

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

GENERAL LAND OFFICE, *November 30, 1854.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the operations of this office for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1854, and for the third quarter of the current calendar year.

From the 30th September, 1853, to the 30th September, 1854, 9,384,464 acres were surveyed, chiefly in Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, and Florida, and 8,190,017 acres were brought into market. This is exclusive of the surveys in California, Oregon, and Washington, amounting to 1,686,471 acres, which have not yet been proclaimed for sale, for the reason that those in California could not be disposed of till the private claims and pre-emptions in that State had been adjusted; and no provision was made by law for the ordinary sale of lands in Oregon and Washington till the last session of Congress. As soon as it can be done with a due regard to outstanding claims, these lands will be brought into market in the same manner as those east of the Rocky mountains.

During the fiscal year ending the 30th June last there were—

	Acres.
Sold for cash	7,035,735.07
Located with military warrants.....	3,402,620.00
Located with other certificates.....	14,182.26
Making a total of.....	10,452,537.33
In addition, there were reported—	
Under swamp land grants.....	11,033,813.53
Internal improvements, railroads, &c.....	1,751,962.19
Making an aggregate of.....	23,238,313.05

For the quarter ending September 30, 1854, there were—

	Acres.
Sold for cash, (part estimated,).....	2,894,306.00
Located with bounty land warrants.....	388,360.00
Making a total of.....	3,282,666.00
Reported under swamp land grant.....	1,496,962.57
Making an aggregate of.....	4,779,628.57

This shows an increase in sales for the last fiscal year over the preceding of 5,952,239.86 acres; and although the aggregate disposed of was less than that of the preceding year by over 2,000,000 acres, the difference was caused by the fact that the most of the grants for bounty land, swamp, railroad, &c., had previously been disposed of.

The sales for the third quarter of the current calendar year are more than twice as heavy as those for the corresponding quarter of

the previous year, though the locations are less numerous, for similar reasons to those above given.

During the year ending the 30th September last, 120,784 patents under the various laws were written, exclusive of the swamp land grants, and 111,158 were recorded, occupying 224 folio volumes. 429 manuscript patents were also written and recorded, covering 851 pages, or nearly two folio volumes.

	Tracts.
Of certificates of purchase there were posted	106,279
Declaratory statements.....	17,806
Land warrant locations.....	50,324
Selections for internal improvements.....	13,473
Swamp land selections.....	93,362
Equal to.....	<u>281,244</u>

The following accounts were also adjusted, to wit:

Of receivers of public money.....	486
Of disbursing agents.....	402
Of refunding accounts.....	508
Of surveyors general and deputy surveyors.....	333
Of publishers of newspapers	277

Equal to..... 2,006
accounts, and occupying four large folio volumes of records. 125 lists of swamp land selections, covering 2,920 pages, and 4 lists of railroad selections, covering 348 pages, have been received and acted on.

508 Virginia bounty land claims, filed for the issue of scrip under the act of August 31, 1852, have been examined, of which 373 were allowed, 62 rejected, and 73 suspended. 4,043 pieces of scrip were issued, amounting to 292,195 acres; and 190 claims were filed, calling for 90,342 acres. 2,806 pre-emption claims under the several laws have been examined and settled, and the voluminous correspondence therewith connected promptly attended to.

26,617 letters have been received and registered, the registry covering 3,659 pages, or 7 volumes of large folio record; and 24,279 letters were written, filling 15,473 pages, or 31 volumes of record.

6,684 packages, exclusive of letters, have been transmitted, and the seal of the office attached to 51,000 patents, copies, &c.

It will thus be perceived that, on an average, full one-third more business has been done in the office during the past year, than in the preceding; and although more assistance has been furnished for part of the current year than formerly, the gentlemen in the office, heads of divisions, and others, who cordially co-operated in pressing on this labor, are entitled to high commendation.

The unusually large number of patents prepared, and the office business connected therewith, evince the amount of labor performed in the Recorder's division.

The onerous and responsible duties of the chief clerk have been faithfully and efficiently discharged, and the internal police of the

office fully sustained. The principal clerk of private land claims has also been actively employed in the difficult and complicated duties of his division, which are in a satisfactory state of forwardness.

The principal clerk of surveys, though in ill health, has been as assiduously engaged as his strength would permit, in organizing the surveying operations in the new Territories, and carrying them out in the States.

The clerk in charge of the pre-emption division has also been most indefatigably employed, and in view of the fact that many cases were complicated and difficult, has disposed of a very large amount of business.

The clerk in charge of the Virginia revolutionary claims, and war of 1812 bounties, has labored indefatigably and ably in this most difficult branch of duty.

The clerks in charge of the Mexican bounty land claims, and those under the acts of 1850 and 1852, have striven earnestly and successfully to keep up the duties of their respective divisions, notwithstanding the great pressure of those duties.

The accountants have had the posting of the sales and locations, though unusually heavy, brought up as close as possible, and the accounts of the receivers, and disbursing agents, adjusted to the latest dates practicable; and notwithstanding the large amount of money received for lands, it is confidently believed that every dollar has been or will be paid into the treasury. The duties of these divisions, though exceedingly arduous, have been zealously and faithfully performed.

The clerk in charge of the swamp land division has also been diligently employed, and has ably pressed forward the duties of it towards completion.

With very few exceptions, the assistants in those several divisions have ably and efficiently seconded the efforts of their principals, to consummate speedily and satisfactorily the duties of their respective branches.

The accounts of the surveyors general, deputy surveyors, and publishers of newspapers, have been adjusted and reported to the latest possible dates.

The following table shows the present condition of the bounty-land warrants, under the acts of 1847, 1850 and 1852, to wit:

Act of 1847.

Grade of warrant.	Number issued.	Acres embraced thereby.	Number located.	Acres embraced thereby.	Number outstanding.	Acres embraced thereby.
160 acres.....	79,407	12,705,120	71,939	11,510,240	7,468	1,194,880
40 acres.....	7,269	290,760	5,596	223,840	1,673	66,920
Total.....	86,676	12,995,880	77,535	11,734,080	9,141	1,261,800

Act of 1850.

160 acres.....	26, 808	4, 289, 280	22, 713	3, 634, 080	4, 095	655, 200
80 acres.....	56, 220	4, 529, 600	43, 434	3, 474, 720	12, 786	1, 054, 880
40 acres.....	101, 567	4, 062, 680	75, 034	3, 001, 360	26, 533	1, 061, 320
Total.....	184, 595	12, 881, 560	141, 181	10, 110, 160	43, 414	2, 771, 400

Act of 1852.

160 acres.....	1, 157	185, 120	709	113, 440	448	71, 680
80 acres.....	1, 649	131, 920	959	76, 720	690	55, 200
40 acres.....	8, 732	349, 280	5, 037	201, 480	3, 695	147, 800
Total.....	11, 538	666, 320	6, 705	391, 640	4, 833	274, 680

SUMMARY.

Act of 1847....	86, 676	12, 995, 880	77, 535	11, 734, 080	9, 141	1, 261, 800
Act of 1850....	184, 595	12, 881, 560	141, 181	10, 110, 160	43, 414	2, 771, 400
Act of 1852....	11, 538	666, 320	6, 705	391, 640	4, 833	274, 680
Grand total..	282, 809	26, 543, 760	225, 421	22, 235, 880	57, 388	4, 307, 880

It will thus be perceived, that of the 26,543,760 acres embraced by the warrants now issued, 22,235,880 acres have been located, leaving only 4,307,880 acres to be satisfied.

The following table exhibits the present condition of the grant of 500,000 acres made to each of the States for internal improvements by the act of September 4, 1841, to wit :

States.	Quantity to which entitled.	Quantity selected and approved.	Quantity to be selected.
Illinois.....	209, 085. 50	208, 980. 05	105. 45
Missouri.....	500, 000. 00	500, 000. 00	.....
Alabama.....	97, 469. 17	97, 469. 17	.....
Mississippi.....	500, 000. 00	499, 984. 59	15. 41
Louisiana.....	500, 000. 00	387, 875. 20	112, 124. 80
Michigan.....	500, 000. 00	498, 638. 54	1, 361. 46
Arkansas.....	500, 000. 00	499, 889. 03	110. 97
Florida*.....	499, 990. 09	368, 290. 10	131, 699. 99
Iowa.....	500, 000. 00	500, 000. 00	.....
Wisconsin†.....	500, 000. 00	416, 721. 41	83, 278. 59
Total.....	4, 306, 544. 76	3, 977, 848. 09	328, 696. 67

* Subject to readjustment, owing to imperfection of plats from which selections were made.

† Under decision of Attorney General, July 24, 1852.

This grant may be regarded as closed in all these States except Louisiana, and it is presumed that it will soon be disposed of by that State also.

The grant for the central railroad from Chicago to Mobile, with a branch to Galena, has been adjusted and finally closed; that in Missouri, from Hannibal to St. Josephs, is also closed, except a few tracts claimed by the railroad which have been selected by the agents of the State as swamp lands, under the act of 1850, and which are in process of adjustment. The grant for the southwestern road from St. Louis, Missouri, is in process of adjustment, and will be completed as soon as practicable. Nothing has yet been done with the grants for roads in Arkansas, for the reason that, by the terms of the grant, the legislature of the State was authorized to have the routes of the road established, and that body did not meet since the grant was made till this fall. It is presumed that the routes of these roads will be established from surveys already made; and when established, the grant will be adjusted as speedily as practicable.

The grant for the Sault Ste. Marie canal it is expected will be finally adjusted by the commencement of the session of Congress.

At the instance of many members of Congress, and others, about thirty-one millions of acres in several of the land States had been withdrawn from market in anticipation of grants for railroad and other internal improvements; as such grants were not made, it was deemed expedient to restore these masses of lands to market, especially in view of the passage of the bill graduating the price of the public lands; and this has been done, except where the reservation was for a fixed period, or grants have already been made.

The adjustment of these grants, and the prompt discharge of the current duties of this office, have been materially interfered with by the delay in selecting the swamp lands.

When the act of 28th of September, 1850, was passed, granting the swamp and overflowed lands to the several States, the surveyors general were charged with the selection of those lands in the States where that office still existed, and where not, that duty was devolved on the registers and receivers of the land offices.

The instructions required that the selections should be made from the field or descriptive notes of survey where the States were willing to accept that basis; but where they were not, and claimed other lands in addition to those shown by the field or descriptive notes to be embraced by the law, that the lands so claimed should also be certified to the States on satisfactory evidence that they were of the character alleged.

More than four years have elapsed and the selections are not yet completed. In the mean time numerous entries and locations were made of lands subsequently claimed by the States, and in many cases of this kind where these claims have been contested, it has been found that the lands were not embraced by the swamp law, and consequently the sales or locations were confirmed; the claim on the part of the States having originated in the ignorance or carelessness of some of their agents. As the matter now stands, however, it is impossible to issue patents for sales and locations with any safety till the final re-

turns of the swamp selections have been made and posted. The parties who claim these patents complain, and with good reason, of this withholding of the evidences of their titles, and the extent of the evil may be judged of from the fact, that by careful estimates it appears there are now in this office about one hundred and twenty-four thousand patents written and not transmitted.

To remedy this evil I respectfully recommend that authority be given for the issue of these patents, and that provision be made by law that the purchase money for any such lands be paid over to the States, and that they be authorized to select others in lieu of those located with scrip, land warrants, &c., on due proof by the authorized agents of the States that such lands were of the character embraced by the swamp land act of 1850.

Further experience in examining the Virginia revolutionary bounty land claims filed for scrip under the act of August, 1852, has fully evinced the difficulties in arriving at a satisfactory conclusion in many of those cases. In view, however, of the liberal construction given to the act of 31st August, 1852, by your decision, and the opinion of the Attorney General rendered since the recommendation in my report of last year, I am clearly of opinion that every claim can be satisfied that should be allowed, and hence that further legislation on this subject is unnecessary, if not inexpedient.

None can entertain a higher estimate than is held by this office of the value of the services for which bounty lands were promised by Virginia in the revolutionary struggle, and hence the most liberal construction consistent with the law has been applied to claims of this character.

The attention of Congress is again respectfully called to the imperfect condition of part of the records of this division. These records are the only evidence of title to numerous bodies of land in Ohio, patented prior to 1834, and it is highly important that measures should be promptly adopted for perfecting them, as every year's delay increases the difficulty in accomplishing that object.

In connexion with this subject it is suggested that a number of "entries," as they are termed, of Virginia revolutionary warrants, were made in the military district in Ohio, for which no surveys have been executed, or patents issued, owing to the neglect of the owners, many of whom, or their heirs or assigns, now occupy those lands. The act of 20th February, 1850, expired on the 1st of January, 1852, and since that time no survey could be executed of any of these "entries," however meritorious. To close this whole matter, it is respectfully recommended that authority be given to consummate all cases of this character; and that the balance of the public land, amounting, it is estimated, to about 60,000 acres, be donated to the State for school purposes. This recommendation is made in view of the fact that these lands are mere interstitial slips of irregular shapes, generally excluded from the adjoining surveys, it is believed, because they were considered of little or no value; and further, that it would in all probability cost the government more to hunt up surveys, sell and issue patents for them, than would be realized from the lands. It is important, however, in finally disposing of these tracts, either

by the federal or State government, that provision be made giving a preference in the purchase of them to adjacent proprietors, at a given price and for a fixed time. This suggestion is made to prevent conflict of boundaries, and the litigation that will necessarily grow out of it, in surveying these lands, as it will be necessary for this purpose to retrace old boundaries of irregular figures, the marks and monuments of many of which it is probable have been entirely effaced by time or accident. In fact it would seem to be necessary, in this case, to introduce something of the old Maryland system of surveys to take up vacancies, or resurveys to include vacancies.

In view of the increase of business consequent on the operations of the law graduating the price of the public lands, and the decrease in the compensation of the land officers caused by that reduction, it would seem to be just that some provision be made to recompense them for their labor. The measure of compensation heretofore allowed should, therefore, be continued—that is, one per cent. where fees are allowed, estimating all the lands at one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre, with the restriction that they should not exceed six hundred and twenty-five dollars for any one quarter, nor twenty-five hundred dollars for the whole of an official year, except where the sales exceed that amount, say to an extent that would make the per-centage equal to one hundred dollars where a proportionate per-centage should be allowed to compensate a clerk or clerks for the additional duty necessary to keep up the business. An allowance should also be made those officers for office rent, and they should be required to keep their offices in safe and secure buildings, so that the valuable documents in their custody would be preserved against every risk of loss or destruction. As it is, these offices, containing the only reliable evidence of the foundations of title to the numerous and valuable farms all over the land States, are frequently located in frame buildings, so situated as to insure their destruction in case of fire in the vicinity, and often wholly insecure against trespass by the mischievous, designing, or dishonest. The cost is too slight in comparison with the risk, and it is probably the only class of cases in the world where so little regard is paid to such valuable archives. As the matter now stands, every effort within the power of this office is made to obtain suitable locations, by suggestions, &c.; but if the government paid the rent, it would have the power to require that the offices should be kept in secure buildings.

For donation claims in Oregon one hundred and forty-two certificates were transmitted to this office for patenting, but on examination it was ascertained that most of them were bounded by lines differing from those of the public surveys, and that special plats of the locations had not been transmitted with them as required by instructions. Without those plats, showing their locations in connexion with the lines of the public surveys, there would have been no security that different patents, when issued, would not have included the same land, in whole or in part. The certificates for such donations were therefore returned, that the instructions might be complied with. The others were placed in hands for patenting; and in view of the difficulty in preparing these patents, as special forms are required in dif-

ferent cases, I have devolved that duty on the principal clerk of private land claims. The business of that division, which has been promptly and efficiently discharged, was already onerous, embracing the Indian grants as well as private claims; but as these donations partook in some degree of the nature of that business, this arrangement was deemed the most judicious.

