagrams of private surveys, has occupied much of the time of the clerks of this office during the year. There have been constructed anew *from field-notes of Missouri surveys*, two plats, with two copies of each plat, and ten plats with one copy of each plat; and also, *from the newly recorded plats of the Illinois surveys*, seven plats have been copied for the General Land Office and the registers of Illinois; and the subdivisions of the 74 townships in the Vandalia district in Illinois reported as unfinished last year, have been completed; which finishes this branch of the work for the Illinois records. Besides the above, *other work of the kind* has been done as follows: 319 subdivisional plats have been transmitted to the General Land Office; 4 plats of islands and 12 diagrams of the surveys of private claims have been prepared and transmitted to the same office; and to the several registers of the district have been transmitted 343 subdivisional plats, 3 plats of islands, and 24 diagrams of the surveys of private claims.

4. *Renewal of township plats in the Illinois land office.*—Early in the year, I became aware that a considerable number of the old township plats in the offices of the Illinois registers had become injured from long use and being defaced by marks and blots, or were originally incomplete from not having the private surveys represented thereon; I therefore thought it proper, before the transfer of the recorded plats to the State should be made, to ascertain from them all, except the registers at Kaskaskia and Shawneetown, for whose offices new sets of plats had been already furnished, how this matter stood; and consequently, on the 17th August last a circular was addressed to the registers at Palestine, Vandalia, Springfield, Quincy, Danville, Chicago, Dixon, and Edwardsville, requesting them respectively to transmit to this office a statement of the condition of their township plats, classified under three heads, as follows: "1st. Of the plats which are so worn out and defaced by long use, or otherwise so defective, that in their opinion a new copy should be made out to supply their places. 2d. Of those plats which, although worn out to a certain extent, might still be used, but should be copied if the Commissioner thinks it proper or expedient to authorize the work. 3d. Of the plats which, from their state of preservation and correctness, do not require a copy" to be supplied. Of the first class the registers have reported, respectively, 10 for Palestine, 51 at Springfield, 1 at Quincy, 5 at Danville, 1 at Chicago, and 4 at Dixon, making in all 72 new plats required under the first class. Of this number a few in the Springfield office might perhaps be dispensed with; but as the register reports those in his office in a dilapidated state, I have included them in the number necessary to perfect the record of that part of the transcripts now in preparation for the State. Of the whole number above stated, 58 have been constructed from the field-notes, or copied from the plats recently recorded for the State; and when the whole number is completed and examined, they will be certified and

transmitted to the registers. It is probable, from your having called from time to time upon this office to supply your office with corrected copies of the old plats, that some others of the description mentioned as class first of the above statement may yet be needed at the General Land Office to supersede the old, incomplete or worn-out plats. Should such be the case, I will respectfully request your early instructions on the subject, in order that the plats may be copied by clerks now familiar with that duty, and transmitted with the large number of field-plats and descriptive lists still in this office awaiting my certificate, before transmission to the seat of government.

5. *Reports, letters, statements, indices, &c*—The correspondence of the office during the year is recorded on 759 pages, consisting of 499 letters and 99 statements. There have been made 20 indices to the 17 bound volumes of letters from the several Commissioners of the General Land Office, including the years 1825 to 1847, and to 3 letter-books containing bound copies of the letters from the surveyor general. These indices are so constructed as to answer for each volume separate, and will be consolidated for a general index to the subjects of the correspondence; and there having been in the office heretofore no proper means of reference to the letters, it is expected that their completion will greatly facilitate the operations of the office.

6. *Record of accounts and vouchers*.—Upon my assumption of the duties of this office in July, 1849, I found the record of the accounts and vouchers, under the different heads of appropriations for the service of this district, very much behindhand; there being no regular file of them previous to the second quarter of 1826, nor any of those of Elias T. Langham, former surveyor general, from the second quarter of 1832 to the second quarter of 1836, with the exception of one or two detached accounts without vouchers, nor any for the second quarter of 1830. Steps have been taken to complete the file of the accounts not recorded, and those of E. T. Langham were found to be on file in the office of the clerk of the United States circuit court for the district of Missouri, with the papers belonging to the suit between the United States and said Langham and his securities. I therefore immediately called upon the Hon. Robert W. Wells, United States circuit judge for the district, by letter of the 27th April last, to cause them to be returned to this office; which was done, and my receipt given for the same on the 2d May, 1850, to Benjamin F. Hickman, clerk of that court. Since the restoration of these documents to this office, they have all been recorded, with those of previous years, in the files—being contained in a large volume, "A," of 419 pages—with the accounts of Surveyors General William McRea, Elias T. Langham, and Daniel Dunklin, from the second quarter of 1826 to the second quarter of 1839. The accounts of Surveyor General William Milburn, from the first quarter of 1839 to the second quarter of 1841, were recorded and taken from the file during his incumbency; and those of Surveyor General Joseph C. Brown, from the first quarter of 1841 to the first quarter of 1842, (his immediate predecessor, Silas Reed, having made no disbursements of public funds during the short time he was first in the office,) were recorded during subsequent years in the same volume with Surveyor General Milburn's, constituting a volume, "B," of 475 pages of accounts from the first quarter of 1839 to the first quarter of 1842. The remainder of Surveyor General Brown's accounts, or from the fourth quarter of 1841 to the second quarter of 1842, and those of his successor, Sur-



veyor General Silas Reed, from the first quarter of 1842 to the second quarter of 1843, were, as well as the book B above mentioned, recorded previous to my coming to the office. Since which time, one clerk has been kept regularly at this duty, and has recorded the accounts of Surveyor General Reed from the second quarter of 1843 to the first quarter of 1845 on the remaining 288 pages of volume "C," of 486 pages of accounts from the fourth quarter of 1841 to the first quarter of 1845; and the remaining accounts of Surveyor General Reed, from the fourth quarter of 1844 to the second quarter of 1845, together with those of the late Surveyor General F. R. Conway, from the first quarter of 1845 to the first quarter of 1848, have been recorded in a volume, "D," of 399 pages of accounts from the fourth quarter of 1844 to the first quarter of 1848, and the balance will be soon completed. The record so far is upon 1,779 pages of large record paper; of which 673 were recorded previously, and 1,106 pages have been recorded since I took charge of the business.

XII.—ESTIMATE OF FUNDS REQUIRED FOR THE SERVICE OF THIS OFFICE DURING THE FISCAL YEAR 1851-'52.

D.—*This statement is a copy of my letter D, of the 4th inst., making estimate for the service of this district and office for the year, and transmitted in compliance with your instructions of the 16th and 17th ultimo. The estimate embraces 9 items, amounting in the aggregate to the sum of thirty-one thousand seven hundred and fourteen dollars and forty-seven cents, as follows, to wit:*

Item No. 1, \$2,000, and No. 2, \$3,820, are required for the salaries of the surveyor general of Illinois and Missouri and the regular clerks in his office, being fixed at that rate according to law, and consequently not susceptible of increase or diminution except by the action of Congress.

No. 3.—\$4,000 is asked for compensation to extra clerks to supply the deficiency in the regular appropriation under the second item. Although the deficiency has been for some years past liberally made good by the apportionment to this office of a sufficient sum of the appropriation annually made for clerks in the offices of the several surveyors general, still I have thought it proper to include it in this report; for the reason that the amount will probably be required for use after the 30th June, 1851, when the funds of the current year may be expended.

No. 4.—\$2,000 will be required for the incidental expenses of this office for rent, fuel, and attendance, contingencies, &c.; also for binding the plats of the Missouri surveys, the records and letters of the office, and other documents, which have accumulated within the past three years; many of which are now being injured or lost in consequence of their detached situation in the files, or for want of more permanent binding.

No. 5.—\$5,000 for southern surveys in Missouri east of the 5th principal meridian, at \$5 per mile, being at an augmented price on account of the difficulties and delays in the execution of such work, occasioned by the obstructions of floods, lakes, swamps, and marshes. Statement B of this report shows that the estimated cost of surveys of this description now contracted for will amount to \$6,110; and that the avails of former appropriations being \$4,748 32, added to the \$5,000 appropriated for this purpose.

on the 30th September last, gives the amount now available	\$9,748 32
From which deduct the amount contracted for as above	- 6,110 00
	<hr/>
Leaves for future surveys during this year the sum of	- 3,638 32
	<hr/> <hr/>

The contracts in statement B embrace all the exterior lines of townships in the "swamp region" east of the meridian, which have not yet been surveyed; and the deputies whose duty it is to survey them have been particularly instructed to report the nature of the land which they may each include. When it is thus ascertained from the returns or the reports what part of the townships is fit for cultivation, or sufficiently dry and salable, the subdivisions thereof will, under your instructions of the 17th October last, be let out without delay; so that the surveys in that section of the State may be terminated early in the next summer, unless some unforeseen rise in the waters or too prevalent rains prevent the work from being done. I believe I may approximately estimate this remaining work to be equal to the subdivision of about 16 townships, at a cost of about \$4,800, or \$1,172 more than the balance of \$3,638 32 before mentioned. I have, however, asked for an appropriation of \$5,000; because, 1st. It is a known fact that the actual returns of these surveys in most cases exceed the estimates that had been made of them; 2d. It is anticipated that some field and office work will become necessary in carrying into effect the act of Congress of the 28th September last, giving these "swamp lands" to the State of Missouri; and 3d. Some part of the appropriation will be needed to defray the expense of the exploration of those wet townships that may not be surveyed under the contracts now let out, provided the recommendation to that effect, contained in my report of last year, should finally be approved; and I now feel it my duty to repeat the recommendation therein made.