The surveyors general of Kansas and Nebraska, New Mexico and Washington Territories, have repaired to their respective posts, with full instructions for their guidance and government, under the legislation of the last session of Congress; but it is not expected that reports can be received from them in time to be laid before Congress, in view of their recent appointment and the remoteness of their fields of labor. The instructions to them, moreover, required much care and consideration, and consequently some time, that they might be fully advised of their duties, and that the intention of Congress should be carried out in their legislation on this subject. As these instructions are voluminous, and will probably be interesting to those of our citizens who may wish to emigrate to either of those Territories, especially those for the examination and adjudication of private claims in New Mexico, I have appended copies of them.

The land officers for Washington and Oregon Territories authorized at the last session of Congress having been appointed, full instructions, with the necessary tract-books, blanks, &c., have been transmitted to their offices, that they may be able, at once, to enter on duty. Those for Kansas and Nebraska were not appointed; and as no surveys have yet been made in those Territories, they would have had nothing to do, and their appointment would therefore have involved unnecessary expense.

Arrangements have been made for organizing a new land district in the southern part of Florida, in accordance with the requirements of the act of 5th August last, which takes effect on the 5th February next. This act, however, requires an amendment, giving authority to the President to appoint the officers, and defining their duties and responsibilities. All the other laws of the last session which require the action of this office—and they are nearly one-fifth of the whole number passed—have been considered and disposed of, or are in process of execution.

The able and lucid reports of the surveyors general are herewith communicated, and special attention is respectfully requested to the suggestions and recommendations therein contained. The great amount of surveys executed in their several districts, and the strenuous efforts to secure accuracy in that service, evince the most untiring energy on the part of those officers.

The report of the surveyor general of Michigan presents a most satisfactory statement of the operations of his district during the past year. He has successfully overcome most of the difficulties incident to the fraudulent surveys heretofore made, and is pursuing the only plan by which the evils resulting therefrom can be remedied. In reference to the survey of the village lots at Sault Ste. Marie, referred to by him, it is proper to state, that in attempting to protract, on a large scale, the surveys formerly made of those lots, as requested

by this office, the surveyor general found that they would not close; and, further, that the corners of the blocks and squares had not been properly marked. In view of the increased value of the lots in the village, it was deemed necessary to have them resurveyed with care, having reference to the decisions of the land officers under the law, and the corners permanently marked and established: this has been done, and it is hoped that the whole business will be closed at an early day. It is proper to state, however, that the long delay in disposing of this matter is not attributable either to this office or the surveyor general.

From the report of the surveyor general of Wisconsin and Iowa, whose district includes also the Territory of Minnesota, it will be perceived that the emigration to that region is so great that it is impossible for the surveys to keep pace with the settlements, notwithstanding the most judicious application of the means placed at his disposal, the unceasing efforts of his deputies, and a devotion to labor on the part of his clerks of about twelve hours each day.

The surveyor general of Illinois and Missouri is rapidly bringing the labors of his office to a close, and but for the difficult and complicated duties connected with the location and survey of the private claims in his district, would soon have them completed. The granting of the request made by him for the appropriation of a small sum for the purchase of law books for the use of his office is earnestly recommended, as indispensably necessary to enable him understandingly to adjudicate the intricate and important questions arising in the discharge of his duties.

The surveyor general of Arkansas, it will be perceived, is only prevented from closing the business of his district by the discovery of frauds in surveying executed many years ago, which require correction or the resurvey of considerable tracts of land.

The prevalence of sickness in Louisiana, during the past season, has materially interfered with the field operations in that State; notwithstanding which, very satisfactory progress has been made in the difficult and complicated duties of the district, including the adjustment of the swamp-land grant, which has been nearly completed.

In Florida the surveys have been closed on the line between that State and Alabama, and arrangements are being made for extending the surveys over the neutral ground surrounding the reservation heretofore made for the Seminoles, and also over part of that reservation, including the lands adjacent to Kissimie river and Lake Akechobee, which are represented as among the finest in Florida.

It will be remembered that the appropriations for surveying the keys on the coast of Florida, and the islands off the coast of California, have been placed under the direction of the superintendent of the coast survey. By this judicious management but little expense is incurred beyond that required for the coast survey purposes; whereas, if these islands and keys were surveyed in the usual manner, in connexion with the ordinary land surveys, the expense would be very heavy. Whenever practicable, the coast survey has surveyed the necessary boundaries to divide these keys and islands into tracts of suitable size for sale; and where from the nature of the ground this could not be

done, posts or corners have been established which can easily be connected by straight lines, so as to produce this result.

Plats of this work, covering a very considerable portion of it, and of a character highly satisfactory, have already been placed at the disposal of this office, and others are expected at an early day. Advances have also been received that the work on the coast of California is progressing as rapidly as possible.

Special attention is requested to the report of the surveyor general of California, and it is earnestly suggested that the most stringent means be adopted to prevent the outrages mentioned by him. If the surveyor general cannot be sustained in the discharge of his duties, or the marks and monuments of the United States surveys can be obliterated with impunity, the extension of the system over the regions of country where such offences are committed is worse than useless.

The report of the surveyor general of Oregon has not yet been received, but is expected in time to be laid before Congress early in the session.

At the last session of Congress action was had on several subjects that had been brought to the attention of that body, but there are others which require action, and which I beg leave to present for consideration.

The necessity has heretofore been presented of authorizing the department, under the direction of the President, to restore to market lands which had been reserved, but which were no longer required for the purposes for which they were thus set apart. Numerous, and in some instances large, bodies of land are kept out of market for want of such authority, the settlement of their localities materially hindered, and special legislation frequently invoked on the subject. The authority now asked would enable the department to dispose of the unimproved lands in such reservations, under the general laws, and where improvements had been made at the expense of the government, so to average the sale as to reimburse such expense.

The law of April 20, 1854, organizing the new land district of Cheboygan, in Michigan, having no date, took effect from its passage; and as the land officers for the old districts out of which it was formed could not be immediately apprised of the change, a number of sales were made in those districts of land which by the act had been transferred to the Cheboygan district. As these sales are illegal under the decision of the Supreme Court in the case of *Matthews vs. Zane*, the land officers of the Cheboygan district have been instructed to reserve the lands so entered till Congress can confirm these sales; and it is respectfully recommended that an act be passed to that effect, with a provision that in all cases hereafter, where laws of this character are passed without date, they shall take effect six months after their approval. This will give full time to organize the new districts, and prevent the confusion and risk of error consequent on hasty action.

Under a misapprehension of the provisions of the relief laws, passed for winding up the old credit system, sales were closed many years ago which were not embraced by these provisions, and patents were issued on them. In other cases illegal subdivisions have been made

by the land officers, and those subdivisions sold. To remedy these evils, I respectfully suggest that an act be passed making these patents and sales valid.

The muniments of titles under the credit system, as heretofore reported, are subject to loss, and are rapidly going to decay. But few are now living who understand the operations of that system, and hence, in addition to the risk of the loss or destruction of those papers, the holders of titles of which they are the original evidence may be subject hereafter to inconvenience or actual loss from information derived from those who are not familiar with the details of the system. To obviate all difficulties on the subject, I respectfully recommend that authority be given for recording all these documents, with proper notes showing the entire deraignment of title in each case. The work would be laborious and expensive, but little in comparison to the good that will flow from it hereafter, in rendering certain those old titles, and infinitely less when compared with the value of the lands affected by them.

Uniformity in the action of the several branches of the business of this office renders its duties more simple, and the titles to lands more secure. By the act of 22d March, 1852, this office was authorized to prescribe the form and regulations for the assignment of land warrants. A like authority in relation to all transfers of entries, so far as they are regarded as assignable by this office, would introduce uniformity into this branch, and put at rest the question of the validity of such assignments. It would, moreover, secure evidence at least of the identity of the vendor with the purchaser, and thus prevent frauds in assignments.

The necessity for an act of limitation in relation to surveys and sales by the United States is every year becoming more apparent, and the expediency of the measure cannot be doubted. So far as the survey of private claims is concerned, this office, with your approbation, has established the common-law doctrine of estoppels; but difficulties arise in carrying out this doctrine in relation to the notice of the survey that should be given to the parties in interest, and the length of time that should elapse after such survey before that doctrine should properly apply. To sales or locations no such principle can be applied, as they are regulated by law. Cases of great hardship may arise to subsequent purchasers, who, relying upon the evidence given by United States officers to the original parties, buy in good faith, and improve the land. If the title is finally found illegal or defective, it is vacated; the first purchaser may have left the country, and the innocent assignee has no remedy. In cases of this character some general principle established by law would afford relief to the parties, and obviate the necessity for much special legislation by Congress.

I beg leave to renew the recommendations in my last annual report, not heretofore specially adverted to, and to request for them the consideration their importance requires.

This city and District, severed by their political position from the fostering care of any one State, are deprived of the assistance given to education by all the States, unless Congress, as their special legislators, shall make the necessary provisions for them. This may be

done as elsewhere, by donations of public lands, under judicious restrictions.

A number of locations of warrants have been rejected, because the parties to whom those warrants were granted had died before the issue of them, leaving neither widows nor minor children to receive the grants under the law. This, with the subject of further grants to the old soldiers, or their heirs, is respectfully submitted for consideration.

The act of the 4th August last, "to graduate and reduce the price of the public lands to actual settlers and cultivators," judging from the reports received, has been productive of much fraud and perjury, and proved seriously injurious to the actual settlers on the public domain. As far as practicable, these evils have been remedied by construction and instructions; but the law is inherently defective if it be designed to engraft this feature permanently on our land system. The privilege of purchasing at the graduated price should have been limited to pre-emptors, or made general to all. Now, it is alleged that persons take the oath prescribed by the law, with the mental qualification that the land will be required for actual settlement and cultivation *at some future time*. Others, it is stated, have employed men to go forward and make the affidavit, paying all their expenses, and also paying for the land; the employer agreeing to give his employés, in fee simple, a portion—say one-eighth, or a quarter, of the land so entered—retaining the balance. The only corrective of this abuse, in the power of the office, was to refuse to recognise assignments of entries of this character, and to issue the patents to the persons in whose names the entries were made, and this rule has been established. Efforts have been made to enter lands actually occupied and cultivated, but to which the settlers had no pre-emption claim. This has been refused on the ground that the settlers, being in occupancy of the land, could not and should not be ousted of his improvements by a party who wished to settle upon the same land, to the prejudice of the settler's occupancy. Attempts have also been made to enter land in the names of femmes covert, minors, &c. This, too, has been refused, for the reason that the obligation of settlement and cultivation, required to constitute the right to enter under the law, contemplates a contract; and hence those only can claim the benefit of the act who are capable of contracting. The proviso to the second section renders the execution of the law exceedingly intricate, and it is difficult to explain this feature in connexion with the several pre-emption laws, in such manner as to make it thoroughly understood. In fixing the periods for the several classes, fractions of years were disregarded from necessity, to prevent the dates becoming so numerous as to produce confusion. In many cases, as you are aware, the several parts of the same township, for various causes, were offered at different periods, frequently years apart; and hence these several parts are in different classes. In such cases it would have been desirable to fix a mean date as the average period of offering, but the office had not the power to do so.

The pre-emption clause is a peculiar feature in this law. Its effect is to give to pre-emptors settled on offered lands a perpetual credit, subject only to the risk of entry by others, for one month at the end

of each period of graduation; in other words, to denote the land subject only to this risk. The effect, though ostensibly beneficial to the settlers, would probably prove most disastrous to them in the main. Resting in fancied security, the time in which they would be subject to this risk might be forgotten, and their land and improvements be taken by speculators; or death might interpose, and difficulties arise in subsequent domestic arrangements, as to the persons by whom the entries authorized by the law should be made. This would certainly lead to litigation, and might have the still more disastrous and unhappy effect of producing discord and contention in families.

The basis of this law is the length of time the lands have been in market. It has been heretofore fully shown, that from eight to twelve millions of acres have been annually brought into market, while the demand has only ranged from one to four millions. It would be absurd to suppose that all the best lands are first purchased, or that all the lands first entered were of the best quality. Our people are eminently social in their habits, and, moreover, naturally congregate together for the advantages of churches, schools, and mutual assistance.

The inference is fair, therefore, that except the most worthless class, which was disposed of by the swamp-land grant, a fair proportion of lands of all qualities have been annually entered, leaving the same relative proportion in each class of lands subject to entry. Moreover, as time elapses and settlements increase and extend, lands comparatively poor and unfruitful become more valuable, because of increased facilities for market, or that the improvements in the neighborhood bring into requisition the peculiar products of those lands. For these reasons, beds of sand and fields of rock or gravel, in the vicinity of growing towns or villages, though unfit for cultivation, are actually more valuable to their owners, on account of the materials for building and improvement obtained from them, than the most productive agricultural lands. The best evidence of these facts is found in the State of Ohio, where the richest lands had all been taken years ago, and yet, in proportion to those remaining unsold, the sales have been heavier than in any other of the land States. Indeed, evidence might be produced to almost any extent corroborative of this view, or showing, rather, that, generally speaking, lapse of time is a better reason for increasing than for decreasing the price of lands.

This, however, is not the only erroneous view that seems to have been entertained on the subject of the public domain. It has been alleged, on the one hand, that by it injustice is done to the old States, while the utmost liberality is manifested towards the new; and on the other, that in consequence of the government being the great landholder in the new States, and its lands not subject to taxation, the sparse settlements of those States are compelled to sustain the expenses of State, county, and municipal governments, unaided by the means that should be derived from taxing all the lands. These views, on both sides of the question, are, to a greater or less extent, erroneous, as the facts will show.

The land system was originated by Jefferson, and fashioned into form by that great statesman, aided by Livingston, Gerry, Howell, Read, Williamson, Lang, King, Johnson, Stewart, Gardner, Henry,

Grayson, Ball, Houston, and Monroe. In the enactment of the ordinance of 1785, and the acts of 1796, 1800, and 1805, the nation had the benefit of the wisdom and patriotism of the sages who, under Heaven, founded our free and happy government. The advancement of the public interest was then the only object sought. The heavy debt of the Revolution pressing on the young republic, required liquidation, and every means at the disposal of the government was carefully and judiciously applied to that object. Among these, the public lands were considered a permanent and prominent item. With the utmost care, forecast, and wisdom, the land system was brought to perfection by a series of laws and executive and judicial decisions, till, by the passage of the act of 24th April, 1820, the cash was substituted for the credit system.

This is a brief summary of the inception and progress of our land system, which has continued for over seventy years, unaffected by any radical change till the passage of this graduation act, and which, in its past history, for simplicity, harmony, certainty, and uniformity, has commanded universal admiration.

Let us now see how this system has been administered, with special reference to the benefits derived from the public lands by the old and new States respectively, excluding, of course, the lands on the Pacific.

The bounty lands for services in the revolutionary war, and that of 1812, flowed mostly to the citizens of the old States, and, say one-half of those for services in the Mexican war.

The amount actually paid to the old States, under the act of 4th September, 1841, of the surplus revenue, is, of course, charged to those States.

As the proceeds of the public lands went into the treasury, and were applied to aid in defraying the expenses of the government, the necessity was thus obviated of increasing the tariff to that amount. The tariff, it is admitted, bears more equally on the entire population of a country than any other tax. The old States originally, and until within a few years, were vastly more populous than the new, and this relief, therefore, applied in the same proportion. Suppose, then, that for the entire period of the operation of the land system, the average proportion of the population of the old States to that of the new was as three to one; on this basis the people of the old States would have been benefited by three-fourths of the proceeds of the public lands, and those of the new States by one-fourth of those proceeds.