No. 6.—\$2,000 for the correction of erroneous and defective surveys of the public lands in Missouri, at \$6 per mile, including office work. Many errors in the surveys of these lines in Missouri are already known, and others are frequently from time to time detected. They should by all means be corrected before the preparation of the records of the Missouri land titles is commenced, for their final transfer to the State under the act of 12th June, 1840. In anticipation of the allowance by Congress of the amount necessary to effect the requisite corrections, all errors discovered in the surveys of public or private lands are carefully entered in a book kept for the purpose. By errors in private surveys, I mean chiefly those discrepancies in measurement which are frequent in the work of early times, arising out of differences in the land measures used, and which, without altering the position of lines, still prevents the correct platting and description of the surveys, or an accurate calculation of their contents.

No. 7.—\$1,200 for making out and recording plats and descriptions of the surveys of private claims in Missouri, confirmed previous to the act of the 4th July, 1836. By reference to my report of 1849, it will be seen that four hundred and twelve private claims had been surveyed, and the field-notes returned to this office; but that the plats and descriptions of them had not been made out and recorded, as is required, previous to the perfecting the titles of the grantees by the issue of the patents. Deducting from that number sixty that have been completed during the year, as

stated under the eleventh head of this report, there still will remain three hundred and fifty-two of these claims to be acted upon in this office.

I may here mention, that whenever a private claim is taken up, either for platting, describing, or recording its survey, or for any other purpose, all the data relating thereto from all sources is carefully collected and set down in a special book, in order to insure its preservation for after use in the preparation of the exhibits of private claims in Missouri, contemplated by the instructions of the 1st November, 1848, and 10th August, 1850—saving thus the time and expense of a second collation. This process facilitates the work, but only applies as the cases arise for investigation or action. To expedite the completion of this work it is proposed to employ one or more clerks exclusively on this duty, to defray the expense of which this appropriation is requested.

No. 8.—\$10,000 for commencing the complete transcript of all the records of land titles in the State of Missouri, for delivery to the authorities of the State under the act of 12th June, 1840; and also for completing the unfinished records for the State of Illinois, and meeting the expenses necessary to be incurred in the transfer thereof.

1st. Nothing has yet been done towards recording the plats and field-notes, or the accessory work to be added thereto, for transfer to the State of Missouri. It would indeed be well, in order that the work may be performed with accuracy, to begin at an early day a critical examination of the field-notes of all the public and private surveys, for the purpose of discovering all the errors heretofore undetected requiring correction on the ground, and then to have those corrections made at once by one or two experienced deputy surveyors, for whom the job as a whole might be an object in a pecuniary view; otherwise it would not, since the payment for such work by the mile, at the low prices allowed, is out of the question of inducement. Deputy surveyors of experience and responsibility can be procured to do the whole; whereas to let out the work in detached jobs as heretofore, given to persons residing in the immediate neighborhood of the claims, does not insure a correction of the errors, and often adds to the difficulty intended to be remedied. Surveyors usually appointed for this purpose are the surveyors of the counties in which the land lies. They are mostly unknown to this office, and are sometimes interested or prejudiced; yet it has been found necessary to intrust them with important corrections of the public surveys in which the interests of the citizens are involved, and for that sole object, in the absence of sufficient inducement to more competent and experienced persons who might have been employed, but, living at a distance from the land, could not possibly execute the work, even at the highest compensation per mile heretofore fixed by law. This office should, therefore, be enabled to employ competent surveyors, and to pay them a fair compensation for services, as above described. Should my views on this subject meet your approbation, and authority be given to carry the suggestions given herein into effect, it will, as I conceive, insure a set of correct plats and a system of recording correct field-notes—much to be desired; condensing in the descriptions of each township all the notes belonging to it, either of private or public surveys, and so arranged as to consolidate the plats and field-notes of the townships into sets of volumes of the records appertaining to the several counties of the State respectively: a desideratum which experience in the preparation of the records of the State of Illinois,

as well as the numerous applications of the authorities of the counties in that State for similar information, has suggested.

2d. The records for transfer to the State of Illinois not being yet completed, will require some small addition to the allowance for that purpose, which I have included in the estimate above mentioned, in item No. 8.

No. 9.—\$1,694 47 for compensation to certain deputy surveyors, for arduous and difficult surveys executed by them under appropriations made since March 3, 1841, for the survey of detached lines; and those made since March 3, 1845, for the correction of erroneous and defective surveys—the same being the difference between the prices already allowed and paid to said deputies and the maximum allowed therefor by law:

For surveys of detached lines, as per statement E	-	\$1,299 52
For correction of erroneous and defective lines, per F	-	394 95
Total amount required for the purpose, stated in E and F	-	<u>1,694 47</u>

I deem it my duty to introduce this item into the estimates and to recommend its favorable consideration, as an act of justice to nineteen of the deputies named in statements E and F, who have had settlements with this office for work as therein stated; and I do so for the following reasons:

1st. The appropriations for the surveys made by those officers contemplated that they might be paid for at a rate of six dollars per mile, whilst the deputies under their contracts received payment only at a rate of five dollars per mile, with a few exceptions, none of which are included in statements E and F; those therein represented being for surveys paid for at the diminished prices only, and constituting altogether the amount now recommended.

2d. Some accounts for like services, paid out of the same appropriations, charged six dollars per mile; but which do not appear to have called for any increase of allowance over and above their contract prices, more than those paid at five dollars per mile only.

3d. The surveys were very difficult: executed in detached parts, in swampy and wet ground, and at unhealthy seasons, they could only be executed at times not optional with the contractor. The surveys had to be connected, at the cost of much time and labor, with old lines, the marks or the corners of which had been in most cases destroyed, defaced, or obliterated entirely.

4th. None but competent, honest, and experienced surveyors could succeed in properly executing this work, and the appointment of incompetent and sometimes dishonest surveyors, in former times, led to errors and fraud; some of which cases have been detected, which rendered it necessary in 1848 to have resurveyed by a qualified surveyor, certain lines represented to have been surveyed in 1840 by an individual who appears to have had neither the requisite qualifications to have made them correctly, nor the common honesty to make them at all, since it is well ascertained that his returns are fictitious, if not fraudulent.

5th. Experience has shown that all ordinary and easy field and office work is always better remunerated than labor requiring more intelligence and experience, but accompanied by obstacles and difficulties, whatever may be the differences in the prices allowed for them respectively.

6th. In cases such as those in question, the contracts were in general necessarily entered into by the deputy surveyors, as well as this office,

without, in many cases, a possibility of the parties knowing at the time what was the situation of the lands about to be surveyed, or whether or not they were then dry, or probably would, during the time allowed for the work, be in a state for field operations; and if they were, the contractors could not know of or anticipate such floods, rains, or diseases amongst their assistants as appears to have frequently stopped the progress of their work, and greatly added to the actual expense of the surveys.

These considerations have induced me to recommend that the deputy surveyors of the district of Illinois and Missouri, who have not already received the same, be allowed, in addition to the compensation already paid to them for surveys of detached lines since the 3d March, 1841, and of erroneous and defective lines since 3d March, 1845, such amounts as will make the whole compensation paid to them equal to the maximum price per mile allowed under the said acts, amounting to the sum of one thousand six hundred and ninety-four dollars and forty-seven cents

#### XIII.—DIAGRAM OF THE PUBLIC LANDS IN THE STATE OF MISSOURI.

G.—*The diagram marked G exhibits at a view the state of the public surveys in Missouri.* All townships heretofore subdivided, in whole or in part, are thereon designated by the letter S—of which those unconnected with the southern boundary of the State at the date of the last annual report from this office, but since completed by James Harris, as hereinbefore stated, and the plats of which have been transmitted according to law, are marked by the letter O. Townships and exterior lines of townships in the “swamp region,” marked with the letter X, designate those the lines and subdivisions of which have been ordered to be surveyed during the year; and those remaining blank are yet unsurveyed, but the contracts for which will be immediately made, upon a favorable report from the deputies now in the field that they are fit for cultivation or worth the cost of surveying them.

#### XIV.—DIAGRAM OF THE PUBLIC LANDS IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS.

H.—*Diagram H exhibits comprehensively the present state of the Illinois work.* On the diagram of the State, accompanying the last year's report, the mark  $\dagger$  designated the townships in which subdivisions appeared to be required; and those made between the date of that report and the present time are on this diagram marked  $\Delta$ . Townships the plats of which were not recorded at the date of last year's report, were marked O on last year's diagram. Those the plats of which have been recorded since that time, are on the present diagram marked  $\oplus$ . The record of the field-notes of the exterior and subdivisional lines completed previous to the last report, were on the former diagram marked X. The remainder of those necessary to be recorded for transfer to the State have been completed during the past year, and are marked on the diagram herewith sent thus, X.