To state the account, then, on these hypotheses, the old States are chargeable with the amount of lands given as bounties in the revolutionary war and that of 1812, including that under the acts of 1850 and 1852—say 19,209,297 acres, equal to.....	\$24,011,620 00
One-half of the act of 1847—say 6,477,880 acres, equal to.....	8,097,350 00.
Amount actually paid the old States under the act of 1841.....	409,912 42
Three-fourths of the proceeds of the public lands.....	113,676,758 67

Making a total of 146,195,641 09
the benefit of which has flowed chiefly, if not entirely, to the people

of the old States. This amount, it will be remembered, is exclusive of the sum of more than forty-eight and a quarter millions net receipts for imports at the ports of Florida and Louisiana, which went into the treasury, and by which the people of the old States were also proportionably benefited.

One of the greatest benefits, however, to the old States, and that which cannot be estimated by dollars and cents, was the opening given by the new to the ambitious and enterprising citizens of the former, and the facilities furnished them by government of obtaining valuable farms at mere nominal prices. They have also enjoyed immense benefits from the products of the West—the supply being vastly increased thereby, and the cost proportionably reduced.

On the other hand, grants have been made to the new States and Territory of Minnesota for schools, academies, universities, seats of government, public buildings, and internal improvements; the swamp lands being left out of the account, because, by the terms of that grant, the proceeds were to be applied in draining those lands—say 34,891,063 $\frac{1}{8}$ acres, equal to..... \$43,613,829 50

One-half the bounty land act of 1847—6,477,880 acres,	
equal to.....	8,097,350 00
Amount actually paid under act of 1841.....	178,141 39
One-fourth the proceeds.....	37,892,252 89
Two, three, and five per cent. fund.....	4,562,813 34

Making a total of..... 94,344,387 12

the benefits of which would have flowed to the new States on this basis.

Thus it will be perceived that mutual benefits, to an immense extent, and in about equal proportion, have flowed to both the old and new States, under this judicious system; and if either has apparently the advantage, it is all within the one great family, and not a sufficient ground of controversy between sires and sons.

The true policy of the land system is, first, to encourage the actual settlement and improvement of the public domain. This may be done by such amendments to the pre-emption laws as experience may prove necessary for the purpose, and by which every actual settler may secure his improvements in a reasonable time, without risk of competition from speculators.

And, second, to aid in providing the necessary facilities for intercommunications, and for the transportation of the products of the lands to market. Although the railroad excitement, in many cases, has been carried to excess, experience has proved that grants for such purposes, when carried out in good faith, are alike beneficial to the people, the States, and the general government.

To prevent mere speculation, and to secure an equivalent to the government for the lands granted for those purposes, some modifications in the acts making them seem proper—as, for instance, that no grant should be made except on the application of the legislature of a State; that the lands should be taken in alternate sections within a certain distance on each side of the improvement, the minimum price of the remaining sections to be doubled, throughout the whole extent

of the grant; and the lands to be certified to the States as the work progresses, with a provision of forfeiture in case of failure.

It is impossible to portray the vast benefits already derived by the West from this system. Immense regions have been disposed of that were thought to be wholly unsaleable, because of the difficulty of access; and so numerous are the applications for these lands, that in some cases, for want of time, they cannot be acted on for months after they are made. The government has consequently been benefited, as will be seen in part from the following tables:

A.—WITHIN THE SIX-MILE LIMITS.

Statement showing the quantity of land sold, with amount of purchase money received for the same; also, the quantity located within the six and fifteen mile limits of the Illinois Central railroad, from the date of being offered at public sale to the 30th September, 1854, within the State of Illinois, by land districts.

Districts.	Date when offered.	Quantity.	Purchase money.	Quantity located with warrants.	Excess purchase money upon locations with warrants.
		<i>Acres.</i>		<i>Acres.</i>	
Shawneetown ..	July 19, 1852	5,246.02	\$13,115 06	2,235.78	\$2,754 80
Kaskaskia	July 5, 1852	36,826.00	92,068 93	18,147.90	22,882 87
Edwardsville.....					
Dixon.....	Sept. 20, 1852	62,240.34	160,600 00	57,903.16	72,378 95
Vandalia.....	Aug. 2, 1852	146,238.91	375,845 05	118,548.99	148,961 11
Springfield.....					
Danville.....	Aug. 23, 1852	132,480.58	332,531 79	118,806.33	149,835 97
Chicago.....	Sept. 1, 1852	35,801.23	91,217 89	13,574.40	18,262 16
Palestine.....	Aug. 16, 1852	5,640.00	14,100 00	12,000.00	15,000 00
Within six-mile.....		424,473.08	1,079,478 72	341,216.56	430,075 86

B.—WITHIN THE FIFTEEN-MILE LIMIT.

Districts.	Date when offered.	Quantity.	Purchase money.	Quantity located with warrants.	Excess purchase money upon locations with warrants.
		<i>Acres.</i>		<i>Acres.</i>	
Shawneetown...	July 19, 1852	41,352.57	\$51,690 68	66,673.06	\$1,140 92
Kaskaskia	July 5, 1852	35,700.96	44,680 40	39,700.99	585 66
Edwardsville...	July 12, 1852	3,497.95	4,349 93	7,926.95	16 82
Dixon.....	Sept. 20, 1852	49,943.04	62,438 80	184,914.86	8,870 08
Vandalia.....	Aug. 2, 1852	66,215.91	82,863 73	382,453.29	6,889 99
Springfield.....	July 26, 1853	26,123.00	33,400 26	94,989.00	760 00
Danville.....	Aug. 23, 1852	99,886.08	125,097 46	369,829.72	17,740 17
Chicago.....	Sept. 1, 1852	5,160.67	6,492 06	41,936.68	.....
Palestine.....	Aug. 16, 1852	21,000.00	27,304 19	75,000.00	253 28
Within fifteen-mile.....		348,880.18	438,317 51	1,263,424.55	36,256 92

Acres sold within both limits.....	773,353.26
Acres located within both limits.....	1,604,641.11
Total sold and located with military warrants....	<u>2,377,994.37</u>
Cash received for land sold.....	\$1,517,796 23
Excess in cash upon locations with warrants.....	466,332 78
Total cash received.....	<u>1,984,129 01</u>
Cash value of warrants surrendered.....	\$2,005,081 38

The necessity for means of communication between the Pacific and the Mississippi, across the continent, is becoming more apparent and pressing every year. The only mode by which this can be accomplished is a grant of the character above alluded to. No State can do it; it has not the power to go beyond its own limits. The work is too vast for private enterprise, and too important for further delay. Should the land system be crippled, this work, and all others of like character, will be rendered impracticable. If the object sought in the passage of the graduation act was to get rid of the lands as soon as practicable, there is but little doubt that object will be attained by it. If, on the contrary, the supposition was that the lands would not sell for more, the foregoing, I think, will satisfactorily show that supposition to be erroneous. The sales have always been equal to the demand; the supply far, very far, beyond it. The demand at the reduced prices will be increased, but chiefly for purposes of speculation; and the hardy and enterprising settler instead of dealing with a kind paternal government in the purchase of his land, and securing a perfect title, will have to look to the wealthy monopolist and trust to his tender mercies, with the risk that his title is encumbered by prior liens or mortgages.

With these views, the natural suggestion is, that the graduation law be radically amended, if it be the pleasure of Congress to engraft it permanently on the land system; and in that event, it is further suggested that the twelve-and-a-half-cent class be abolished, or rather donated to the States respectively in which they lie, as the profit will scarcely defray the expenses of disposing of them.

The materials to answer the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 4th of August last, cannot be prepared in time to be laid before that body at the commencement of the next session. That resolution requires "that the Secretary of the Interior cause to be prepared for the use of the House of Representatives, during the recess of Congress, a statement of the time the public lands may have been in market, as well as the quantity, classified according to the act graduating and reducing the price of the public lands, passed 4th August, 1854." The statistics now on hand cannot aid in preparing an answer to this resolution, even if they could be relied on.

The classification of the lands is progressing as rapidly as possible; and when completed, it will be necessary to ascertain the amount in each township that remains vacant, as well as the time of offering,

that the classifications required by the act may from time to time be made. This work is tedious and slow, and requires the services of those who are familiar with the land system. To obtain a starting-point, it was necessary to post all sales, locations, and selections up to 1st of July last. This is mostly done, and every effort consistent with a due regard to correctness will be made to prepare the answer to the resolution at the earliest day practicable.

All of which, with the accompanying documents, is most respectfully submitted.

Your most obedient servant,

JOHN WILSON,
Commissioner.

INSTRUCTIONS TO THE SURVEYOR GENERAL OF NEW MEXICO.

GENERAL LAND OFFICE,
August 21, 1854.

SIR: The 8th section of the act approved 22d July last, for the establishment of the office of surveyor general in New Mexico, declares as follows:

"SEC. 8. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall be the duty of the surveyor general, under such instructions as may be given by the Secretary of the Interior, to ascertain the origin, nature, character, and extent of all claims to lands under the laws, usages, and customs of Spain and Mexico; and for this purpose may issue notices, summon witnesses, administer oaths, and do and perform all other necessary acts in the premises.

"He shall make a full report on all such claims as originated before the cession of the territory to the United States by the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, of eighteen hundred and forty-eight, denoting the various grades of title, with his decision as to the validity or invalidity of each of the same under the laws, usages, and customs of the country before its cession to the United States; and shall also make a report in regard to all pueblos existing in the Territory, showing the extent and locality of each, stating the number of inhabitants in the said pueblos respectively, and the nature of their titles to the land. Such report to be made according to the form which may be prescribed by the Secretary of the Interior; which report shall be laid before Congress for such action thereon as may be deemed just and proper, with a view to confirm *bona fide* grants, and give full effect to the treaty of eighteen hundred and forty-eight between the United States and Mexico; and until the final action of Congress on such claims, all lands shall be reserved from sale or other disposal by the government, and shall not be subject to the donations granted by the previous provisions of this act."

The duty which this enactment devolves upon the surveyor general is highly important and responsible. He has it in charge to prepare a faithful report of all the land titles in New Mexico which had their

origin before the United States succeeded to the sovereignty of the country, and the law contemplates such a report as will enable Congress to make a just and proper discrimination between such as are *bona fide* and should be confirmed, and such as are fraudulent or otherwise destitute of merit, and ought to be rejected.

The treaty of 1848 between the United States and Mexico (United States Statutes at Large, volume 9, page 922) expressly stipulates in the 8th and 9th articles for the security and protection of private property. The terms there employed in this respect are the same in substance as those used in the treaty of 1803, by which the French republic ceded the ancient province of Louisiana to the United States; and consequently, in the examination of foreign titles in New Mexico, you will have the aid of the enlightened decisions, and the principles therein developed, of the Supreme Court of the United States, upon the titles that were based upon the treaty of cession and the laws of Congress upon the subject.

The security to private property for which the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo stipulates, is in accordance with the principles of public law as universally acknowledged by civilized nations.

"The people change their allegiance; their relation to their ancient sovereign is dissolved; but their relations to each other, and their rights of property, remain undisturbed."—United States *vs.* Perchman, 7 Peters' Reports.

In the case of the United States *vs.* Arredondo and others, 6th Peters' Reports, the Supreme Court declare that Congress "have adopted, as the basis of all their acts, the principle that the law of the province in which the land is situated is the law which gives efficacy to the grant, and by which it is to be tested whether it was *property* at the time the treaties took effect."

Upon the same basis Congress has proceeded in the present act of legislation, which requires the surveyor general, under instructions from the Secretary of the Interior, to ascertain the origin, nature, character and extent of all claims to land "under the laws, usages, and customs of Spain and Mexico;" and arms the surveyor general with power for the purpose, by authorizing him to "issue notices, summon witnesses, administer oaths, and do and perform all other necessary acts in the premises."

The private land titles in New Mexico are derived from the authorities of Old Spain, as well as of Mexico.

Among the "necessary acts" contemplated by the law and required of you, is, that you shall—

1st. Acquaint yourself with the land system of Spain as applied to her ultra marine possessions, the general features of which are found—modified, of course, by local requirements and usages—in the former provinces and dependencies of that monarchy on this continent. For this purpose you must examine the laws of Spain, the royal ordinances, decrees and regulations as collected in *White's Recopilacion*, 2 vols.

By the acts of Congress approved 26th May, 1824, 23d May, 1828, and 17th June, 1844, (United States Statutes at Large, vol. 4, page 52, chap. 173; page 284, chap. 70; and vol. 5, page 676, chap. 95,)

the United States district courts were opened for the examination and adjudication of foreign titles. Numerous cases on appeal under these laws, and other cases on writs of error, in which actions on ejectment in the courts below had been instituted, were brought before the Supreme Court of the United States, where the rights of property under inceptive and imperfect titles which originated under the Spanish system have been thoroughly examined and discussed with eminent ability.

For these decisions I refer you to Peters' and Howard's Reports of the Decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States. It is important you should carefully examine them in connexion with the Spanish law, and the legislation of Congress on the subject, in order that you may understand and be able to apply the principles of the Spanish system as understood and expounded by the authorities of our government.

2d. Upon your arrival at *Santa Fé* you will make application to the governor of the Territory for such of the archives as relate to grants of land by the former authorities of the country. You will see that they are kept in a place of security from fire, or other accidents, and that access is allowed only to land owners who may find it necessary to refer to their title records, and such references must be made under your eye, or that of a sworn employé of the government.

You will proceed at once to arrange and classify the papers in the order of date, and have them properly and substantially bound. You will then have *schedules* (marked 1) of them made out in duplicate, and will prepare *abstracts*, (No. 2) also in duplicate, of all the grants found in the records, showing the names of grantees, *date*, area, locality, by whom conceded, and under what authority.

You will prepare, in duplicate, from the archives or authoritative sources, a *document*, (No. 3) exhibiting the names of all the officers of the Territory who held the power of distributing lands from the earliest settlement of the territory until the change of government, indicating the several periods of their incumbency, the nature and extent of their powers conceding lands; whether, and to what extent, and under what conditions and limitations, authority existed in the governors or political chiefs to distribute (*repartir*) the public domain; whether in any class of cases they had the power to make an absolute grant; and if so, for what maximum in area; or, whether subject to the affirmance of the department or supreme government; whether the Spanish surveying system was in operation, and since what period in the country, and under what organization; also, with verified copies in the original, and translations, of the laws and decrees of the Mexican republic, and regulations which may have been adopted by the general government of that republic for the disposal of the public lands in New Mexico. Herewith you will receive a table of land measures adopted by the Mexican government, translated from the "*Ordenanzas de Tierras y Aguas*," by Marianas Galvan, edition of 1844, as printed in Ex. Doc. No. 17, 1st session 31st Congress, House of Representatives, containing much valuable information on the subject of California and New Mexico, and of which document I would invite your special and careful examination.

In a report of the 14th November, 1851, from the surveyor general of California, it is stated that all the grants, &c., of lots or lands in California, made either by the Spanish government or that of Mexico, refer to the "vara" of Mexico as the measure of length; that, by common consent in California, that measure is considered as exactly equivalent to *thirty-three* American inches. That officer then enclosed to us copy of a document he had obtained as being an extract of a treaty made by the Mexican government, from which it would seem that another length is given to the "vara;" and by J. H. Alexander's (of Baltimore) Dictionary of Weights and Measures, the Mexican vara is stated to be *equal to 92.741 of the American yard*.

This office, however, has sanctioned the recognition, in California, of the Mexican vara, as being equivalent to *thirty-three* American inches.

You will carefully compare the data furnished in the table herewith, and in the foregoing, with the Spanish measurements in use in New Mexico, and will report whether they are identical; or if varied in any respect by law or usage, you will make a report of all the particulars.

You should also add to "document No. 3," the *forms* used under the former governments to obtain grants, beginning with the initiatory proceeding, viz: the petition, and indicating the several successive acts until the title was completed. A copy of the "schedule," "abstract," and "document," required of you in the foregoing, duly authenticated by you, should constitute a part of the permanent files of the surveyor general's office, and duplicates of them should be sent as soon as practicable to the Department of the Interior.

The knowledge and experience you will acquire in arranging the archives, collecting materials, and making out the documents called for by these instructions, will enable you to enter understandingly upon the work of receiving and examining the testimony which may be presented to you by land claimants, and prepare your report thereon, for the action of Congress.

In the first instance, you will provide yourself with a *journal*, consisting of substantially bound volume or volumes, which is to constitute a complete record of your official proceedings in regard to land titles; and with a suitable *docket*, for the entry therein of claims in the order of their presentation, and so arranged as to indicate at a glance a brief statement of each case, its number, name of original and present claimant, area, locality, from what authority derived, nature of title—whether complete or incomplete, and your decision thereon.

Your first session should be held at *Santa Fé*, and your subsequent sessions at such places and periods as public convenience may suggest, of which you will give timely notice to the department.

You will commence your session by giving proper public notice of the same, in a newspaper of the largest circulation in the English and Spanish languages—will make known your readiness to receive notices and testimony in support of the land claims of individuals, derived ~~before the change of government~~.

You will require claimants in every case—and give public notice to that effect—to file a written *notice* setting forth the name of "present claimant;" name of the "original claimant;" nature of claim—whether

inchoate or perfect ; its date ; from what authority the original title was derived, with a reference to the evidence of the power and authority under which the granting officer may have acted ; quantity claimed ; locality, notice, and extent of conflicting claims, if any, with a reference to the documentary evidence and testimony relied upon to establish the claim, and to show a transfer of right from the "original grantee" to "present claimant."

You will also require of every claimant an authenticated plat of survey, if a survey has been executed, or other evidence, showing the precise locality and extent of the tract claimed.

This is indispensable, in order to avoid any doubt hereafter in reserving from sale, as contemplated by law, the particular tract or parcel of land for which a claim may be duly filed, or in communicating the title to the same hereafter, in the event of a final confirmation.

The effect of this will be not only to save claimants from embarrassments and difficulties, inseparable from the presentation and adjudication of claims with indefinite limits, but will promote the welfare of the country generally, by furnishing the surveyor general with evidence of what is claimed as private property, under treaty and the act of July 22, 1854 ; thus enabling him to ascertain what is undisputed public land, and to proceed with the public surveys accordingly, without awaiting the final action of Congress upon the subject.

You will take care to guard the public against fraudulent or antedated claims, and will bring the title-papers to the test of the genuine signatures, which you should collect of the granting officers, as well as to the test of the official registers or abstracts which may exist of the titles issued by the granting officers. In all cases, of course, the *original* title-papers are to be produced, or loss accounted for ; and where copies are presented, they must be authenticated ; and your report should also state the precise character of the papers acted upon by you, whether originals or otherwise. Where the claim may be presented by a party as "present claimant" in right of another, you must be satisfied that the deraignment of title is complete ; otherwise, the entry and your decision should be in favor of the "legal representatives" of the original grantee.

Your journal should be prefaced by a record of the law under which you are required to act, and of your commission and oath of office ; and should contain a full record of the notice and evidence in support of each claim, and of your decision, setting forth, as succinctly and concisely as possible, all the leading facts, particulars, and the principles applicable to the case, and upon which such decision may be founded. All the original papers should of course be carefully numbered, filed, and preserved ; and upon each should be endorsed the volume and page of the record in which they are entered, and such reference should be made on the journal and docket as will properly connect them with each other.

Your docket should be a condensed exhibit of every case and of your decision. The claims, both as to grade and dignity, may be classified by numerals or alphabetically, accompanied by explanatory notes, in

such a manner that it will show every case confirmed, and every one rejected by you.

In the case of any town lot, farm lot, or pasture lots, held under a grant from any corporation or town to which lands may be granted for the establishment of a town, by the Spanish or Mexican government, or the lawful authorities thereof, or in the case of any city, town, or village lot, which city, town, or village existed at the time possession was taken of New Mexico by the authorities of the United States, the claim to the same may be presented by the corporate authorities; or where the land on which the said city, town, or village, was originally granted to an individual, the claim may be presented by or in the name of such individual; and the fact being proved to you of the existence of such city, town, or village at the period when the United States took possession, may be considered by you as *prima facie* evidence of a grant to such corporation, or to the individuals under whom the lot-holders claim; and where any city, town, or village shall be in existence at the passage of the act of 22d July, 1854, the claim for the land embraced within the limits of the same may be made and proved up before you by the corporate authority of the said city, town, or village. Such is the principle sanctioned by the act of 3d March, 1851, for the adjudication of Spanish and Mexican claims in California; and I think its application and adoption proper in regard to claims in New Mexico.

In the month of March, 1849, there was published in the Atlantic States an extract of a letter dated December 12, 1848, at Santa Fé, New Mexico, purporting to be from a young officer of the army, in which it was stated that "the prefect at El Paso del Norte has for the last few months been very active in disposing (for his own benefit) of all lands in that vicinity that are valuable, *antedating* the title to said purchasers;" that "these land titles" would "be made a source of profitable litigation," &c. It will be your duty to subject all papers under suspicion of fraud to the severest scrutiny and test, in order to settle the question of their genuineness.

You will also collect information, from authentic sources, in reference to the laws of the country respecting minerals, and ascertain what conditions were attached to grants embracing mines; whether or not the laws and policy of the former governments conferred absolute title in granting lands of this class in New Mexico. It is proper, also, and you are instructed in the case of every claim that may be filed, to ascertain from the parties, and require testimony, as to whether the tracts claimed are mineral or agricultural; and you will be careful to make the necessary discrimination in the record of your proceedings and in your docket.

Your report should be divided into two parts. Part first should embrace individual and municipal claims, and should be prepared in the manner contemplated by law, and in accordance with the requirements in the foregoing instructions.

The law further requires you, also, to "make a report in regard to all pueblos existing in the Territory, showing the extent and locality of each, stating the number of inhabitants in the said pueblos respectively, and the nature of their titles to the land."

Part second of your report should be devoted to this branch of your duty.

It will be your business to collect *data* from the records and other authentic sources relative to these pueblos, so that you will enable Congress to understand the matter fully, and legislate in such a manner as will do justice to all concerned.

In a report dated July 29, 1849, in camp near Santa Fé, from the Indian agent, James S. Calhoun, to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, he says: "The Pueblo Indians, it is believed, are entitled to the early and especial consideration of the government of the United States; they are the only tribe in perfect amity with the government, and are an industrious, agricultural, and pastoral people, living principally in villages, ranging north and west of Taos South, on both sides of the Rio Grande, more than 250 miles;" that "by a Mexican statute these people," as he had been informed by Judge Houghton, of Santa Fé, "were constituted citizens of the republic of Mexico, granting to all of mature age, who could read and write, the privilege of voting;" but this statute has no practical operation; that "since the occupancy of the territory by the government of the United States, the territorial legislature of 1847 passed the following act, which at the date of the Indian agent's report was in force:

"Sec. 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Territory of New Mexico*, That the inhabitants within the Territory of New Mexico known by the name of Pueblo Indians, and living in towns or villages built on lands granted to such Indians by the laws of Spain or Mexico, and conceding to such inhabitants certain land and privileges, to be used for the common benefit, are severally hereby created and constituted bodies politic and corporate, and shall be known in law by the name of the 'Pueblo,' &c., (naming it;) and by that name they and their successors shall have perpetual succession—sue and be sued."

In a subsequent report, viz: of the 4th of October, 1849, the same officer reported, from Santa Fé, that "the pueblos or civilized towns of Indians of the Territory of New Mexico are the following:

In the county of Taos: Taos Picoris	283 inhabitants.
In the county of Rio Ariba: San Juan, Santa Clara	500 "
In the county of Santa Fé: San Ildefonso, Namba, Pojoaque, Tesuque	590 "
In the county of Santa Ana: Cochite, Santa Dominguito, San Felipe, Santa Ana, Zia, Jenez	1,918 "
In the county of Bernalillo: Sandia-Gleta	883 "
In the county of Valencia: Leguna, Acona, Zunia	1,800 "
Opposite El Paso: Socoro, Islettas	600 "

Recapitulation.—Pueblos of New Mexico.

County of Taos	283	over five years of age.
County of Rio Ariba	500	" "
County of Santa Fé	590	" "
County of Santa Ana	1,918	" "

County of Bernalillo	833	over five years of age.
County of Valencia.....	1,800	“ “
District of Tontero, opposite El Paso del Norte.....	600	“ “
	6,524.	”

The above enumeration, it is stated by the officer mentioned, “was taken from census ordered by the legislature of New Mexico, convened December, 1847, which includes only those of five years of age and upwards;” and further, that “these pueblos are located from ten to near a hundred miles apart, commencing north at Taos, and running south to near El Paso, some four hundred miles or more, and running east and west two hundred miles;” this statement having no reference to pueblos west of Zunia.

In another despatch, dated the 15th October, 1849, at Santa Fé, the same agent reports that “these pueblos are built with direct reference to defence, and their houses are from one to six stories high,” &c.; that “the general character of their houses is superior to those of Santa Fé;” they “have rich valleys to cultivate,” &c.; and they “are a valuable and available people, and as firmly fixed in their homes as any one can be in the United States;” that “their lands are held by Spanish and Mexican grants—to what extent is unknown;” that Santa Ana, as Major Weightman had informed the agent, “decreed, in 1843, that one born in Mexico was a Mexican citizen, and, as such, is a voter, and therefore all the Pueblo Indians are voters;” but that “the exercise of this privilege was not known prior to what is termed an election—the last one in this Territory,” &c.

It is obligatory on the government of the United States to deal with the private land titles, and the “pueblos,” precisely as Mexico would have done had the sovereignty not changed. We are bound to recognise all titles as she would have done—to go that far, and no further. This is the principle which you will bear in mind in acting upon these important concerns.

You will append to your report on the pueblos the best map of the country that can be procured, on a large scale, and will indicate thereon the localities and extent of the several pueblos as illustrative of that report; which you are desired to prepare and transmit to the department at as early a period as the nature of the duty will allow.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN WILSON, *Commissioner*.

WM. PELHAM, Esq.,

U. S. Surveyor General of New Mexico.

The foregoing instructions are hereby approved.

R. McCLELLAND, *Secretary*.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

August 25, 1854.

Extract of a treaty made with the Mexican government, which accompanied a report dated November 14, 1851, from the U. S. Surveyor General of California, respecting the ratio of land measures between those employed under the Mexican government and those in use in the United States.

[From the Mexican ordinance for land and sea.]

Article 20th of the agreement entered into between the minister plenipotentiary of the Mexican republic and her agents in London, the 15th of September, 1837, with the holders of Mexican bonds.

20th. In compliance of what is ordered by the seventh article of the preceding law, and in order to carry into effect the stipulation in the preceding agreement in regard to the holders of bonds deferred, it is declared that the act of which mention is made in said agreement answers to 4840 English yards squared, equivalent to 5762.403 Mexican varas square; inasmuch that the sitio de ganado moyer contains 4338.464 acres, the Mexican vara having been found by exact measures equal to 837 French millimetres, and consequently to $\frac{216.469}{100.000}$ of the English imperial yard.

Reducing the ratio of 4840 square yards and 5762.403 square varas, the vara will be.....	32.99312
Reducing the 4338.464 acres.....	32.99311
Reducing the fraction $\frac{216.469}{100.000}$	32.992884
The fraction mentioned in note, $\frac{215.755}{100.000}$	32.96718

* Translation of a note at the foot of the page.

Without doubt, in this fraction there is an error of the press, since, considering the English yard 914 millimetres, and the Mexican vara 837 millimetres, the vara will be $\frac{215.755}{100.000}$ of a yard, the first figure, 6, being the inverted 9.

Table of land measures adopted in the republic of Mexico.

Names of the measures.	Figures of the measures.	Length of the figures, expressed in varas.	Breadth in varas.	Area in square varas.	Areas in caballerias.
Sitio de ganado mayor.	Square	5,000	5,000	25,000,000	41,023
Criadero de ganado mayor.	Square	2,500	2,500	6,250,000	10,255
Sitio de ganado menor.	Square	3,333 $\frac{1}{3}$	3,333 $\frac{1}{3}$	11,111,111 $\frac{1}{3}$	18,232
Criadero de ganado menor.	Square	1,666 $\frac{2}{3}$	1,666 $\frac{2}{3}$	2,777,777 $\frac{2}{3}$	4,558
Caballeria de tierra	Right-angled parallelogram.	1,104	552	609,408	1
Media caballeria. . .	Square	552	552	304,704	$\frac{1}{2}$
Cuarto caballeria ó Suerte de tierra.	Right angled parallelogram.	552	276	152,352	$\frac{1}{4}$
Fenega de sembraduro de maíz.	Right-angled parallelogram.	376	184	56,784	$\frac{1}{16}$
Sala para casa.	Square	50	50	2,500	0.004
Fundo legal para pueblos.	Square	1,200	1,200	1,440,000	2.036

The Mexican vara is the unit of all the measures of length, the pattern and size of which are taken from the Castilian vara of the mark of Burgos, and is the legal vara used in the Mexican republic. Fifty Mexican varas make a measure which is called cordel, which instrument is used in measuring lands.

The legal league contains 100 cordels, or 5,000 varas, which is found by multiplying by 100 the 50 varas contained in a cordel. The league is divided into two halves and four quarters, this being the only division made of it. Half a league contains 2,500 varas, and a quarter of a league 1,250 varas. Anciently, the Mexican league was divided into three miles, the mile into a thousand paces of Solomon, and one of these paces into five-thirds of a Mexican vara; consequently the league had 3,000 paces of Solomon. This division is recognised in legal affairs, but has been a very long time in disuse—the same as the pace of Solomon, which in those days was called vara, and was used for measuring lands. The *mark* was equivalent to two varas and seven-eighths—that is, eight marks containing twenty-three varas—and was used for measuring lands.

GENERAL LAND OFFICE, *August 26, 1854.*

SIR: Under authority of the first section of the act of Congress approved 22d ultimo, entitled "An act to establish the offices of surveyors general of New Mexico, Kansas, and Nebraska, to grant donations to actual settlers therein, and for other purposes," you have been appointed surveyor general of public lands in the Territory of New Mexico. Your power, authority, and duties are the same as those provided by law for the surveyor general of Oregon, with proper allowances for clerk-hire, office-rent, and fuel, not exceeding what now is, or hereafter may be, allowed by law to said surveyor general of Oregon; and your office is to be located from time to time at such places as may be directed by the President of the United States.

Your first surveying duty will be to determine the location of a principal base and a principal meridian line, to govern the public surveys in the Territory. The great body of the settlements it is presumed will be found in the valley of the Rio Grande del Norte.

It is desirable that the *principal meridian* should run near the suburbs of Santa Fé, *starting* from and intersecting on the south the principal *base* line extending east and west, possibly as far south as the junction of the Rio Puerco and the Rio Grande. It may be, however, that the mountainous features of the country present obstacles which forbid the meridian line being extended through the longitude of Santa Fé; and if so, you are authorized to run it to the east or west thereof, as far as in your judgment may be found most expedient, and to such locality as shall present superior facilities for the purpose; and you may find that the most available position for the meridian and base to intersect each other will be the point of junction of the Rio Puerco with the Rio Grande del Norte.

Your earliest operation will be to survey the base line, starting from the *point* thereon where it will be intersected by the meridian; and, running *west* therefrom, you will establish boundary corners at intervals of every half mile, mile, and six miles, to govern the township surveys to the *west* of the principal meridian; and from the same intersection point, running *east*, corner boundaries at similar intervals will be established, to govern the township surveys on the *east* of such principal meridian.

At right-angles to the principal meridian, on the north of the base line, what are called standard parallels or correction lines will subsequently be extended east and west at every *fourth township, or twenty-fourth mile*, and from the same meridian to the south of the base line similar standard or correction lines are to be extended at every *fifth township, or every thirtieth mile*; and on such standard or correction lines, at the time when surveyed, the corner boundaries for townships, sections, and quarter-sections, are to be established at every six miles, mile, and half mile, respectively, as prescribed for the public surveys in Oregon Territory.