#### XV.—RECORDS FOR THE STATE OF ILLINOIS.

Appended to my report of the 24th of October, 1849, as a part thereof, was a “*Report on the Illinois records,*” made in conformity with your special instructions of the 16th of June of that year, and exhibiting the

state of the preparation of those records for delivery to that State under instructions of the 22d November, 1848, in pursuance of the act of 12th June, 1840. For the report referred to, a full statement of the work required to carry into effect the intentions of the law was made out, and a detailed exhibit of the amount of work then completed was given, with a recapitulation of the report in tabular form, showing, under nine heads, what work would afterwards be needed to complete the transcript of so much of the records as were deemed necessary to be transferred to that State. This branch of the duties of this office has since been directed to the preparation of the work then reported as unfinished, and of some since found to be necessary. That duty is now nearly completed, so far as could be done without your further instructions on the subjects alluded to in the said report; and especially that in relation to the duty of plating and describing the Indian reservations in Illinois, made by the treaty of Tippecanoe of 20th October, 1832; of Prairie du Chien of July 20, 1829; and of Chicago of 26th September, 1833. In my last report I stated that there were about forty reservations, the plats and descriptions of which might probably be dispensed with, and thus much labor in this business be saved. I also therein promised to furnish a statement of such of the reservations as were not then already plated and recorded, with a view to invite your consideration and decision thereon. The statement was accordingly forwarded to your office on the 11th of February last, and I now await your answer and instructions how to proceed in this matter.

The progress of the work on the Illinois records during the year may, therefore, be stated in tabular form as follows, (see former report:—)

A. Surveys .....	In progress of examination and execution.
B. Indian reservations.....	Forty plats and descriptions to be made out, unless dispensed with by the Commissioner, as recommended.
C. Descriptive lists.....	223 completed, 544 examined, ready for transmission, and 257 (since ascertained to be wanted by the registers) are in progress.
D. Field-notes for General Land Office .....	Complete and ready to be transmitted to the seat of government.
E. Subdivision plats.....	Seventy-four townships subdivided, and four plats transmitted.
F. Miscellaneous records.....	Letters and documents in the General Land Office and in this office being transcribed. In this office have been transcribed 239 letters, upon 84 pages of record.
G. Township plats.....	488 completed, 34 found not to be needed, and 591 on hand from last year; 67 since ascertained to be wanted, of which 58 are completed, and the remainder in progress.

TABLE—Continued.

H. Record of field-notes .....	Completed in 161 volumes, copied from 378 books of old field-notes, 58 more than formerly reported (having been since found to be necessary) included.
I. Binding, &c.....	Not yet done, waiting for titles, indices, certificates to the original, and new volumes to be made out on their final completion; and also for the exhibits and the indices to the same, showing the private claims in Illinois: all of which are now in progress, so far as they can be before the final transcript is made, and to which they all must refer by page, number, or letter, and otherwise allude.
K. Inventory and receipts, &c..	These cannot be made before the final completion of the records, ready for delivery to the State.

In the tabular statement above given, I have condensed such remarks as were desirable to explain each subject; but as I have stated, under letters G and H, that certain plats and field-notes had been dispensed with in the new copies, or were found since my last report to be of the number necessary for the record, I will here, very briefly, give my reasons therefor. Under the letter G, 34 plats of the original number reported necessary are now not needed, because, first, some of those included in the original list have been found in a good state of preservation, and therefore fit to be transferred to the State as complete in themselves; second, townships divided into two parts by the old Indian boundaries west of the second meridian in Indiana, having been surveyed at different times, are on the books represented on distinct plats, and were so estimated in the report on these records, made by my predecessor on the 20th of October, 1848. These separate plats have been recorded for Illinois as one township plat, and they are herein counted as such; thus, as a matter of course, lessening the actual number to be recorded. It has been thought necessary to record 67 plats for said purpose, which had not been included in the report above mentioned, in consequence of their imperfect state, being defective or otherwise worn out, as has been hereinbefore stated under the 4th article of the eleventh head of this report: of this number, 58 are already finished.

Under the letter H, it is stated that upon further examination it had been found necessary to record anew 58 books of the old surveys in addition to the 320 recommended to be transcribed; thus making in all 378 books of old field-notes to be renewed. This addition was thought best, because the originals are scarcely legible to any but the most expe-

rienced clerks and those familiar with the old records. They contain many erasures and other defects; are torn or the ink too pale to be read without a glass; and in many cases the notes of contiguous surveys are so scattered over the records, as to require the memory of those long familiar with the office to find them at all.

The completion of the most important items of this record during the year, and the liberal amount of \$2,500 allowed by your letter of the 17th ultimo for the incidental expenses of this office during the current fiscal year, including the binding of the Illinois work when it shall have been finished, will enable me to begin this business within a short time after the completion of the titles, indices and certificates, to be attached to each volume; but these cannot be made out until after the completion of each set of volumes respectively; nor until the letters from your office, previous to the year 1826, are copied and sent on as promised some time since. When they arrive I shall have them recorded without delay, and bound up with those now being transcribed from the files in this office. To complete the whole business of the Illinois records has already taken, and must still occupy, a much longer time than was anticipated at its commencement last year. Even at the date of my last annual report I could not foresee either the amount of the remaining labor, or the difficulties and detentions since realized in its execution. What is now left unfinished must require for its execution the services of the most skilful and experienced clerks in the office, otherwise the work might be much accelerated; so that from past experience I am led to believe that it will require the whole year to complete this business, its consummation being the final transfer of the books and documents to the authorities of Illinois—an event much desired at this office for many reasons, not the least of which is a wish to be rid of a protracted work and long procrastinated duty. But whatever may have been the delay in this matter heretofore, I hope from a consideration of the large amount of office-work executed during the year, and presented in this report, that you will be satisfied that no time has been lost or means misspent in the prosecution of the multifarious branches of the public service intrusted to this office.

The appropriations intended for the use of this district during the present fiscal year, ending 30th of June, 1851, made by the act of 30th of September last, with the apportionments out of the general appropriation for the survey of the public lands, &c., made by your letters of the 16th and 17th ultimo, will be ample to meet the demands of the district, and the expenses of this office during the year.

I send this report in triplicate, as you have directed, and it is hoped that it may arrive in time for transmission to Congress with the annual report from your office.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

M. LEWIS CLARK,

*Surveyor General of Illinois and Missouri.*

To JUSTIN BUTTERFIELD, Esq.,

*Commissioner of the General Land Office,*

*Washington City, D. C.*



## A.

*General statement of receipts and disbursements for the salaries of the surveyor general of the district of Illinois and Missouri, and his clerks, during the year, and for payments of surveys of public lands and private land claims in Illinois and Missouri, provided for by special appropriations, exclusive of the cost of surveying the public lands under the general appropriation, the accounts of which are adjusted and paid to the deputy surveyors at the Treasury Department, in conformity with the regulation of the General Land Office established September 20, 1844; and showing, also, the balance of the public funds in the hands of the surveyor general at the end of the third quarter, 1850.—(Accompanying annual report of November 20, 1850.)*

I.—Appropriation of March 3, 1849, of \$5,820 for the year ending June 30, 1850, and of September 30, 1850, of \$5,820 for the year ending June 30, 1851, being for compensation to the surveyor general of Illinois and Missouri, and his clerks.

Expended during the 4th quarter of 1849.....	\$1,455 00	
Do.....1st quarter of 1850.....	1,326 66	
Do.....2d quarter of 1850.....	1,583 34	
Do.....3d quarter of 1850.....	1,455 00	
		\$5,820 00
Cash received from the United States Treasurer—		
In the 4th quarter of 1849.....	1,455 00	
In the 1st quarter of 1850.....	1,455 00	
In the 2d quarter of 1850.....	1,455 00	
		4,365 00
Balance due by the United States to surveyor general.....		\$1,455 00

II.—(a) Apportionment made out of the general appropriation for surveying the public lands, expended under the Commissioner's instructions of November 22, 1848, and November 15, 1849, for the completion of the records of the public surveys in the State of Illinois, to be delivered to the authorities of that State, pursuant to the act of June 12, 1840. (b) Apportionment of \$9,500 for compensation of extra clerks, made June 16, 1849, by the Commissioner, out of the appropriation of \$22,500 approved March 3, 1849, for clerks in the offices of the surveyors general, to be apportioned to them according to the exigencies of the public service, for the year ending June 30, 1850.

Expended during the 4th quarter of 1849.....	\$3,539 84	
Do.....1st quarter of 1850.....	3,434 40	
Do.....2d quarter of 1850.....	3,057 14	
Do.....3d quarter of 1850.....	3,454 65	
		\$13,486 03
Balance due the United States, as per statement of account current for 3d quarter, 1849, as amended in conformity with the Commissioner's instructions of November 15, 1849.....	453 40	
Refunded by clerks for overcharge and error in accounts of 3d quarter, 1849.....	7 96	
Cash received from the Treasurer in 4th quarter of 1849.....	3,845 00	
Do.....do.....1st quarter of 1850.....	4,232 00	
Do.....do.....2d quarter of 1850.....	4,769 00	
Amount carried forward.....	13,307 36	13,486 03 1,455 00

Amount brought forward.....	\$13,307 36	\$13,486 03	\$1,455 00
From which deduct the amount transferred to fund under head III.....		237 50	
		<u>13,069 86</u>	

Balance due by the United States..... 416 17

III.—*Apportionment of \$1,000 made June 16, 1849, by the Commissioner of the General Land Office, and the additional appropriation of \$1,000 of January 28, 1850, for the incidental expenses of this office for the year ending June 30, 1850.*

Expended during the 4th quarter of 1849.....	\$521 44	
Do.....1st quarter of 1850.....	765 00	
Do.....2d quarter of 1850.....	472 50	
Do.....3d quarter of 1850.....	522 77	
		<u>\$2,281 71</u>

Balance due the United States, as per statement of account current for the 3d quarter, 1849, as amended in conformity with the Commissioner's instructions of November 15, 1849, to wit:

Balance due on this fund, October 1, 1849.....	\$444 52	
Amount reimbursed from fund under head VI.....	76 92	
Cash received from the Treasurer in 1st quarter of 1850.....	1,000 00	
By amount transferred to this fund from the fund for completing Illinois records, (IIa of this statement,) as per the Commissioner's instructions of June 17, 1850.....	237 50	
		<u>1,758 94</u>

Balance due by the United States..... 522 77

Aggregate balance due by the United States..... 2,393 94

IV.—*Appropriation of \$2,000 of March 3, 1847, for surveys of towns and villages in Missouri named in the act of May 26, 1824, including office-work.*

Balance due the United States, October 1, 1849.....	\$889 70	
Expended during the 4th quarter of 1849.....	\$203 34	
Do.....1st quarter of 1850.....	136 12	
Do.....2d quarter of 1850.....	159 85	
Do.....3d quarter of 1850.....	150 55	
		<u>649 86</u>

Balance due the United States..... \$239 84

V.—*Appropriation of \$17,500 of March 3, 1837, for completing surveys of townships, islands, lakes, &c., in Missouri, including surveys of private claims confirmed by the act of July 4, 1836.*

Cash received from the Treasurer in the 4th quarter of 1849..	\$2,000 00	
From which deduct the amount reimbursed to head III.....	76 92	
		<u>\$1,923 08</u>
Expended during the 4th quarter of 1849.....	40 79	
Do .. .. .1st quarter of 1850.....	53 27	
Do.....2d quarter of 1850.....	65 81	
Do.....3d quarter of 1850.....	15 00	
		<u>174 87</u>

Balance due the United States..... 1,748 21

Amount carried forward..... 1,988 05

Amount brought forward..... \$1,988 05

VI.—Appropriation of \$1,200 of March 3, 1849, for the correction of erroneous and defective surveys, in small and detached portions, in Illinois and Missouri, at a rate not exceeding \$6 per mile.

Cash received from the Treasurer in the 4th quarter of 1849..... \$1,200 00  
 Expended during the 4th quarter of 1849..... 53 25

Balance due the United States..... 1,146 75

Total..... 3,134 80

From this deduct the balance due by the United States..... 2,393 94

And we have an aggregate balance due the United States..... 740 86

OFFICE OF THE SURVEYOR GENERAL  
 FOR THE STATES ILLINOIS AND MISSOURI,  
 St. Louis, November 20, 1850.

M. LEWIS CLARK,  
 Surveyor General of Illinois and Missouri.

## B.

Statement showing the contracts which were not closed on the 28th of October, 1849, the date of the last annual report from this office, and the contracts since let out under the appropriation of \$4,000 of August 12, 1848, and that of \$4,000 of March 3, 1849, "for surveys in the southern part of Missouri, east of the meridian, at \$5 per mile, on account of the difficulties in executing surveys in that section of the State, owing to lakes, swamps, and marshes."— (Accompanying report of November 20, 1850.)

Number.	Date of contract.	Name of contractor.	Time allowed.	Estimated amount of work in miles.	Contract price per mile.	Estimated amount of work.	Character and locality of the survey.	Remarks.
1	Oct. 25, 1849	James Harris.....	<i>Months</i> 5	120	\$5	\$600	Subdivisions of township 23 north, ranges 5 and 6 east, of the 5th principal meridian.	Work not completed last fall on account of bad weather and the filling up of swamps. The surveyor is now on the ground.
2	Oct. 3, 1850	Isaac S. Baker.....	5	200	5	1,000	Subdivisions of townships 23, 24, and 25 north, range 13; south boundary of township 24, range 13; and some connexion in township 25, range 13; and township 24, ranges 14 and 15 east, of the 5th principal meridian.	This embraces the work that was contracted for by Mr. Baker on the 5th of September, 1848, and not executed by him on account of high waters and bad health; also, the lines left unfinished by the late William Hughes, in township 24 north, ranges 14 and 15 east, in progress.
3	Oct. 4, 1850	James Harris.....	5	200	5	1,000	Completion of surveys in township 24, range 7; township 27, ranges 8 and 9; townships 22, 24, and 25, range 9; and subdivision of township 28 north, range 9 east, of the 5th principal meridian.	Work in progress.

4	Nov. 6, 1850	Aaron Snider.....	5	240	5	1, 200	South boundaries of township 17, ranges 9 10, 11, and 12; south boundaries of township 18, ranges 9, 10, and 11; south boundaries of township 19, ranges 10 and 11; east boundaries of townships 16, 17, 18, and 19, range 10 east; boundaries of townships 16, 17, and 18, range 9; subdivisions of township 16, ranges 10 and 11; surveying to complete in township 16, ranges 9 and 12; and township 17 north, ranges 12 and 13 east, of the 5th principal meridian.	Work in progress.
			5	10	6	60	Connexions of township 16, ranges 9, 10, 11, and 12 east, with the State line.	
5	Nov. 6, 1850	Ambrose W. Burton..	5	450	5	2, 250	South boundaries of township 20, ranges 10 and 11; townships 21 and 22, ranges 10, 11, and 12; east boundaries of townships 21 and 22, range 11; townships 20, 21, and 22, range 10; subdivision of townships 20, 21, and 22, range 11; and subdivisions to complete in townships 20, 21, and 22 north, range 10 east; also subdivisions of townships 21 and 22, range 12; township 21, range 13; and subdivision to complete in township 20 north, range 12 east, of the 5th principal meridian.	Work in progress.
						6, 110		

Balance left of appropriation, as per statement C of the report of the 28th of October, 1849 .....	\$4, 748 32
appropriation of the 30th of September, 1850.....	5, 000 00
	<hr/>
Estimated amount contracted for, as per this statement.....	9, 748 32
	6, 110 00
	<hr/>
	3, 638 32
	<hr/>

OFFICE OF THE SURVEYOR GENERAL FOR ILLINOIS AND MISSOURI,  
St. Louis, November 20, 1850.

M. LEWIS CLARK,  
Surveyor General of Illinois and Missouri.

*Statement C, (accompanying report of the 20th November, 1850,) exhibiting the progress of office work since the 28th October, 1849, the date of the last annual report from this office, towards the completion of the surveys of towns and villages in Missouri, named in the acts of the 13th June, 1812, and the 26th May, 1824.*

## PLATS OF SURVEYS.

Original plat, and one copy, of the village, out lots, and adjacent lands of Mine-à-Breton.

Record of the plat of the Carondelet common.

Two plats of the St. Charles common, common fields, and adjoining lands.

One copy of Chouteau's old plat of St. Louis, for the purpose of laying down on it the old concessions in Livres Terriens.

## PLATS AND DESCRIPTIONS OF THE SURVEYS OF INDIVIDUAL AND SCHOOL LOTS.

202 lots in St. Charles.

9 school lots in the village of Mine-à-Breton.

6 lots in St. Louis.

## EXHIBITS,

Made under the Commissioner's instructions of the 1st November, 1848, and the 10th August, 1850, of all the lots and out-lots of the village of Mine-à-Breton.

## REPORTS.

One on the claim of Gamache, in Carondelet—transmitted.

One on the conflicting claims of Chouteau, Metard, and Cottard, near St. Louis—ready to be transmitted.

One on the lots of Deschenes, Routier, Langlois, and Kiercereau, in the Grande Prairie common field of St. Louis—ready to be transmitted.

One on the school lands of St. Genevieve and New Bourbon—ready to be transmitted.

## MISCELLANEOUS,

Indexes to the records of St. Ferdinand, Mine-à Breton, and Marais des Liards surveys.

10 diagrams to accompany the reports above mentioned.

M. LEWIS CLARK,

*Surveyor General.*

OFFICE SURVEYOR GENERAL FOR ILLINOIS AND MISSOURI,  
St. Louis, November 29, 1850.

*Statement D; (accompanying the annual report of November 20, 1850.)*

OFFICE OF THE SURVEYOR GENERAL,  
St. Louis, November 4, 1850.