The township and subdivisional surveys, which will start from the standard or correction line *below*, will close by meridional lines on the standard *above* in every instance; so that double corners may be expected to exist on such standards, but which are inadmissible under any other circumstances.

The distances to which the principal meridian, base, and standard parallels should be *extended* on the *first* operations, will be only so far as shall be deemed indispensably necessary in order to regulate the surveying, at the earliest practicable periods, of those portions of the Territory now occupied and settled upon, and also those to which emigration may be tending.

The instrument to be relied on in establishing all your principal lines will be "Burt's improved solar compass." You are herewith provided with two pole-chains, of a true standard measure, the extreme links of which are terminated by rivets on the inner circles of their handles: these chains must always be retained in your office to regulate the chains of your deputy surveyors, each of whom should take to the field a similar standard, to regulate from time to time the chains in practical use.

As you are aware, from long experience, that the value of the public surveys depends on the permanency of the boundary monuments, and that great evils have ensued from the inefficient construction of mounds of earth, where such have to be used for that purpose, it is therefore expected that you will exact of your deputy surveyors the most rigid accountability for the faithful construction of mounds for boundaries, according to the method prescribed for Oregon, and which has been required to be adopted in California and Minnesota, and will also be made applicable to the surveys in New Mexico.

None other than township lines are to be run where the land is deemed unfit for cultivation, and no deputy shall charge for any line except such as may be actually run and marked, nor for any line not actually necessary to be run.

You will enter into a contract with a deputy surveyor of well established skill and reputation, for the survey of the base and meridian lines, and who must be conversant with the uses and practice of Burt's improved solar compass, and also of the theodolite; the former to be used especially in reference to taking latitudes at all such points as you may prescribe, and ascertaining the variation of the needle on the respective lines; and the latter for taking long-course sights and bearings of the mountain ranges, from the appropriate station points where it shall be deemed necessary to take angles in order to establish distances of inaccessible objects from such points.

As the base and meridian lines will form the groundwork of all your surveying operations, special care, skill and practical experience are requisite to that work; and to insure uniformity in the processes, it is expedient that the surveying of those lines should be confided to one and the same deputy surveyor, with instructions to him to employ as his assistants one and the same corps of operators *throughout*, if practicable; and in view of the cost of instruments, expense of outfit, &c., such proceeding would seem to be the most economical.

After having instituted these preliminary proceedings, and reported the fact to the department, it is expedient that you make a reconnaissance through the country, with a view to acquire correct information as to the localities and extent of the principal settlements, in order to enable you to determine the particular portions of country which ought, in your opinion, to be the first surveyed into townships and

subdivided; and where certain localities indicate the expediency of departing to greater or less extent from the system of *square* sectioning, you will report thereon, and give your opinion as to the mode of surveying by front and depth, or radiating lots, which will be better adapted to the topographical features of the country, and the wants and requirements of its people, present and prospective.

Your actual and necessary personal expenses whilst engaged in making the reconnaissance alluded to will be allowed at the department, on the production of proper vouchers.

At the intersection point between the base line and meridian, a conspicuous monument is to be constructed to signalize the spot, and which is to be described in the field-notes.

The deputy surveyor in his line field-book (whether base or meridian) is to note, as he proceeds in his measurements, the distance on his line of the crossings of every stream or ravine, &c., the width thereof, also the depth of stream or ravine, and the points of crossing of every other natural object, whether hill, mountain, ridge, lake, pond, ledge of rocks, stone quarry, mineral locality, and noting the kind of mineral; also noting the point when entering prairie, wood-land, swamp or marsh, and when leaving the same, the kind of timber and geological features of the country; these all to be carefully ascertained, and appropriately set forth in his line field-book, which is required to be free from blots, blurs, and interlineations of every kind which would throw the least doubt as to the true meaning of such book, which is to constitute the permanent record of the work, and to be filed and preserved at your office; a certified copy of the same to be returned to this office, accompanied by appropriate plats of the lines. It is proposed that such plats be on a scale of *two inches to the mile*, and to be protracted on successive sheets so as to admit of the same being bound up in a book form, instead of being in one continuous roll. The sheets, if of the size of a township plat (twelve inches square with-in a large margin,) may admit of three lengths, of twelve inches each, being inserted on a single sheet, leaving a copious margin.

You will communicate with the department as soon as convenient, after having instituted the surveys of your base and meridian lines; and when enabled understandingly to do so, you will report your views as to the extension of standard lines (accompanied by a programme of survey) so far as to admit of dividing into townships, and subdividing into sections, those particular portions of country which seem to command the *earliest attention*; and in order to acquire as much reliable information as possible on this subject, (and at the earliest practicable period,) you are herewith furnished with a draught of a "Notice to the inhabitants of New Mexico, claiming donations to land under act of Congress of July 22, 1854," which you will issue from your office at Santa Fé, and cause to be distributed as extensively as possible over the country. You will cause the same to be printed both in English and Spanish.

It may be that there are *isolated settlements*, so situated and surrounded by mountain-barriers as not to be approachable by the standard parallels, in order to connect them regularly with the main body of surveys without incurring great loss of time, expense, and labor.

Should such circumstances of imperative necessity be found to exist, it may possibly be deemed best to survey such isolated portions of country in bodies of townships, to be surveyed and subdivided in the usual manner, according to the true meridian, but as *independent* townships, having no reference whatever to the base and meridian lines. Townships so situated would of necessity have to be designated each by a *specific name*; as, for instance, "Independence township," "Constitution township," "Columbia township," and so forth.

These are suggestions seasonably presented for your future consideration, and to be reported on at your leisure. The prices allowed for surveying in Oregon Territory are as follows: For principal meridian, principal base, and standard parallel lines, not exceeding twenty dollars per mile; and for surveying township and subdivisional lines, not exceeding twelve dollars per mile. These are maximum rates, subject to be reduced by you where found practicable to do so consistently with the faithful execution of the work.

Herewith is furnished a form of contract and bond to be entered into by deputy surveyors, with a supply of blanks for the same.

You will submit your report as seasonably as possible on the various subjects of your duties to be laid before Congress at the next session, accompanied by estimates of the appropriations deemed necessary for the surveying service in New Mexico during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1856.

You are hereby apprized that it is the opinion of this office that parties holding lands under claims from the former governments of Spain or New Mexico are *not entitled also* to receive a donation of land under the act of July 22, 1854.

It is declared by the fourth section of the act as follows:

"That none of the provisions of this act shall extend to mineral or school lands, salines, military or other reservations, or land settled on and occupied for purposes of trade and commerce and not for agriculture, and all legal subdivisions settled on and occupied in whole or in part for purposes of trade and commerce and not for agriculture, shall be subject to the provisions of the act of 23d May, 1854, in relation to town sites on the public lands, whether so settled and occupied before or after the survey of said lands, except that said lands shall be donated instead of being sold."

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN WILSON, *Commissioner.*

WM. PELHAM, Esq., *Surveyor General of New Mexico.*

The foregoing instructions are hereby approved.

R. McCLELLAND, *Secretary.*

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

September 2, 1854.

GENERAL LAND OFFICE, *August 28, 1854.*

SIR: The act of the 22d July, 1854, directs that "your power, authority, and duties" shall be the same as "those provided by law for

the surveyor general of Oregon;" hence you are requested to execute the 2d, 3d, and 4th sections of that law, making donations to actual settlers, and for town sites; the 5th and 6th sections reserving lands for school and university purposes; the 7th granting pre-emption rights, as well as the 1st section providing for the survey of the lands in New Mexico; and the 8th conferring on you the authority to report on the private claims in that Territory. Instructions have already been sent you under the 1st and 8th sections; the following will govern you in the discharge of your duties under the other sections above mentioned.

The second section grants a quarter-section of land, or one hundred and sixty acres, to every white male citizen of the United States, and to every white male over twenty-one years of age, who has declared his intention of becoming a citizen, who was residing in said Territory prior to the 1st of January, 1853, and who was residing there at the passage of this act.

A like grant is made to the same classes of persons, who have removed, or shall remove to, and settle in said Territory between the 1st day of January, 1853, and the 1st day of January, 1858.

These grants are made on the condition of actual settlement and cultivation, on the land claimed as a donation, for not less than four years; and the act requires that each of those donations shall include the actual settlement and improvement of the donee, and shall be selected by legal subdivisions within three months after the survey of the land where the settlement was made before the survey; and where the settlement was made after the survey, then within three months after the settlement is made, under penalty of entire forfeiture of the claim, for failing to designate the boundaries of the claim as thus required.

The difference in these grants is, that the period of four year's continued settlement and cultivation, required by the law, is to be counted, in the former class, from the commencement of the settlement and cultivation, and hence may have been completed at or before the passage of the law; and if so, such persons are entitled to certificates as soon as the land is surveyed, on proof as required by the law. In the latter class, the settlement and cultivation must have been commenced after the 1st of January, 1853, and must continue from such commencement for the full term of four years, as required by this act, before the parties can obtain certificates. The only exception to this rule is where the settler has died or may die before the completion of the four years' occupancy and cultivation required by the act, when his right will descend to his heirs-at-law, who will be entitled to a certificate and patent on proof of continued occupancy and cultivation by such settler to the time of his death. This provision will be regarded as applicable to both classes of donees.

In each case you will require the evidence of at least two respectable citizens that the claimant is over twenty-one years of age; is an American citizen—giving their reasons for knowing this fact; or where one not a citizen claims a certificate under seal from the clerk of the proper court, that such person did, at such a time, file his declaration of intention to become a citizen. The testimony must also show the

date when the settlement commenced, the character of the dwelling, the extent and nature of the improvements and cultivation, and that the occupancy and cultivation were continuous for four years, or until the death of the settler.

On such evidence you will issue certificates according to the accompanying forms, and transmit the same, with the testimony filed in support of the claims. These certificates will be headed, respectively, "Donation, settlement, and cultivation for four years," or, "Donation, settlement, and cultivation till death of settler;" and in either case, where the claimant is not a citizen, you will add that remark—"not a citizen"—at the end of either of the above headings; so that patents may not issue for such cases until the claimants "become citizens," as provided by the 3d section of the act. Whenever a settler desires to enter, with cash, land settled upon and improved by him before the expiration of the four years' continuous settlement and occupation required by this act, he is authorized to do so by the 7th section of this law, by paying therefor at the rate of one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre. Before being permitted to make such entry, however, he must make similar proof to that above required, of the date and character of his settlement and cultivation, and that it has been continuous up to the time he applies to purchase the same. In these cases the form of the certificates will be varied to suit the circumstances of the case, and the certificates will have the additional heading, "Paid for in cash." Duplicate receipts should be furnished in these cases—one to be given to the settler, the other to accompany your return to this office. These cases should be embraced in your returns of donation cases, and you will charge yourself with the amount of purchase-money in your account as receiver.

The fourth section expressly excludes from the provisions of this act certain lands, of which you will take proper notice. Further, holders of valid claims under Mexican or Spanish grants cannot be entitled to a donation under this law; neither can they, or holders of donations, be entitled to pre-emptions—the intention of this law being mainly to encourage the settlement of the country. Therefore, actual settlement and cultivation being the basis of both donations and pre-emptions, they cannot exist under the same person in two different places at one time, nor can such settlement and cultivation be made by the holders of a Mexican or Spanish grant, within the intent of this act, unless he relinquish such grant.

Under the fifth section, sections numbered 16 and 36, in each township, will be reserved for schools in all cases. The act clearly contemplates the tracts thus designated in regular rectangular townships; and hence those lands must be thus numbered, however surveyed, and the reservations will apply to none other.

Under the sixth section, the legislature of New Mexico is authorized to direct the selection of a quantity of land equal to two townships, for the establishment of a university; and when selected, by persons authorized to do so by the legislature, you will respect such selections, and enter them on the plats as reserved for university purposes, and transmit a list of them to this office. These selections, however, must be made in compact bodies of not less than a half-section in each body.

Any minor subdivision may be taken in lieu of, and full satisfaction of, a half-section; and any quantity above a half-section, not exceeding the grant, may be taken in one body.

By the seventh section of this act, any of the lands not taken under its other provisions are made subject to the operation of the pre-emption act of September 4, 1841, whether settled upon before or after the survey. The enclosed instructions, under the latter law, will be sufficient for all cases where the settlement was made after the survey, and will apply equally well where it was made before, with this difference—that, in the latter case, the settler is required to file his declaration within three months after the survey is made and returned; that is, within three months after the plats are approved by you.

Of the returns required under the eighth section, you have been fully instructed, under the head of private claims. You will make a separate return of donations, including those paid for, in accordance with the accompanying form, beginning with No. 1, and going on continuously to the highest number.

You will also make a separate return under the pre-emption act of 1841, as modified by this act. The certificates will be headed "Pre-emption acts of 1841 and 1854." Certificates and receipts will be transmitted by you, with returns, as in other cases of cash sales.

In your quarterly account as receiver, you will charge yourself with all moneys received for pre-emptions and donations. These returns will be distinct and separate from those required of you as surveyor general.

As explanatory of the views of this office, in questions arising in the examinations of donation claims and town sites, I send you copy of a letter dated May 17, 1854, written to the surveyor general of Oregon, on these subjects—the law being very similar in that Territory to that for New Mexico.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN WILSON, *Commissioner*.

WM. PELHAM, Esq.,

Surveyor General, Santa Fé, New Mexico.

The foregoing instructions are hereby approved.

R. McCLELLAND, *Secretary*.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

September 2, 1854.

INSTRUCTIONS TO THE SURVEYOR GENERAL OF NEBRASKA AND KANSAS.

GENERAL LAND OFFICE,

August 26, 1854.

SIR: Under authority of the tenth section of the act of Congress approved on the 22d ultimo, entitled "An act to establish the office of surveyor general of New Mexico, Kansas, and Nebraska, to grant donations to actual settlers therein, and for other purposes," you have been appointed surveyor general of public lands in the Territories

of Nebraska and Kansas. You will locate your office at such place as the President of the United States shall from time to time direct; and your "duties, powers, obligations, responsibilities, and compensation shall be the same as those of the surveyor general of Wisconsin and Iowa; and you will be allowed the same amount for office-rent, fuel, incidental expenses, and clerk-hire, as is allowed to the said surveyor general of Wisconsin and Iowa." This allowance is provided by law as a *maximum*; the actual allowance will be, of course, the amount required for the actual wants of your office. Such allowance will be the subject of a special communication.

In instituting the public surveys in Kansas and Nebraska on the most careful and substantial basis, under the eleventh section of the act referred to, it is at the same time a primary object to economize both time and labor to the greatest possible extent, so as to accomplish the subdivisional surveys in both Territories at the earliest day, at those particular localities which first attract the attention of settlers. It will therefore be your duty to acquaint yourself with the attractive localities to which migration is tending and likely to continue, and advise the department accordingly.

The boundary line between Kansas and Nebraska it is proposed to make the *principal base line* wherefrom to start the surveys, both on the north in Nebraska, and on the south in Kansas; and that boundary is the parallel of 40° north latitude.

For reasons of expediency, because of the apprehensions of hostile interruptions from the Indians, it is not deemed proper and prudent to survey a base line further to the west than one hundred and eighty miles distant from the Missouri river, at the precise point where it is intersected by the 40th parallel of north latitude. At some future time, when necessary, it is proposed to start a *principal meridian*, extending on the north of such base to the Missouri river in Nebraska, and on the south of the same to the southern boundary of Kansas, which is the 37th parallel of north latitude. Although the public surveys will *count* from the principal meridian precisely as if the same were surveyed, the labor of such meridian survey will be now omitted, and that labor will be directed to insure practical results of more immediate importance.