SIR: Agreeably to your instructions contained in your letters of the 16th and 17th October, I herewith transmit my estimates for the service of this district and office for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1852, as follows:

No. 1. For salary of surveyor general of Illinois and Missouri	\$2,000 00
2. For salary of clerks, as per act of the 9th May, 1836,	3,820 00
3. For extra clerks to supply the deficiency of the regular appropriation, under the above head No. 2	4,000 00
4. For incidental expenses, including binding of books, &c.	2,000 00
5. For surveys in the southern part of the State of Missouri, east of the meridian, at \$5 per mile, on account of the difficulties in executing surveys in this section of the State, from obstructions of lakes, swamps, &c.	5,000 00
6. For the correction of erroneous and defective lines of the public and private surveys in Missouri, at \$6 per mile, including office work	2,000 00
7. For making out and recording plats and descriptions of private surveys in Missouri, confirmed previous to the act of 4th July, 1836	1,200 00
8. For completing the unfinished records of land titles in the State of Illinois, and commencing the records of the State of Missouri, to be delivered to the authorities of that State under the act of June 12, 1840	10,000 00
9. For compensation to certain deputies for arduous and difficult surveys, executed by them under the appropriations made by Congress since the 3d March, 1841, for the surveys of detached lines, and those made since the 3d March, 1845, for the correction of erroneous and defective lines, being the difference between the price paid said deputies and that authorized by law, to wit:	
For surveys of detached lines	\$1,299 52
For correction of erroneous and defective lines	394 95
	1,694 47
Total amount of estimates	31,714 47

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
M. LEWIS CLARK,  
*Surveyor General of Illinois and Missouri.*  
Hon. COMMISSIONER OF GENERAL LAND OFFICE,  
*Washington City.*

## E.

Statement showing the payments made by the surveyors general for the district of Illinois and Missouri, and by the Secretary of the Treasury Department, to deputy surveyors for field-work executed by them under the several appropriations made by Congress on March 3, 1841 and 1843, and June 17, 1844, for the survey of detached lines in said district; at a compensation below the price per mile authorized by law.—(Accompanying annual report of November 20, 1850.)

Date.	Appropriations.			Names of deputies.	Amount surveyed.	Price paid per mile.	Amount of accounts.	Voucher.	When charged for to the United States.	Price authorized by law.	Difference on total of accounts.	Remarks.
	Amount.	Page.	Session.									
March 3, 1841	\$3,000	29	2d	26th	John Frierson. ....	Ms. chs. lks. 55 12 10	\$4 248 18	1	1st qr., 1842	\$6	.....	Work found erroneous, and subsequently resurveyed. Part of it paid under general appropriation, although contracted for under this. (See voucher No. 10 of account of 2d quarter, 1843, for explanation. Accounts paid by surveyors general.
Do	3,000	.....	.....	.....	D. A. Spaulding...	134 71 25	5 674 05	1	2d qr., 1843	6	\$134 89	
Do	3,000	.....	.....	.....	.....do.....	167 63 34	5 838 96	1	3d qr., 1843	6	167 79	
March 3, 1843	3,000	95	3d	27th	.....do.....	41 25 94	5 206 62	1	4th qr., 1843	6	41 32	
Do	3,000	.....	.....	.....	John W. Williams.	107 30 22	5 536 89	2	1st qr., 1844	6	107 37	
Do	3,000	.....	.....	.....	Amasa R. Parker..	148 40 39	5 742 52	1	2d qr., 1844	6	148 50	
Do	3,000	.....	.....	.....	Robert C. Brent & Geo. B. Sargent..	131 47 6	5 657 94	2	3d qr., 1844	6	131 58	
Do	3,000	.....	.....	.....	G. E. Walker....	40 39 16	5 202 44	2	3d qr., 1844	6	40 48	
Do	3,000	.....	.....	.....	D. A. Spaulding...	57 41 45	5 287 59	2	4th qr., 1844	6	57 51	
Do	3,000	.....	.....	.....	Geo. B. Sargent...	2 60 51	5 14 15	1	1st qr., 1846	6	2 83	



June 17, 1844	3,000	75	1st	28th	A. R. Parker .....	175	4	40	5	875	27	..	Nov. 18, 1844	6	175	05
Do .....	3,000	.....	.....	.....	William Shields...	62	47	52	5	312	97	..	April 25, 1845	6	62	59
Do .....	3,000	.....	.....	.....	D. A. Spaulding...	66	56	25	5	333	51	..	Nov. 28, 1845	6	66	70
Do .....	3,000	.....	.....	.....	do .....	24	34	34	5	122	15	..	Dec. 27, 1845	6	24	42
Do .....	3,000	.....	.....	.....	do .....	126	71	1	5	634	43	..	June 22, 1846	6	126	88
Do .....	3,000	.....	.....	.....	do .....	11	49	1	5	58	06	..	Dec. 14, 1846	6	11	61
															1,299 52	

Accounts transmitted to the General Land Office for settlement with the deputies, as per instructions of September 20, 1844.

10

The above statement has been examined by the accounts on file in this office, and found to be correct.

M. LEWIS CLARK, *Surveyor General.*

OFFICE OF THE SURVEYOR GENERAL FOR ILLINOIS AND MISSOURI,  
St. Louis, November 20, 1850.

Doc. No. 9.

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F.—Statement showing the payments made by the surveyor general for the district of Illinois and Missouri to deputy surveyors for field-work executed by them under the several appropriations made by Congress since the 3d March, 1845, for the correction of the surveys of erroneous and defective lines in the said district, at a less compensation per mile than the price authorized by law.—(Accompanying report of November 20, 1850.)

Appropriations.					Name of deputy.	Amount surveyed.			Price paid per mile.	Amount of accounts.	When charged for to the United States.			Price allowed by law.	Difference in account.
Date.	Amount.	Reference to printed copies of acts of Congress.				Miles	Chains.	Links.			Voucher.	Quarter.	Year.		
March 3, 1845	\$1,200 00	Page. 65	Sess. 2d	Cong. 28th	A. J. Matthewson...	9	36	81	5	\$47 30	1	3	1846	\$6 00	\$9 46
Do.....	do.....				D. A. Spaulding....	59	71	59	5	299 47	1	4	1847	6 00	59 89
Do.....	do.....				L. M. Eiler.....	22	36	90	5	112 30	2	4	1847	6 00	22 46
Do.....	do.....				Aaron Snider.....	4	75	18	5	24 70	3	4	1847	6 00	4 93
Do.....	do.....				James Reid.....	3	35	53	5	17 22	1	1	1848	6 00	3 44
Do.....	do.....				G. B. Green.....	4	70	46	5	24 40	2	1	1848	6 00	4 88
Do.....	do.....				G. M. Richard....	3	4	25	5	15 26	3	1	1848	6 00	3 05
Do.....	do.....				Solomon Paker....	23	29	37	5	116 83	4	1	1848	6 00	23 36
Do.....	do.....				L. M. Eiler.....	10	61	6	5	53 81	1	3	1848	6 00	10 76
Do.....	do.....				D. A. Spaulding..	2	39	50	5	12 46	2	3	1848	6 00	2 49
Aug. 12, 1848	do.....	157	1st	30th	do.....	100	1	66	5	500 05	1	4	1848	6 00	100 02
Do.....	do.....				Thomas A. Henry..	1	60	78	5	8 79	1	1	1849	6 00	1 75
Do.....	do.....				G. B. Sargent....	.....	63	86	5	3 99	2	1	1849	6 00	79
Do.....	do.....				Jeddiab Woolley..	2	46	37	5	12 89	3	1	1849	6 00	2 57
Do.....	do.....				William Milburn..	5	42	69	5	27 66	4	1	1849	6 00	5 53
					D. A. Spaulding..	128	74	59	5	644 66	1	2	1849	6 00	128 93
March 3, 1849	do.....	65	2d	30th	Eugene O'Meara..	4	79	1	5	24 93	1	4	1849	6 00	4 98
					Arnold Kregel....	2	22	68	5	11 41	2	4	1849	6 00	2 28
					Duncan Ferguson..	3	30	90	5	16 91	3	4	1849	6 00	3 38
394 95															

The above statement has been examined by the accounts on file in this office, and found to be correct.

OFFICE OF THE SURVEYOR GENERAL FOR ILLINOIS AND MISSOURI,  
St. Louis, November 20, 1850.

M. LEWIS CLARK, Surveyor General.

## I.

## MINERAL REPORTS.

BOSTON, *October 25, 1850.*

SIR: In conformity with the instructions of the Commissioner of the General Land Office, dated May 27, 1849, with regard to the continuance of the geological survey of the Lake Superior land district, we have devoted the past season to the further prosecution of the work, and have to announce that the field labors are now completed. We embrace the earliest opportunity of transmitting to your office an abstract of what has been accomplished.