Your first operations will be to run and establish the base line, and continue the same for the distance of one hundred and eighty miles on the parallel of 40° north latitude. Your township corner binding on the Missouri river will be the southeast corner of township or fractional township number *one*, north of the base line of range number *eighteen* east, of the meridian lying in Nebraska, and which will correspond with township number *one*, south of the base of range number *eighteen* east, of the meridian lying in Kansas; and at the intersection point on the *Missouri*, a conspicuous and enduring monument is to be erected by your deputy.

On the base line proceeding west, you will establish and mark the appropriate boundary corners, to wit: at every *half-mile* for quarter-sections, at every *mile* for sections, and at every *sixth* mile for townships, north of the base and east of the meridian, as far as the one hundred and eighth mile. The township corners, and those inter-

mediate, will thus be regularly established for each range, starting from range number eighteen east, and proceeding to range number one east of the meridian. This retrograde course of procedure is adopted to save time and labor, by obviating the necessity that otherwise would exist for travelling over the same ground twice.

The corner boundaries on this base, and also those on the principal meridian, (whenever in the future the latter shall be ordered to be run,) are to be established in the most enduring manner possible. In localities where, in consequence of the sparsity of timber, trees are not found at hand for the purpose, the corner boundaries may be of stone, well set into the ground and appropriately marked; and where stone is not found at hand, the corner must be a *mound*, conical in shape, constructed of earth dug from four pits, with a stake in the mound's centre, on which stake is to be designated the number of the corner; and the mound is to be encompassed inside the pits with a quadrangular trench, or marginal elevation, according to the method for the surveys in Oregon, California, and Minnesota, and which is also to be observed in those of Kansas and Nebraska.

From the one hundred and eighth mile on such base, when it is deemed necessary to do so hereafter, the meridian will be extended north to the Missouri river, and south to the southern boundary of Kansas, and on that meridian are to be measured and established the boundary corners for the townships, sections, and quarter-sections, to wit: counting from the base line north in Nebraska, and beginning with the southwest corner of township one of range one east, the corners of quarter-sections at every half-mile will be planted equidistant between the corners of sections at every mile, and the township corners will be constructed at every sixth mile, counting from the base line *south* in Kansas; and beginning with township *one* south, of range one east, the corners will be planted similarly to the foregoing, the township numbers progressing south, of course.

Judging from the printed map at hand, it is estimated that the principal meridian line, as proposed, will pass near the junction of "Solomon's fork" with the Kansas, and between it and the "Republican fork" of that river. This, however, is very doubtful; it may pass to the west of the junction of "Solomon's fork" with the Kansas. The principal base, at some time hereafter, may be extended to the western limits of the Territories of Kansas and Nebraska; but its present proposed breadth of 108 miles will not interfere with any Indian claims, and be likely to prove sufficient to include the present settlements and prospective wants of settlers in both Territories within the region to which the Indian title has been extinguished.

After having accomplished all the work on the principal base line, (to the extent of 108 miles, or eighteen ranges in width,) indispensably necessary to make that line efficient for all future practical operations for surveying in both Territories, the next operation will be to determine on a working programme for making available surveys of the particular bodies of land, both in Nebraska and Kansas, requisite to meet the wants of the earliest pioneers. Such programme can best be prepared by yourself, after having accumulated from reliable sources and by personal observation, in both Territories, the necessary

preliminary information for that purpose. It is only possible for this office to suggest the methods that may be adopted for accomplishing those practical purposes, assuming the ground that certain sections of the country within a given distance from the Missouri river ought to be surveyed in advance of certain other portions of country lying still further to the west from that river; but while so doing, the suggestions of this office have to be based on very imperfect maps, and consequently are liable to modification according to facts to be ascertained.

You will therefore understand, that on the principles of survey adopted in Oregon, and which are made applicable to your duties, you are to propose the point on the principal base line wherefrom to start a *guide meridian* to regulate the earliest surveying operations in running out the exterior of townships, which ranges of townships will all *count* from, and lie east of, the principal meridian, and the townships will count *north* or *south* of the base line, according to locality. For instance: suppose that a guide meridian were started from the base line at the southwest corner of township No. 13 east, being thirty-six miles distant from the Missouri river—the question is, would such guide meridian be sufficiently to the west to include the most urgent demands for surveys by the earliest settlers? In case it be, you will start such meridian from said point, and survey the same with great exactitude to the Missouri river on the north, and on that meridian establish the township section and quarter-section boundaries in the mode before prescribed (as on the principal meridian to be) for the government of the Nebraska surveys north of the base line; and afterwards continue the same meridian south to sufficient extent to embrace the earliest settlements in Kansas Territory, and also establish thereon the boundary corners for governing the surveys south of the base line in the mode before mentioned, as on the principal meridian (to be) south.

From the guide meridian north, in Nebraska, at intervals of every *fourth* township, or twenty-four miles, you will survey standard parallels or correction lines east, and to the Missouri; and from the same meridian south, in Kansas, at intervals of every *five* townships, or every thirty miles, similar standard or correction lines are to be surveyed east to the Missouri river, or west boundary of the State of Missouri; and on such standard lines the proper township, section, and quarter-section corners are to be established for every township in each range between the guide meridian and the Missouri river. Thus the township and subdivisional corners will take a fresh start from each standard or correction line at the intervals mentioned respectively; and the township and subdivisional surveys which will start from the standard *below* will close by meridional lines on the standard or correction line *above*, in every instance, so that *double* corners may be expected to exist on such standards, because of convergence of the meridian lines, but are inadmissible under other circumstances.

In order to insure the greatest attainable accuracy in measuring the base and meridian lines (including the guide meridian,) those lines are to be double-chained by two sets of chainmen—the one following

immediately in the rear of the other, while the deputy or his assistant is to be always at hand to adjust any discrepancy that may arise.

At the point of intersection of the base with the proposed principal meridian, a conspicuous and enduring monument is to be constructed to signalize the spot. Such should be a large stone (provided a single one sufficiently large can be conveniently had for the purpose,) with the initial letters for Kansas and Nebraska chiselled into its south and north sides, respectively, in addition to the appropriate marks and figures denoting its character as a surveying boundary; otherwise it may be a *pile of stones* of adequate dimensions, constructed around a large stake well set into the ground, and with the initials and marks as aforesaid. In case stones are not to be had, the intersection monument will be a *conical mound*, constructed of earth, dug from four pits around a stake firmly set into the ground in its *centre*, marked as aforesaid. The intersection point is further to be signalized by a *stone* or stake (the former always to be preferred) set at each of the cardinal points on the lines, distant ten feet from such intersection point, with a marginal elevation of earth, sod-side up, between each stone or stake, thus: $\wedge$ $\vee$ Stakes are to be always inserted in the

ground in the reverse position in which the tree grew, as such method is insisted on by experimenters as greatly tending to preserve the wood from decay.

The monument on the Missouri which is to signalize the intersection point of the parallel of 40° north latitude with that river, and also that on the same river in Nebraska where the meridian line terminates, are to be constructed similar to the one above described.

The deputy surveyor, in his line field-book (whether base or meridian,) is to note, as he proceeds in his measurements, the distance on his line of the crossings of every stream or ravine, and the width thereof; also the depth of stream or ravine, and the points of crossing of every other natural object, whether hill, mountain, ridge, lake, pond, swamp or marsh, ledge of rocks, stone quarry, mineral locality, and noting the kind of mineral; also noting the point when entering prairie, woodland, swamp or overflow, and when leaving the same, the kind of timber and geological features of the country—these all to be carefully ascertained and appropriately set forth in his line field-book, which is required to be free from blots, blurs, and interlineations of any kind which would throw the least doubt on the true meaning of such book, which is to constitute the permanent record of the work, and to be filed and preserved at your office; a certified copy of which is to be returned to this office, accompanied by appropriate plats of the lines. It is proposed that such plats should be on a scale of two inches to the mile, and to be inserted on successive sheets, so as to admit of the same being bound up in a book form, instead of being in one continuous roll. The sheets, if of the size of a township plat, (twelve inches square within a large margin) will admit of three lengths, of twelve inches each, being inserted on a single sheet, leaving a suitable margin.

The instrument known as Burt's improved solar compass (or an instrument equivalent thereto) will be used in running the principal lines in view, and the variation of the magnetic needle, as detected by

that instrument, is to be shown at as many township corners as an unclouded sun will admit.

The value of the surveying operations depends on the excellence and permanency of the boundary monuments. To know the legal points whereat to establish them is the object of the measurements, for which a per-mileage is established by law; and inasmuch as great public evils have ensued from the inefficient construction of *mounds of earth*, where such have from necessity to be used to indicate the legal corners, it is therefore expected and required that you will exact of your deputy surveyors a rigid accountability in this matter, and especially for the faithful construction of *mounds* for boundaries, wherever such have to be adopted, according to the method prescribed for Oregon, and which has been required to be observed in California, New Mexico, and in Minnesota west of the Mississippi.

The prescribed rates per mile for surveying in Nebraska and Kansas are as follows: twelve dollars per mile for the base and principal meridian lines; and inasmuch as the guide meridian, while omitting to run the principal meridian, becomes the practical working meridian, twelve dollars per mile will be allowed for it—it having to be double-chained; eight dollars per mile will be allowed for standard parallels or correction lines; seven dollars per mile for township lines, and five dollars per mile for sectioning.

A form for contract between the surveyor general and his deputy surveyors is herewith furnished, (printed,) together with a printed form for a bond to be exacted by him of his deputy, in every case. The penalty of the bond is to be double the estimated value of the surveying work. A number of copies of these forms is furnished.

You will submit your report as seasonably as possible, on the various subjects of your duties, to be laid before Congress at the next session, accompanied by estimates of the appropriations deemed necessary for the surveying service in Nebraska and Kansas during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1856.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN WILSON, *Commissioner.*

JOHN CALHOUN, Esq.,

Surveyor General for Territories of

Nebraska and Kansas, Springfield, Illinois.

The foregoing instructions are hereby approved.

R. McCLELLAND, *Secretary.*

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, *September 2, 1854.*

INSTRUCTIONS TO THE SURVEYOR GENERAL OF WASHINGTON TERRITORY.

GENERAL LAND OFFICE, *August 31, 1854.*

SIR: Under the provisions of the seventh section of the act of Congress approved on the 17th of July last, entitled "An act to amend an act, approved September 27, 1850, to create the office of surveyor

general of the public lands in Oregon, &c., and also the act amendatory thereof, approved February the *nineteenth*, [14th] eighteen hundred and fifty-three," you have been appointed surveyor general of public lands in the Territory of Washington, and your emoluments, duties, authority, and responsibilities, will be the same as those prescribed by law for the surveyor general of Oregon, under the organic law of 27th September, 1850, aforesaid, and the amendatory acts of February 14, 1853, and July 17, 1854.

All the surveys in Washington Territory, whether of standard lines, township exteriors, or subdivisions of townships into sections, which have been contracted for by the surveyor general of Oregon, will have to be consummated under the jurisdiction of that officer, who will be required to pay for the same, and make returns thereof to the department.

The surveyor general of Oregon will furnish you with a *connected* plat showing the extent of the surveying operations in the Washington Territory up to the termination of his jurisdiction over them. *As soon as practicable*, you will obtain possession of the original field-notes of those operations, with copies of plats of the same, and these together will form the basis of your official organization. But it will be necessary that you concert, with the surveyor general of Oregon, *energetic measures* for starting the operations of your own office, to which end it will be right and proper that you devote *such amount of time and labor of your draughtsman and clerks at the Oregon office*, as may be necessary, in conjunction with the force of that office, to do all that is needful to effect the transfer to you of the maps and original field-notes of the Washington surveys; and that will be principally in copying all the original field-notes of the Washington surveys for records to be filed at this office, as required by law; and also in making copies of the plats of the same, whether such be standard lines, township exteriors, or subdivisions; and also in copying township plats for the register and receiver of the Washington land district, to enable them to start their operations. It is deemed proper that a set of the plats of the Washington surveys, so far as executed under the jurisdiction of the Oregon office, should be retained at that office, so as to preserve its set of plats entire for all future reference; and inasmuch as the Oregon office has to furnish an entire set of plats to the register and receiver of the Oregon *land district*, embracing all the surveys within that district, and to do which will involve a very heavy amount of labor, therefore the necessity for your clerks acting in conjunction with the force in the Oregon office becomes apparent, in order to *hasten* the time for transferring the official records in a proper manner.

Mr. Preston, late surveyor general of Oregon, took out with him some two hundred copies of the manual of instructions to deputy surveyors in Oregon in regard to field operations, which will equally apply to your office; and as the supply of that manual is exhausted here, you will therefore request Mr. Surveyor General Gardner to supply you with as many copies as may be needed at your office. Mr. Gardner may also be able to supply you with blank *field-books* for your deputies, as a large supply, it is believed, was procured by his prede-

cessor, in this city, made of paper of the best quality, and having covers to match.

There was furnished to the late surveyor general a set of instructions, *in duplicate*, in reference to his duties under the surveying and donation act of September 27, 1850. You will call Mr. Gardner's attention to that fact, and request of him one set for your office. A standard of yard measure was procured from the superintendent of weights and measures, and taken out by Mr. Preston to regulate the chains of his deputy surveyors. You will have to refer to that standard in the Oregon office until your own can be supplied.

The style of draughting instituted by Mr. Preston for the Oregon surveys is approved, and you are requested to conform to it; and your particular attention is called to the matter of subdividing *fractional* sections so as to conform to the legal and official requirements which will be found in the "laws, instructions, and opinions" in relation to public lands. Parts 1st and 2d herewith furnished: see act of April 24, 1820, entitled "An act making further provisions for the sale of the public lands," chapter 240 of part 1st, page 323, and the corresponding circular of instructions to surveyors general, dated June 10, 1820, in part 2d, No. 796, page 820. See, also, act of April 5, 1832, entitled "An act supplementary to the several laws for the sale of the public lands," chapter 424, of part 1st page 493, and the corresponding circular of instructions to surveyors general, dated May 3, 1832, in part 2d, No. 922, pages 933 and 934.

The act of Congress approved August 4, 1854, entitled "An act making appropriations for the civil and diplomatic expenses of government for the year ending 30th June, 1855, and for other purposes," makes provision for salaries of yourself and clerks, and for surveying in the Territory of Washington, as follows, viz:

1. "For compensation of the surveyor general of Washington Territory, and the clerks in his office, seven thousand five hundred dollars," (\$7,500.)

2. "For office-rent for the surveyor general of Washington Territory, fuel, books, stationery, and other incidental expenses, five thousand dollars," (\$5,000.)

3. "For surveying standard parallel and meridian lines in Washington Territory, (an estimated distance of five hundred miles), ten thousand dollars," (\$10,000.)

4. "For surveying township and subdivisional lines (estimated at four thousand nine hundred and twenty miles) in Washington Territory, at a rate not exceeding twelve dollars per mile, and including office-work, sixty-five thousand four hundred and ninety dollars," (\$65,490.)

You will of course understand that the rates per mile, as established by law for surveying in your district, are *maximum* rates, and that such are not to be allowed, provided the increased abundance of the necessaries of life, and the diminished cost of living in the Territory consequent thereon, will admit of securing the faithful execution of the work at *diminished* rates per mile. Under the appropriation of twelve dollars per mile, the estimated amount of miles in townshiping and subdividing, and *which is made to include office work*, viz:

4,920 miles, would amount to \$59,040, leaving \$6,450 to be allotted to "office work" on that amount of miles; but should you be able, fairly and consistently with public duty, to reduce the per-mileage, the amount left of the appropriation applicable to "office work" would be proportionably increased.

All surveys of the public lands are effected under written contracts between the surveyor general and his deputy surveyors, and the faithful execution of the work is guarantied by the deputy's bond, with approved suretyship, under a penalty amounting to double the estimated value of the work contracted for: In case of erroneous, false, or fraudulent surveys on the part of any deputy, the act of Congress approved August 8, 1846, entitled "An act to equalize the compensation of the surveyors general of the public lands of the United States, and for other purposes," prescribes the course of proceeding to be observed by the proper surveyor general, and the district attorney of the United States. The provisions of law referred to will be found quoted at length on pages 35 and 36 of the manual.

You will devote your earliest attention towards determining the particular portions of your district which circumstances demand to be surveyed to meet the wants of settlers, and direct your operations accordingly. This department has a reasonable assurance that the public surveys west of the Cascade mountains have been auspiciously commenced, and that so far as they have progressed they have been faithfully and creditably executed; and it is confidently hoped that nothing will occur in the future to mar the public expectation in regard to them. Such desirable result, however, can be realized only by the employment of faithful and competent deputies, and by untiring vigilance on the part of the principal in regard to their duties in all minutia, and most particularly as respects the construction and establishment of the boundary marks and monuments in the *most enduring and permanent manner*, as required by the instructions. To establish such boundaries effectually is the ultimate aim of all the surveying operations, and the end for which the appropriations therefor are made by Congress; and the surveying operations therefore are valuable, in the main, only so far as they secure such results, and otherwise must fail to realize the object of the law.

Blank forms for your surveying contracts and bonds are herewith furnished. These are to be prepared in *triplicate* in each case; one for your office, another for the deputy, and the third to be forwarded to this office. You will perceive that a *per-centage* is to be retained from the amount of the deputy's account for the object set forth in the body of the contract; the deputy will thus be fully apprized of all the special conditions under which he will contract. On return of the work to your office, and after your examination and acceptance of the field-notes, and the protraction of the same, you will transmit to this office for examination and payment (if correct) the *account* of the deputy, accompanied by the triplicate contract and bond, and also by the *certified official plats of the surveys charged for*. The remittance will be made direct from the treasury to the address of the deputy by draft on the collector of customs, either at *Olympia* or *Oregon City*, or at *San Francisco*, California, in case funds are not found in the hands of the two former revenue officers.

The security of your office and its archives in case of fire, either from causes within or without, is a most important object for your timely consideration. You will doubtless exercise all practicable precaution, both as to the location of your office and its internal arrangements, in view of such possible calamity. The cases in which the archives will be arranged should be constructed of such suitable dimensions, and with handles at the ends, as to be very readily portable in the event of necessity for any sudden removal of them because of immediate or apprehended danger. No explosive fluid is ever to be used in lighting the office, and the hearth of the fireplace or stove should be so guarded as to prevent the possibility of fire coming into contact with the floor.

You are requested as soon as practicable to report progress, and to accompany your report with an estimate of the appropriations necessary for your office and the surveying service in your district during the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1856, with the reasons to sustain the same. This information is wanted in time to be submitted to Congress as seasonably as possible at its ensuing session.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN WILSON, *Commissioner.*

JAMES TILTON, Esq.,

Surveyor General of Washington Territory.

SCHEDULE OF ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS.

- A.—Statement of public lands sold, amounts received therefor, and incidental expenses thereon, in the first half of fiscal year ending June 30, 1854.
- B.—Similar statement for last half of fiscal year, as above.
- C.—Exhibit of public lands advertised in the year 1854, 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 1855.
- D.—Synopsis of public lands advertised for sale since date of last report, showing the quantity under proclamation exclusive of school lands.
- E.—Estimate of appropriations required for the General Land Office for the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1856.
- F.—Estimate of appropriations required for the offices of the several surveyors general for year ending as above.
- G.—Estimate of appropriations required for surveying the public lands in the several States, (excepting the Territories not yet received.)
- H.—Reports of the surveyors general of the several land States. (Territories not yet received.)

A.

*Statement of public lands sold; of cash, Treasurer's receipts, &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, 1853, and ending June 30, 1854.**

LAND OFFICES, AND STATES.	Gross amount of land sold in first half of fiscal year.		Am't received in cash and Treasurer's receipts.*	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.	Forfeited land stock.			Military land scrip.
OHIO.							
Chillicothe.....	10,756.22	\$13,538 57	\$13,538 57	.....	.....	\$1,388 26	\$11,826 00
Defiance.....	27,834.26	62,242 17	62,242 17	.....	.....	2,369 66	63,221 75
Total.....	38,590.48	75,780 74	75,780 74	.....	.....	3,757 92	75,047 75
INDIANA.							
Jeffersonville.....	5,592.47	6,990 58	6,990 58	.....	.....	747 40	1,617 45
Vincennes.....	12,032.93	15,041 31	15,041 31	.....	.....	890 98	10,737 00
Indianapolis.....	10,441.07	13,249 12	13,249 12	.....	.....	683 87	13,808 99
Winamac.....	17,894.80	23,126 45	23,126 45	.....	.....	1,490 28	21,582 00
Total.....	45,961.27	58,407 46	58,407 46	.....	.....	3,812 53	47,745 44
ILLINOIS.							
Shawneetown.....	97,606.35	123,258 84	122,766 68	\$342 16	\$150 00	4,121 65	106,310 00.
Kaskaskia.....	45,603.36	68,560 90	68,560 90	.....	.....	2,430 64	67,773 64
Edwardsville.....	23,767.61	29,709 49	29,709 49	.....	.....	1,311 32	29,411 84
Vandalia.....	103,762.80	219,038 54	210,223 54	265 00	8,550 00	5,778 45	213,016 14
Palestine.....	33,354.43	51,175 06	51,175 06	.....	.....	2,518 57	50,000 00
Springfield.....	15,514.30	19,405 27	19,405 27	.....	.....	1,177 90	18,038 63
Danville.....	87,495.65	145,177 26	133,072 95	.....	12,104 31	1,369 57	151,870 51
Quincy.....	7,002.08	8,752 61	8,552 61	.....	200 00	857 96	4,656 33
Dixon.....	77,821.69	115,000 99	100,906 18	.....	14,094 81	2,644 95	89,229 92
Chicago.....	35,970.16	63,534 66	63,334 66	.....	200 00	2,794 56	63,434 66.
Total.....	527,898.43	843,613 62	807,707 34	607 16	35,299 12	25,005 57	793,741 67
MISSOURI.							
St. Louis.....	55,939.62	70,315 64	70,240 64	.....	75 00	9,368 68	70,854 75
Fayette.....	61,946.13	77,491 30	77,491 30	.....	.....	2,443 50	69,578 47
Palmyra.....	59,607.31	74,509 63	74,409 63	.....	100 00	2,781 91	71,200 75
Jackson.....	37,980.39	47,475 48	47,475 48	.....	.....	1,682 97	47,046 67
Clinton.....	176,424.74	230,962 71	220,862 71	.....	100 00	5,460 53	204,716 61
Springfield.....	76,359.87	95,499 63	95,499 63	.....	.....	3,784 79	80,618 56
Plattsburg.....	39,941.51	49,929 23	49,929 23	.....	.....	1,935 71	41,723 72
Milan.....	51,995.14	64,997 33	64,997 33	.....	.....	2,958 89	53,055 27
Total.....	560,194.71	701,180 95	700,905 95	.....	275 00	30,416 98	638,794 80
ALABAMA.							
St. Stephen's.....	46,989 13	66,653 44	66,653 44	.....	.....	2,315 23	51,309 56
Chabab.....	37,580.91	46,976 14	46,976 14	.....	.....	1,719 00	43,450 00
Montsville.....	22,284.58	27,854 75	27,854 75	.....	.....	1,221 59	53,897 97
Tuscaloosa.....	29,450.53	36,813 81	36,813 81	.....	.....	1,142 83	33,206 49
Sparta.....	41,766.54	52,219 07	52,219 07	.....	.....	1,971 89	55,000 98
Memphis.....	3,657.27	4,596 68	4,596 68	.....	.....	700 51	6,270 00
Montgomery.....	9,618.55	12,045 13	12,045 13	.....	.....	826 63	11,037 54
Lebanon.....	26,420.07	33,025 10	33,025 10	.....	.....	2,015 65	31,400 66
Total.....	217,767.58	280,184 12	280,184 12	.....	.....	11,913 33	285,573 20
MISSISSIPPI.							
Washington.....	24,377 01	30,471 48	30,471 48	.....	.....	1,338 76	27,605 09
Augusta.....	47,517.32	72,643 58	72,643 58	.....	.....	2,193 88	69,669 50
Jackson.....	7,192.85	8,991 06	8,991 06	.....	.....	769 50	5,852 25
Grenada.....	9,256.34	11,570 58	11,570 58	.....	.....	1,309 06	10,827 48
Columbus.....	46,372.85	62,834 58	62,834 58	.....	.....	1,887 24	33,898 43
Total.....	134,716.37	186,511 28	186,511 28	.....	.....	7,498 44	147,852 75

* No Treasurer's receipts received.

A—Continued.

LAND OFFICES, AND STATES.	Gross amount of lands sold in first half of fiscal year.		Am't received in cash and Treasurer's receipts.	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.		Forfeited land stock.	Military land scrip.		
LOUISIANA.							
New Orleans.....	1,075.18	\$1,343 99	\$1,343 99	.....	.....	\$1,755 90	\$1,523 10
Opelousas.....	5,076.68	6,346 03	6,346 03	.....	.....	969 92	15,133 28
Monroe.....	42,172.04	52,715 16	52,715 16	.....	.....	1,877 83	37,690 41
Greensburg.....	8,258.31	10,322 89	10,322 89	.....	.....	786 32	11,865 48
Natchitoches.....	30,678.11	38,347 59	38,347 59	.....	.....	1,558 91	25,000 00
Total.....	87,260.32	109,075 66	109,075 66	.....	.....	6,948 88	91,212 27
MICHIGAN.							
Detroit.....	16,364.51	21,361 94	20,861 94	.....	\$500 00	3,763 15	20,757 44
Kalamazoo.....	16,848.06	21,060 09	21,060 09	.....	.....	1,358 26	21,847 79
Genesee.....	51,037.97	69,021 65	65,324 56	.....	3,697 09	2,697 28	65,395 47
Ionia.....	64,573.19	80,716 49	79,791 49	.....	925 00	1,890 02	79,422 83
Sault Ste. Marie.....	55,668.61	70,120 74	67,920 74	.....	2,200 00	3,636 72	65,001 14
Total.....	204,692.34	262,280 91	254,958 82	.....	7,322 09	13,345 43	252,424 67
ARKANSAS.							
Batesville.....	12,629.99	15,793 18	15,793 18	.....	.....	1,242 25	15,841 38
Little Rock.....	4,177.42	5,221 77	5,221 77	.....	.....	734 07	9,519 16
Washington.....	28,730.81	35,913 59	35,913 59	.....	.....	1,618 48	29,411 42
Fayetteville.....	25,917.33	32,396 75	32,896 75	.....	.....	1,630 68	24,756 22
Helena.....	3,194.71	3,993 49	3,993 49	.....	.....	1,071 45	5,977 98
Clarks ville.....	No sales.	.....	.....	.....	.....	688 58	.....
Champagnole.....	24,043.71	30,054 63	30,054 63	.....	.....	806 54	2,941 85
Total.....	98,693.97	123,373 41	123,373 41	.....	.....	7,792 05	88,448 01
FLORIDA.							
Tallahassee.....	13,658.84	17,073 55	17,073 55	.....	.....	831 44	17,073 54
St. Augustine.....	4,177.65	5,222 49	5,222 49	.....	.....	758 60	6,916 17
Newnansville.....	26,832.84	33,541 56	33,541 56	.....	.....	347 42	23,189 67
Total.....	44,669.33	55,837 60	55,837 60	.....	.....	1,937 46	47,179 38
IOWA.							
Dubuque.....	202,259.15	252,824 06	248,324 06	.....	4,500 00	1,075 97	249,500 00
Fairfield.....	48,980.08	61,266 41	51,341 82	.....	9,924 59	1,279 62	48,693 48
Iowa City.....	203,594.26	254,577 67	237,277 67	.....	17,300 00	1,745 39	240,680 97
Chariton.....	96,087.83	120,109 79	116,309 79	.....	3,800 00	5,336 78	103,456 36
Port des Moines.....	154,039.01	192,615 16	189,999 33	.....	2,615 83	5,854 55	181,988 53
Kanesville.....	72,254.26	90,317 83	90,217 83	.....	100 00	3,081 36	69,267 22
Total.....	777,214.59	971,710 92	933,470 50	.....	38,240 42	18,373 67	893,585 56
WISCONSIN.							
Mineral Point.....	69,078 99	86,377 55	84,475 05	*\$50 00	1,852 50	3,112 51	80,342 76
Menasha.....	68,653.30	85,824 57	82,875 79	*50 00	2,898 78	4,167 30	83,317 29
Milwaukee.....	16,213.70	20,267 64	20,167 64	*100 00	.....	1,187 28	27,164 60
Willow River.....	35,637.44	44,546 81	40,678 28	.....	3,868 53	731 86	22,929 81
Stevens's Point.....	57,387.60	71,734 50	66,134 50	*100 00	5,500 00	1,752 74	60,094 78
La Crosse.....	39,228.94	49,036 17	44,715 17	*121 00	4,200 00	2,263 52	39,398 91
Total.....	286,199.97	357,787 24	339,046 43	*421 00	18,319 81	13,215 22	313,248 15
CALIFORNIA.							
Benicia.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8,645 01	.....
Los Angeles.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7,657 68	.....
Total.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	16,302 69	.....
MINNESOTA TERR'Y.							
Stillwater.....	31,952.50	39,943 14	39,171 65	.....	771 49	1,950 23	37,394 79
Sauk Rapids.....	2,244.80	2,806 01	2,528 51	.....	277 50	804 45	390 00
Total.....	34,197.30	42,749 15	41,700 16	.....	1,048 99	2,754 68	37,784 79

* This amount in Wisconsin refunding certificates.

A—Continued.

RECAPITULATION.

STATES.	Gross amount of lands sold in the first half of the fiscal year.		Am't received in cash and Treasurer's receipts.*	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.	Forfeited land stock.	Military land scrip.		
Ohio	38,590.48	\$75,780 74	\$75,780 74	.....	.....	\$3,757 92	\$75,047 75
Indiana.....	45,961.27	58,407 46	58,407 46	.....	.....	3,812 53	47,745 44
Illinois.....	527,898.43	843,613 62	807,707 34	\$607 16	\$35,299 12	25,005 57	793,741 67
Missouri.....	560,194.71	701,180 95	700,905 95	.....	275 00	30,416 98	638,794 80
Alabama.....	217,767.58	280,184 12	280,184 12	.....	.....	11,913 33	285,573 20
Mississippi.....	134,716.37	186,511 28	186,511 28	.....	.....	7,498 44	147,852 75
Louisiana.....	87,260.32	109,075 66	109,075 66	.....	.....	6,948 88	91,212 27
Michigan.....	204,692.34	262,280 91	254,958 82	.....	7,322 09	12,345 43	252,424 67
Arkansas.....	98,693.97	123,373 41	123,373 41	.....	.....	7,793 05	88,448 01
Florida.....	44,689.33	55,837 60	55,837 60	.....	.....	1,937 46	47,179 38
Iowa.....	777,214.59	971,710 92	933,470 50	.....	38,240 42	18,373 67	893,585 56
Wisconsin.....	286,199.97	357,787 24	339,046 43	†421 00	18,519 81	13,215 22	313,248 15
California.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	16,302 69	.....
Minnesota Territory	34,197.30	42,749 15	41,709 16	.....	1,048 99	2,754 68	37,784 79
Grand total....	3,058,056.66	4,068,493 06	3,966,959 47	1,028 16	100,505 43	163,074 85	3,712,638 44

* No Treasurer's receipts received.

† This amount in Wisconsin refunding certificates.

B.

Statement of public lands sold; of cash, Treasurer's receipts, &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, 1853, and ending June 30, 1854.