It will be recollected, that, in order to comply with the requisitions of the act authorizing the survey, it became necessary for us, during the first season, to devote a large portion of our time to the detailed examination of the mineral region, in order to designate, for the information of the Commissioner, such tracts as were supposed to contain copper, as contradistinguished from agricultural tracts. During that season we furnished the Commissioner with four maps embracing the geology of the whole mineral region, so far as the same had been subdivided, on which those sections and quarter-sections supposed to contain valuable metallic deposits, whether of copper or iron, were indicated by appropriate symbols. During the succeeding winter we prepared and transmitted to the Commissioner a detailed report on the "copper region," accompanied by numerous sections, illustrations, plans of the principal mines, and tables of statistical information as to the resources of this region.

In that report we endeavored to give a full description of the climate, geology, and physical geography of this portion of the district.

The recent law of Congress abolishing the distinction between mineral and agricultural lands will render a portion of this information unnecessary for the purposes for which it was ordered; but we trust that will prove advantageous to the explorer, by limiting the field of his research and indicating the points where his explorations will most likely be crowned with success.

The liberal policy of that law will tend to the early development of the mineral wealth of this region. The most prominent veins had already been appropriated and wrought. New veins will be discovered only after minute and laborious explorations, and when discovered, a large expenditure of capital is required to determine their value. The remoteness of this region, locked up by ice and snow for more than one half of the year, the sparseness of the population, and the high price of provisions and labor, already present obstacles sufficiently formidable to the practical miner. Since the passage of the above cited law, numerous tracts lying within the mineral region have been entered.

In the preparation of our report designated on the title-page as part I, we have endeavored to comply with that portion of our instructions, dated 16th May, 1849, which requires that, "on the close of the field-work for that season, we furnish the department, as soon thereafter as practicable, with a report setting forth the boundaries of the mineral region, indicating the character of each quarter section, and affording all the information necessary to the proper execution of the act of March 1, 1847."

There still remained a large extent of country to be examined before the additional requirements of the department could be complied with. These were, "that we should press on the completion of the service with

diligence, and at the conclusion of it transmit a detailed and scientific report of the whole region, with all the necessary maps, illustrations, &c., indicating the boundaries of the several systems of rocks, containing analyses of minerals, ores, and soils, together with such magnetic and barometrical observations, and such other information, as might be collected during the survey."

The remaining portion of the district embraced an area of 15,000 or 20,000 square miles, lying between Chocolate river and Saut Ste. Marie, and also embracing the northern slope of Lake Michigan, between the last designated point and the Menomonee river.

With regard to the geology of this portion of the district, our information was general. Messrs. Foster and Hill, in the summer of 1848, had crossed from Lake Superior to the Menomonee river of Green Bay, and determined the order of succession in the different systems of rocks; and Dr. Locke had coasted along the shores of both lakes the previous year.

The results of our explorations had led us to the belief that all of the purely detrital rocks of this region belonged to the silurian system, although our predecessor, Dr. Jackson, in his official report, had designated the sandstone of Lake Superior as the new red, and in another report the existence of the carboniferous limestone over a portion of the district had been suggested. If such conditions were found to exist, there was a high degree of probability that the regular coal-bearing strata would be found interposed between these two systems. It therefore became important to determine this question, not simply as a matter of scientific inquiry, but of practical and economical value, intimately connected with the mining interests.

After having explored the succession of groups over the whole of this area, we hesitate not to declare that the new-red sandstone and carboniferous series are entirely wanting, and that all attempts in search of coal will prove abortive. The most recent group of rocks in this district, excepting the drift, belongs to the upper portion of the silurian system.

The azoic system of rocks, in their southerly prolongation, required a further examination, not only to determine their relation to the silurian, but also the extent and value of the deposits of specular and oxide of iron which are found associated with this system, nearly throughout its geographical distribution.

The geological exploration of this region was attended with difficulties and hardships which cannot well be exaggerated. The northern shore of Lake Michigan is extremely dangerous for coasting boats. The limestone strata slope very gently towards the lake, so that the water a mile from the shore is often only a foot or two in depth. There are numerous hidden reefs and numerous boulders of granite strown over the bottom, so that, even in calm weather, great caution is required. Superadded to these, the prevailing winds here are southerly, which roll in a heavy sea, so as to render it a task of much difficulty to land during rough weather.

The interior of this portion of the district consists of widely extended and gently-undulating plains, containing numerous swamps, almost impassable. The rocks are rarely seen except along the beds of the streams. These are shallow and rapid, and obstructed by drift wood and rafts, so as to disqualify them even for canoe navigation. Swarms of mosquitoes, black flies, and midges infest the region, and the explorer finds little rest by night or by day.

As the amount of the unexpended balance of the appropriation placed at our disposal was small, we were compelled to restrict our corps to a small number of persons. We were so fortunate as to secure the aid of gentlemen of high scientific attainment in the prosecution of this work.

Mr. E. Desor, who had been associated with us during the preceding season, again resumed his connexion with the survey. His observations on the drift phenomena of Lake Superior, included in our report of last year, will be read with interest by a large class, both at home and abroad. He has subsequently extended his researches from the shores of New England to the Mississippi river, and collected a large fund of information with regard to the origin and distribution of these deposits, which will be embraced in our final report.

Mr. James Hall, the distinguished palæontologist of the New York survey, also accompanied us, and to him will be assigned the description of the silurian groups and their characteristic fossils. We deemed ourselves peculiarly fortunate in securing his co-operation. His work on the palæontology of New York, when completed, will form the standard of reference not only in this country, but in Europe, so far as relates to the fossils of the palæozoic strata, and his report will be found to embody all the knowledge we possess as to the distribution of the various types of organized existence throughout these rocks.

Mr. Charles Whittlesey, of Ohio, was also associated with us. He had passed five successive seasons in the exploration of the geology and topography of the northwest, which qualified him, in an eminent degree, for entering on this work. In addition to his regular field-notes, he will contribute a chapter to our final report on the magnetism of this region.

We regret that Mr. Hill, who rendered such essential service during the preceding season, was unable to join us.

The corps thus organized was divided into two parties. While the one was occupied in the examination of the north shore of Lake Huron and the islands of the St. Mary's river, the other ascended the Manistee river as far as township forty-six, range twelve, examining the adjacent country and communicating with the linear surveyors then operating in that region. Subsequently Mr. Whitney explored the White Fish river, and crossed to Lake Superior, while Mr. Hall ascended the Escanaba nearly to its sources. Messrs. Whittlesey and Desor ascended the Menomonee to near its junction with the Machigamig, tracing out the boundaries between the azoic and silurian systems of rocks, and examining the deposits of iron. The shores of Green Bay, were next examined on both sides, which occupied us until the middle of September.

Having thus obtained the necessary information to enable us to furnish a geological map of the whole region, our field operations were considered as closed. Had the amount of funds at our command been greater, our explorations would have been more minute, and we could have added to the list of valuable iron deposits.

The map is now completed, embracing the geology of a district little short of 100,000 square miles in extent, and will be returned to the Land Office in the course of the ensuing winter. When published it will serve as a guide to the explorer on the land, and the voyageur on the lake.

We now proceed to give an outline of the geology of the region explored during the past season. Commencing at Drummond's island, in the channel of the St. Mary's, in the eastern extremity of the district, we

meet with the highest rock in the geological series, excepting the drift known as the *Niagara limestone*, of the New York classification. It constitutes the summit of the silurian system. It is richly stored with the characteristic crinoids and corals, and is well exposed along the shores of this island and the Manitoulin group farther to the eastward. It thence forms the coast to the west as far as Point Detour, whence it sweeps gradually south, forming the islands at the entrance of Green Bay, and crops out along the western coast of Lake Michigan. It rises in Big Bay d'Enoch, in cliffs to the height of 260 feet, though for the most part there are few bold exposures of this rock along the coast.

The *Clinton group*, next in the order of succession, is exposed on Drummond's island, and is again recognised in the cliffs which form the eastern side of Green Bay. It here has the most marked resemblance, both in lithological character and in organic remains, to its equivalent in the New York system, containing particularly the tracks of unknown marine animals and fucoidal markings in great abundance.

The *Hudson river group* is seen finely developed on the northern side of Drummond's island, richly stored with the characteristic fossils. This group has been traced through the whole extent of the district, forming a zone from two to twelve miles in width north of the Niagara group. It is also exposed along the eastern shore of Little Bay d'Enoch, rising in cliffs from 10 to 50 feet in height, filled with numerous types of organic remains, among which occur trilobites of gigantic size.

The *Trenton limestone* is seen well exposed on the eastern side of St. Joseph's island, in the St. Mary's river, and thence may be traced westward, crossing the Escanaba and Menomonee rivers, whence it is protracted into Wisconsin; it is highly fossiliferous, comprising new genera and species. Little Bay d'Enoch and Green Bay have been excavated along the line of junction between the two last-mentioned groups.

Next succeed, in the descending order, the *bird's eye* and *chazy limestones* and the *caléferous sandstone*. The limestones have been recognised on St. Joseph's island, while the sandstone is well developed on the Escanaba, White Fish, and Menomonee rivers.

The *Potsdam sandstone*, resting at the base of the silurian system, is one of the most widely distributed rocks in the northwest. It forms nearly the entire bed of Lake Superior, and appears along the southern coast, at short intervals, from Saut Ste. Marie to Fond du Lac; it also occupies a belt of considerable width on the southern slope of the axis between the two lakes. The age of this rock has formed the subject of discussion both at home and abroad.\* As far back as 1845 we find it designated by Dr. Houghton on the plats of the Escanaba river as the Potsdam. In a communication dated September 28, 1848, and published in the report of the Commissioner for that year, Mr. Foster describes the sandstone of the Menomonee river as resting at the base of the palæozoic series, and as the equivalent of the sandstones of the northern slope of the peninsula. That same year Mr. Murray, of the Canada survey, traced its eastern extension along the north shore of Lake Huron, where he found it succeeded by the other groups of the silurian system. The age of this rock may now be considered as settled beyond controversy.

\* Vide Bulletin of the Geological Society of France, session of February, 1850.

Below the whole of the silurian rocks we meet with a class of deposits which were probably détrital in their origin, but which have been so metamorphosed as essentially to change their structure. They are destitute of organic remains, and contain imperfect traces of stratification. They consist of various schists and beds of quartz, marble, and specular and magnetic oxide of iron. We have termed these various groups the *azoic system*,—a system which, thus far, has not been fully recognised in Europe, but the existence of which the results of this survey, as well as that of Canada under Mr. Logan, have fully demonstrated. Upon the upturned edges of these plates the Potsdam sandstone is found reposing in a nearly horizontal position. They form the nucleus around which the newer rocks have been deposited, and are extensively developed between the shores of the two lakes. They are the depositories of the most extensive beds of iron known in the world. To describe these beds, their range and extent, the character of the ore, the facilities for working it, and the cost of production, will form a prominent chapter in our report.

From what has already been said, it will be seen that the great divisions of the silurian system have been recognised over this district. They have thus been traced over a distance of nearly a thousand miles of linear development—first in New York, by the geologists of that State; then in their extension through Canada by Mr. Logan; and thence by us to the limits of Wisconsin.

There is another matter which early forced itself on our attention. The New York geologists have divided the silurian system, as developed in the east, into eleven groups, while many of the western geologists recognise but five. Much confusion has existed with regard to the nomenclature of the different groups: while at the east they were designated by one set of names, at the west they bore another. The geographical position of our own district is such as to form a connecting link between the two extremes. Under these circumstances, we deemed it proper to attempt to connect the two sets of observations, and blend them into a harmonious whole. With a view of carrying out this arrangement, Messrs. Hall and Whittlesey, after reaching Green Bay, proceeded to Milwaukee, examining the outcrops of the different groups, where, from the extensive observations and collections of Mr. Lapham, they were enabled to identify most of the groups in the Lake Superior region, in their westerly prolongation through that part of Wisconsin not embraced in Dr. Owen's district. Mr. Hall then crossed to the Mississippi to examine the lower members of this system, which are largely developed along its banks.

In closing this notice of the results of our explorations, we would remark that the resources of the Lake Superior land district are now being rapidly developed. Active and well-directed explorations are in progress in the copper region, and new veins have been brought to light. The number of companies engaged in actual mining has rapidly increased, and capital is more judiciously expended than ever before. The product of copper for the present year will not vary much from our estimate of last year,—to wit, 2,000 tons—which exceeds one-third of the annual national consumption. As the mining interest increases in importance, the agricultural capabilities of the soil will be improved, and the ready

market for such crops as can be raised will amply repay the toil of the farmer.

The immense resources of the iron region are also beginning to be appreciated, but, in the present depressed state of that branch of industry, we cannot expect so rapid a development as we should under more favorable circumstances. The time, however, will soon come when this region will be dotted over with numerous forges, to which the Great West will look for its supplies of the finer varieties of bar-iron and steel.

The contemplated construction of a canal around the falls of the St. Mary's will give a new impulse to this region, and bring it in direct proximity with the great thoroughfares of commerce east, west, and south.

The valuable fisheries of both lakes are destined to become a considerable source of wealth to those engaged in them, while the pine lands and the materials for construction will soon afford another source of wealth.

So soon as we can arrange the materials in our possession in an intelligible form, they will be transmitted to the department. We trust that they will prove a valuable contribution to the economical and scientific geology of this region.

We are, with great respect, your obedient servants,  
 J. W. FOSTER,  
 J. D. WHITNEY,

*U. S. Geologists for the Lake Superior land district.*

HON. JUSTIN BUTTERFIELD,  
*Commissioner, &c., Washington.*

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UNITED STATES MINERAL AGENCY,  
*Saut Ste. Marie, September 25, 1850.*

SIR: In submitting a report of the state of the mines for the year 1850, and the product derived to the United States by this mineral agency, the undersigned would respectfully state that we left this place in August last to visit the mining region of Lake Superior. Our first destination was Carp river, (one hundred and forty miles distant, on the southern shore of the lake,) to examine the wonderful iron deposits in that region. This new and remarkable appearance of iron is located from twelve to twenty miles from the lake in Marquette county, in many places outcropping from the earth in large bluffs or mountains of ore, containing seventy and seventy-five per cent. of pure iron. From representations made, we expected to find something extraordinary in the way of iron: we found our expectations more than realized. To ascend to the summit of a bluff two hundred feet high, and proceed to a point where the bluff presented a perpendicular wall of solid iron, was indeed remarkable. In ascending the summit we started from their places blocks of iron from one hundred to five hundred pounds weight, loosely placed on the surface, which made a crashing noise in their descent. The blocks have the appearance of iron as they lay in their native state; and any person will soon be so convinced when he undertakes to remove one from its bed. They lay in great quantities scattered over the surface. The facility of obtaining the ore



is such that a two-horse wagon can in a short time be loaded with a ton, gathered from the surface. At one place we found a man loosening the ore from the mountain: he had collected four hundred tons in this spot, ready to be taken to the lake. The Jackson Iron Company have a forge, recently but imperfectly erected, within two miles of their iron. Two gentlemen acquainted with iron manufacture, from Pittsburg, went into the forge, made a bloom in less than an hour, worth \$4 68, costing in every expense \$1 65. They are positive in opinion that it is the richest iron deposit in the United States. If the government would extend its fostering aid in improving the navigation of the lakes, all the iron required in Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan, would be supplied from Lake Superior. The Margareta Iron Company, from Worcester, Massachusetts, have commenced their works on the margin of the lake. Their location is beautiful; their forge and other works are built in a substantial manner: they have seventy men, nine fine horse-teams, besides oxen. Other companies have recently purchased large bodies of wooded lands to procure coal for iron manufacture. This business will soon add largely to the commerce of the lakes, and increase the demand for agricultural supplies from below.

We proceeded from here to Eagle river, to visit the Cliff and North American mines. The Cliff mine, three and a half miles from the lake, still sustains its high character: its prospects to-day are better in native copper and rich stamp work than at any time since the first blow was struck. Very recently a mass of pure copper, measuring sixty feet in length, and depth unknown, was uncovered by the miners. They will ship eight hundred tons of copper this season; and, from the copper now in sight, they must make twelve hundred tons in 1851. Under the management of Captain Jennings, the work is prosecuted with great ability.

The North American mine, in the same vicinity, is still under the care of Mr. Bacon. The great product of this mine is in stamp work, or copper separated by stamping and washing, and then barreled for market: the works seem to be well adapted for the business. Barrels of pure ore are continually rolled out from the works: they will make sixty tons this season. At the Cliff mine two hundred and ten men are employed; at the North American, one hundred and ten.

The Northwest mine, five and a half miles from Eagle Harbor, under Captain Paul, is highly improved in its prospects since the last report: the business here is ably prosecuted. This is the first year of any shipment of copper: they will make two hundred tons this season.

We proceeded from here to Ontonagon river, which seems destined to be the headquarters of all the copper-mining operations of this country. This region is highly in advance of all its former prospects.

The following mines are now in successful operation: The Minnesota mine, twelve miles by land from the lake; the Forrest mine, the Ohio Trap-rock mine, the Ontonagon mine, the Algonquin mine, the Ridge mine, the Douglass Houghton mine, and the Adventure mine, all from twelve to twenty miles from the lake. The Minnesota mine has confirmed all the high anticipations in regard to its richness. Those ancient diggings were sure indexes to the valuable treasures contained in the bluffs. I only repeat what every gentleman says who has visited this mine this summer, "that half was not told us." While there, four blocks of pure copper were hauled out weighing nine tons nine hundred

pounds; now, a mass is lying below of twenty-five tons weight, and is being cut up into blocks sufficiently small to be handled.

The agricultural prospects here are very encouraging; grass, oats, potatoes, and turnips, are equal in growth to the best agricultural districts in our country. The largest field and finest potatoes we saw was at Minnesota mine; and oats equally good. This company has been much engaged in building and other improvements this summer. They will ship 75 or 80 tons native copper this season.

The Forrest mine, under Mr. Hodge, is taking out masses of fine copper. The Ontonagon mine, under Mr. Whillesty, is believed very promising. All the mines in this region will soon pay a fine dividend.

The great obstacle to the profitable prosecution of every kind of business on Lake Superior is the falls on the St. Mary's river, where the heavy masses of copper, flour, pork, and everything, have to be unloaded and hauled a mile and reshipped. The great argument for the construction of a canal here is of a national character; a great portion of the vast country north and northwest is held by the British government and their Indian allies: it is well known that the Indians are disaffected towards the United States. A canal here would enable the government to concentrate a military force on Lake Superior, and hold possession of this great inland sea. The work is indispensable for the protection and safety of the Lake Superior country and the extensive country west. It will not only advance the settlement of the country, but protect the settlers and miners in their isolated condition.

The first shipments of copper were made in the year—

	Lbs.	Tons.
1845, by the Boston and Pittsburg Company -	44,960 =	22.0960
1846, by the same - - - - -	48,697	24.0697
1847, by the same - - - - -	534,791	267.0791
1848, by the same - - - - -	1,982,137	991.0137
1849, by the same - - - - -	-	1,000.0000
1850, by the same - - - - -	-	800.0000
		<hr/> 3,106.0535
	Lbs.	Tons.
Lake Superior Company, 1847 - - - - -	34,441 =	17.0441
Copper Falls Company, 1847 - - - - -	44,776	22.0776
1848 - - - - -	25,346	12.1346
Vulcan, now Minnesota Company, 1848	13,191	6.1191
1849	65,518	32.1518
1850	-	80.0000
		<hr/> 171.1272
Northwest Company, 1848 - - - - -	20,437 =	10.0437
1849 - - - - -	50,000	25.0000
1850 - - - - -	tons, 200	200.0000
Algonquin Mining Company, 1847 - - - - -	7,835	3.1835
Union Mining Company - - - - -	9,328	4.1328
Siskowit Mining Company, 1850 - - - - -	-	19.0394
Pittsburg and Isle Royale Company, 1850 - - - - -	-	4.1751
		<hr/> 3,535 $\frac{155}{1000}$
Shipped since commencement of mining on Lake Superior		<hr/> <hr/>

The mining companies which have not purchased their land and are subject to rent, are the Minnesota Company, the Ohio Trap-rock, the Forrest, the Copper Falls, on Isle Royale, the Siskowit, and Pittsburg and Isle Royale Company.

Rents received as follows:

From Minnesota, June 14, 1850	-	-	-	\$144 90
Jackson Iron Company, June 17, 1850	-	-	-	87 34
Pittsburg and Isle Royale Company, June 19, 1850	-	-	-	52 65
Minnesota Mining Company, July 8, 1850	-	-	-	243 30
Minnesota Mining Company, July 21, 1850	-	-	-	273 45
Siskowit Mining Company, August 14, 1850	-	-	-	207 30
Minnesota Mining Company, September 25, 1850	-	-	-	142 90
				<hr/>
				1, 150 84
				<hr/>

MINERAL AGENCY OFFICE,  
Saut Ste. Marie, September 25, 1850.

I hereby certify the above to be a true statement of rents received at this office.

STEPHEN V. R. TROWBRIDGE,  
*Assistant Agent, United States Mineral Lands.*

We certify the above account of exportation of copper and exploration of the mines to be true.

W. G. COFFIN,  
*Mineral Agent.*  
S. V. R. TROWBRIDGE,  
*Assistant Agent.*

To Hon. J. BUTTERFIELD,  
*Commissioner of the General Land Office*

UNITED STATES MINERAL AGENCY,  
Sault Ste. Marie, September 10, 1850.

The following rents were received by D. R. McNair, agent of the United States mineral lands, under the Treasury Department, from June, 1847, to April, 1849.

1847.			
June	28	Cash received from Old Settler's Company, (150 pounds in rock, estimated 50 per cent. copper,) paid by Charles Felier.....	\$0 85
	28	Received from Northwest Mining Company, in one mass native copper, 500 pounds pure copper—rent by Horace Greeley.....	5 70
	28	Received from Algotquin Mining Company 7,185 pounds, estimated 25 per cent., by D. P. Bushnell.....	22 32
July	2	Received from Jackson Mining Company 1,000 pounds iron ore, 70 per cent., paid by John Western.....	1 68
	10	Received from Medora Mining Company 90 pounds smelted copper, paid by Mr. Cutting.....	1 00
	14	Received from American Exploring Company 1,200 pounds gray sulphuret, 7½ per cent.....	1 10
August	4	Received from Douglass Houghton Mining Company 200 pounds copper in rock.....	57
	4	Received from New York and Michigan Mining Company 100 pounds copper in rock.....	13
	4	Received from Douglass Houghton Mining Company 100 pounds yellow sulphuret.....	19
	16	Received from Mr. Paul 150 pounds specimens.....	42
	17	Received from Mr. Thomas Mercer, on 3,079 pounds (two pieces) pure copper.....	35 10
	17	Received from Isle Mining Company and Siskowit Mining Company 1,081 pounds copper.....	4 31
Sept.	8	Received from Northwest Mining Company 770 pounds copper, 50 per cent., by R. E. Brooke.....	3 91
	13	Received from C. Mendenhall 1,100 pounds copper in rock, 10 per cent.....	1 40
	18	Received from Boston Mining Company 550 pounds one mass—325 pounds pure copper.....	3 50
	18	Received from W. A. Eliason, per centage on copper ore by him.....	3 60
August	13	Received from Pittsburg and Boston Company on several shipments, amounting to 434,808 pounds native copper, rent due United States, as estimated, 13,091 pounds, at 18 cents per pound.....	2,356 38
October	6	Received from North American Mining Company 450 pounds native copper in masses.....	3 40
	11	Received from C. Ripley, and John Knapp, rent for Mineral Agency house at Ontonagon, from 1st June to 1st October, 1847, at \$4 per month.....	16 00
	20	Received from Simon Mendlebaum for small iron boat.....	15 00
1848.			
Dec.	16	Received from Pittsburg and Boston Company of several shipments, amounting to 332,060 pounds—due the United States 14,558 pounds, at 18 cents per pound.....	2,674 44
March	17	Received from Pittsburg and Boston Company on 67,923 pounds in rock and masses—due the United States 2,865 pounds pure copper, at 18 cents.....	515 70
May	20	Received from Union Mining Company on small shipment made this day.....	3 84
June	10	Received from New York and Michigan Mining Company.....	15
	29	Received from New York and Michigan Mining Company, by John R. Grant.....	45
			\$5,671 14
August	2	Received from Minnesota Mining Company 1,604 pounds native copper.....	13 14
	5	Received from W. W. Parker, agent American Exploring Company.....	10
		Received from W. W. Parker, agent American Exploring Company, on 40 pounds, one mass.....	45
		Received from Eagle Harbor Mining Company, by D. French.....	7 26
Sept.	30	Received from Minnesota Mining Company 4,500 pounds in mass, by S. McKnight.....	36 45
Amount carried forward....			5,728 54

\*Of this amount, credited in my account rendered Commissioner of the General Office up to June 30, 1848, \$3,228 98.

STATEMENT—Continued.

1848.	Amount brought forward.....	\$5,728 54
Sept. 13	Received from Pittsburg and Boston Mining Company, on copper ore and mineral remaining at Cliff Mine, up to the close of navigation, November 15, 1847, as follows, to wit: 2,980,356, estimated at 3 per cent. 1,748,957....do.....8...do. 1,337,124....do.....8...do. 17,391....do.....47½...do. 137,076....do.....66¼...do.	
	6,320,915 pounds.	
	The rent was paid, as above stated, by Thomas M. Howe, esq.; treasurer of the company, to Sibbett & Jones, at Pittsburg, on draft drawn in favor of mineral agent by Albert Rudolph, agent of the company for settlement, for the sum of \$6,874 74, which was reduced by instructions from the Commissioner of the General Land Office, with the concurrence of the Secretary of the Treasury, to....	4,262 98
August 14	Received from Copper Falls Company 60,039 pounds copper, by H. Bigelow.....	383 63
18	Received from Copper Falls Company, on all ore remaining at mine....	352 93
1849.		
April. ....	Received the following sums: Rent of government house....\$48 00 Northwest Company..... 105 30 Minnesota, October..... 57 42 H. H. McCullough..... 10 50 John R. Grant..... 95 00 Lac La Bellé, December..... 70 00 Northwest, February 24, 1849. 95 25	483 47
		11,211 55

CONTRA.

1849.		
April 11	By disbursements of salary, mineral agent, assistant mineral agent, mileage, township plats connecting mineral lands with public surveys, and contingencies, per accounts and vouchers rendered Commissioner of General Land Office, from the 16th April, 1847, to and including April 11, 1849, (General Roberts's account, from 31st December, 1848, not included.).....	\$6,583 21
May 25	By receipt of John W. Allen, esq.; mineral agent, (being balance,) in accordance with instructions from General Land Office, April 9, 1849.....	4,628 34
		11,211 55

UNITED STATES MINERAL AGENCY,  
September 10, 1850.

I certify the above to be a true copy from the books in this office, kept by D. R. McNair, late mineral agent.

STEPHEN V. R. TROWBRIDGE,  
Assistant Agent United States Mineral Lands.