LAND OFFICES, AND STATES.	Gross amount of lands sold in last half of fiscal year.		Am't received in cash and Treasurer's receipts.*	Amount received in forfeited land stock and military scrip.		Am't of incidental expenses.	Amount paid into the treasury during the last half of the fiscal year.
	Acres.	Purchase money.		Forfeited land stock.	Military land scrip.		
OHIO.							
Chillicothe	26,005.63	\$32,507 27	\$32,367 70	.....	\$139 57	\$1,719 79	\$33,250 00
Defiance	23,050.04	43,798 31	43,798 31	.....	.....	1,734 37	41,175 00
Total.....	49,055.67	76,305 58	76,166 01	.....	139 57	3,454 16	74,425 00
INDIANA.							
Jeffersonville.....	8,715.25	10,914 05	10,914 05	.....	.....	731 56	16,187 18
Vincennes	15,286.12	19,110 62	19,110 62	.....	.....	1,258 95	21,114 18
Indianapolis.....	6,247.75	8,283 97	8,283 97	.....	.....	1,087 33	10,519 96
Winamac	25,114.28	31,392 85	31,392 85	.....	.....	1,724 73	33,634 00
Total.....	55,363.40	69,701 49	69,701 49	.....	.....	4,802 57	81,455 32
ILLINOIS.							
Shawneetown	109,802.14	141,027 08	141,027 08	.....	.....	2,902 45	155,587 80
Kaskaskia.....	46,915.14	73,207 58	73,207 58	.....	.....	2,254 13	77,251 94
Edwardsville	30,459.27	38,074 07	38,074 07	.....	.....	1,346 81	35,666 54
Vandalia	83,197.68	188,736 37	183,323 09	\$80 00	5,333 28	2,261 03	178,477 76
Palestine	9,038.98	16,092 27	16,092 27	.....	.....	1,252 57	21,098 50
Springfield	17,288.48	21,610 81	21,610 81	.....	.....	1,192 17	25,574 90
Danville.....	155,600.64	259,708 05	230,084 49	.....	29,623 56	1,442 73	216,057 32
Quincy	9,794.09	12,242 65	12,242 65	.....	.....	820 59	15,888 05
Dixon	91,074.29	140,567 37	136,604 37	80 00	3,883 00	748 95	125,040 36
Chicago	17,840.33	37,878 44	37,378 44	.....	500 00	1,282 41	37,378 44
Total.....	571,011.04	929,144 69	889,644 85	160 00	39,339 84	15,503 84	888,021 61
MISSOURI.							
St. Louis	33,567.89	42,225 01	42,225 01	.....	.....	4,006 90	42,400 00
Fayette	34,535.42	43,185 76	43,185 76	.....	.....	1,803 62	47,402 13
Palmyra	68,099.86	85,124 98	85,124 98	.....	.....	2,721 02	89,839 60
Jackson	27,723.23	34,654 03	34,654 03	.....	.....	1,181 72	32,211 90
Clinton	131,359.39	164,235 42	159,644 60	.....	4,590 82	2,473 42	148,894 44
Springfield	41,167.02	51,738 67	51,738 67	.....	.....	2,950 33	58,995 50
Plattsburg	43,215.94	54,026 92	54,026 92	.....	.....	2,089 60	52,292 94
Milan	33,962.79	42,464 84	42,464 84	.....	.....	2,726 22	49,175 00
Total.....	413,631.54	517,655 63	513,064 81	.....	4,590 82	19,952 83	521,211 51
ALABAMA.							
St. Stephen's.....	25,664.14	33,967 52	33,967 52	.....	.....	684 11	44,858 61
Canaba	32,564 33	40,705 42	40,705 42	.....	.....	1,604 04	41,800 00
Huntsville	12,140.20	15,175 24	15,175 24	.....	.....	1,761 16	13,393 33
Tuscaloosa	9,121.21	11,401 42	11,401 42	.....	.....	1,142 83	17,613 88
Elba, late Sparta.....	30,977.77	38,902 00	38,902 00	.....	.....	1,339 86	37,670 69
Demopolis	2,246.23	2,807 79	2,807 79	.....	.....	637 47	4,065 00
Montgomery	7,437.47	9,296 84	9,296 84	.....	.....	826 63	9,201 10
Lebanon	21,504.56	26,880 70	26,880 70	.....	.....	1,889 55	32,784 78
Total.....	141,655.91	179,136 93	179,136 93	.....	.....	9,885 65	201,387 39
MISSISSIPPI.							
Washington.....	17,708.81	22,136 18	22,136 18	.....	.....	1,270 70	22,766 95
Augusta	10,261.10	16,211 94	16,211 94	.....	.....	500 00	20,004 37
Jackson	6,276.76	7,845 94	7,845 94	.....	.....	500 00	10,203 36
Grenada	3,451.43	4,314 45	4,314 45	.....	.....	1,002 86	5,790 42
Columbus	18,408.59	23,665 85	23,665 85	.....	.....	1,742 73	55,941 28
Total.....	56,106.69	74,174 36	74,174 36	.....	.....	5,016 29	114,706 38

* No Treasurer's receipts received.

B—Continued.

LAND OFFICES, AND STATES.	Gross amount of lands sold in last half of fiscal year.		Am't received in cash and Treasurer's receipts.	Amount received in forfeited land stock and military scrip.		Am't of incidental expenses.	Amount paid into the treasury during the last half of the fiscal year.
	Acres.	Purchase money.	Cash.	Forfeited land stock.	Military land scrip.		
LOUISIANA.							
New Orleans.....	2,365.92	\$2,957 43	\$2,957 43	.....	.....	\$918 60	\$3,199 79
Opelousa.....	4,381.84	5,477 30	5,477 30	.....	.....	726 62	9,571 26
Monroe.....	22,122.30	27,653 10	27,653 10	.....	.....	2,177 81	37,345 00
Greensburg.....	8,722.35	10,902 94	10,902 94	.....	.....	763 05	10,361 95
Natchitoches.....	12,669.75	15,837 31	15,837 31	.....	.....	1,545 89	35,191 59
Total.....	50,262.16	62,828 08	62,828 08	.....	.....	6,131 97	95,669 59
MICHIGAN.							
Detroit.....	23,700.72	29,655 99	29,455 99	.....	\$200 00	1,759 08	29,455 99
Kalamazoo.....	36,042.96	45,053 70	45,053 70	.....	.....	1,985 92	44,998 40
Genesee.....	86,933.81	113,420 09	111,316 34	\$100 00	2,013 75	2,941 21	114,611 07
Ionia.....	95,492.45	119,365 56	114,857 43	.....	4,508 13	2,354 71	116,786 52
Sault Ste. Marie.....	13,612.14	17,015 26	17,015 26	.....	.....	1,129 82	24,963 50
Duncan.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	24 72	.....
Total.....	255,782.08	324,520 60	317,698 72	100 00	6,721 88	10,145 46	330,815 48
ARKANSAS.							
Batesville.....	15,475.37	19,344 21	19,344 21	.....	.....	1,046 27	19,356 55
Little Rock.....	2,710.95	3,388 69	3,388 69	.....	.....	627 74	2,084 09
Washington.....	20,733.02	25,916 18	25,916 58	.....	.....	1,403 34	32,652 81
Fayetteville.....	19,803.78	24,754 80	24,754 80	.....	.....	1,345 08	31,450 00
Helena.....	739.58	924 47	924 47	.....	.....	676 69	5,808 13
Clarksburg.....	720.00	900 00	900 00	.....	.....	511 10	.....
Champagnole.....	6,687.67	8,479 59	8,479 59	.....	.....	1,224 41	33,250 42
Total.....	66,870.37	83,708 34	83,708 34	.....	.....	6,834 63	129,602 00
FLORIDA.							
Tallahassee.....	15,173.43	18,991 78	18,991 78	.....	.....	893 01	16,651 68
St. Augustine.....	6,412.21	8,015 26	8,015 26	.....	.....	1,031 62	6,723 99
Newnansville.....	24,213.09	30,305 14	30,305 14	.....	.....	1,000 90	33,681 59
Total.....	45,798.73	57,312 18	57,312 18	.....	.....	2,925 53	57,057 26
IOWA.							
Dubuque.....	508,878.16	636,099 83	619,656 81	.....	16,443 02	4,205 12	407,000 00
Fairfield.....	56,339.24	70,429 65	66,138 22	.....	4,291 43	2,399 38	68,139 60
Iowa City.....	497,438 61	621,832 14	537,464 93	50 00	84,317 21	4,881 69	511,106 07
Chariton.....	173,845.26	217,306 57	215,216 80	.....	2,069 77	5,478 62	183,657 58
Fort des Moines.....	364,691.12	456,369 76	448,368 91	.....	8,020 85	10,465 94	360,485 83
Kanesville.....	117,564.67	146,976 64	139,450 03	.....	7,526 61	3,981 09	94,727 00
Total.....	1,718,757.06	2,149,034 59	2,026,295 70	50 00	122,688 89	31,411 84	1,625,116 08
WISCONSIN.							
Mineral Point.....	148,768.77	187,048 09	183,370 17	*100 00	3,577 92	5,955 65	174,394 78
Menasha.....	60,911.20	76,139 25	71,369 99	.....	4,769 26	2,733 01	64,632 68
Milwaukee.....	17,501.32	22,576 98	22,576 98	.....	.....	1,054 68	21,870 81
Willow River.....	65,502.82	81,878 57	80,878 57	.....	1,000 00	3,078 23	73,414 91
Stevens's Point.....	91,681.02	114,603 11	114,303 11	.....	300 00	3,474 42	101,953 16
La Crosse.....	81,943.12	102,428 89	102,178 89	*50 00	200 00	3,316 67	102,717 72
Total.....	466,308.25	584,674 89	574,677 71	*150 00	9,847 18	19,612 66	538,914 06
CALIFORNIA.							
Benicia.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4,305 50	.....
Los Angeles.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4,873 00	.....
Total.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9,178 50	.....

* This amount in Wisconsin refunding certificates.

B—Continued.

LAND OFFICES, AND STATES.	Gross amount of lands sold in last half of fiscal year.		Am't received in cash and Treasurer's receipts.	Amount received in forfeited land stock and military scrip.		Am't of incidental expenses.	Amount paid into the treasury during the last half of the fiscal year.
	Acres.	Purchase money.	Cash.	Forfeited land stock.	Military land scrip.		
MINNESOTA TERR.Y.							
Stillwater	77,784.55	\$97,229 44	\$97,229 44	.....	.....	\$2,497 71	\$88,442 24
Sauk Rapids	7,625.01	9,531 28	9,531 28	.....	.....	1,509 75	6,084 24
Brownsville .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Minneapolis .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total	85,409.56	106,760 72	106,760 72	.....	.....	4,007 46	94,526 48
OREGON TERRITORY.							
Oregon City	1,665.95	2,082 44	2,082 44	.....	.....	.....	2,040 79
Total	1,665.95	2,082 44	2,082 44	.....	.....	.....	2,040 79

RECAPITULATION.

STATES.	Gross amount of lands sold in the last half of the fiscal year.		Am't received in cash and Treasurer's receipts.*	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.	Forfeited land stock.	Military land scrip.		
Ohio	49,055.67	\$76,305 58	\$76,166 01	.....	\$139 57	\$3,454 16	\$74,425 00
Indiana	55,363.40	69,701 49	69,701 49	.....	.....	4,802 57	61,455 32
Illinois	571,011.04	929,144 69	889,644 85	\$160 00	39,339 84	15,503 84	888,021 61
Missouri	413,631.54	517,655 63	513,064 81	.....	4,590 82	19,952 83	521,211 51
Alabama	141,655.91	179,136 93	179,136 93	.....	.....	9,885 65	201,387 39
Mississippi	56,106.69	74,174 36	74,174 36	.....	.....	5,016 29	114,706 38
Louisiana	50,262.16	62,828 08	62,828 08	.....	.....	6,131 97	95,669 59
Michigan	255,782.08	324,520 60	317,698 72	100 00	6,721 88	10,145 46	330,815 48
Arkansas	66,870.37	83,708 34	83,708 34	.....	.....	6,834 63	129,602 00
Florida	45,798 73	57,312 18	57,312 18	.....	.....	2,925 53	57,057 26
Iowa	1,718,757.06	2,149,034 59	2,026,295 70	50 00	122,688 89	31,411 84	1,625,116 08
Wisconsin	466,308.25	584,674 89	574,677 71	†150 00	9,847 18	19,612 66	538,914 06
California .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9,178 50	.....
Minnesota Territory	85,409.56	106,760 72	106,760 72	.....	.....	4,007 46	94,526 48
Oregon Territory...	1,665.95	2,082 44	2,082 44	.....	.....	.....	2,040 79
Grand total....	3,977,678.41	5,217,040 52	5,033,252 34	†460 00	183,328 18	148,863 39	4,754,948 95

* No Treasurer's receipts received.

† This amount in Wisconsin refunding certificates.

‡ Includes \$150 in Wisconsin refunding certificates.

C.

Exhibit of the quantities of public land, (exclusive of the sixteenth or school sections,) advertised for sale in the year 1854, the quantities prepared for market and not yet advertised, and the probable quantities which will be prepared in 1855.

States and Territories.	Quantities advertised for sale in 1854.	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 1855.
		Prior to last annual report.	Since the last annual report.		
	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>
Ohio	None.	-----	-----	-----	-----
Indiana	None.	1, 958	-----	1, 958	-----
Michigan	1, 333, 883	1, 106, 254	716, 273	488, 644	100, 000
Illinois	None.	7, 499	-----	7, 499	-----
Wisconsin	2, 025, 075	670, 043	1, 784, 165	429, 133	1, 500, 000
Iowa	4, 491, 242	2, 383, 199	2, 735, 560	627, 517	2, 000, 000
Minnesota Territory ..	338, 817	281, 194	2, 391, 170	2, 333, 547	3, 000, 000
Missouri	U. S. railroad sections.	263, 295	144, 469	407, 764	-----
Arkansas	None.	732, 717	561	733, 278	-----
Louisiana	None.	1, 649, 212	289, 950	1, 939, 162	-----
Mississippi	None	3, 103	-----	3, 103	-----
Alabama	None.	90, 530	-----	90, 530	-----
Florida	None.	1, 278, 445	930, 111	2, 208, 556	1, 000, 000
	8, 189, 017	8, 467, 449	8, 992, 259	9, 270, 691	7, 600, 000
<i>Surveyed and returned as follows:</i>					
California	-----	-----	810, 281	-----	4, 000, 000
Oregon Territory	-----	-----	429, 203	-----	1, 500, 000
Washington Territory ..	-----	-----	329, 570	-----	500, 000
Aggregate	-----	-----	10, 561, 313	-----	13, 600, 000

D.

Synopsis of the public lands advertised for sale since November 30, 1853, (the date of the Commissioner's last annual report,) showing the quantity under proclamation, exclusive of school lands.

STATE OR TERRITORY, AND LAND DISTRICT.	Date of sale.	No.	Date of pro- clamation.	Quantity originally proclaimed.	Postponed.		Under pro- clamation.
					Till when.	Quantity.	
					Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
IOWA.							
Kanesville.....	Sept. 4, 1854	509	May 18, 1854	} 2,268,536	.....	.....	2,268,536
Kanesville.....	Sept. 18, 1854	509	May 18, 1854		.....	.....	.....
Port Des Moines.....	Sept. 4, 1854	509	May 18, 1854	} 1,770,503	.....	.....	1,770,503
Port Des Moines.....	Sept. 18, 1854	509	May 18, 1854		.....	.....	.....
Dubuque.....	Aug. 21, 1854	509	May 18, 1854	334,038	.....	.....	334,038
Charlton.....	Aug. 21, 1854	509	May 18, 1854	118,131	.....	.....	118,131
Fairfield.....	Aug. 21, 1854	509	May 18, 1854	144	Indefinitely	144	.....
Iowa City.....	Aug. 21, 1854	509	May 18, 1854	34	.....	.....	34
Total.....				4,491,386	.....	144	4,491,242
WISCONSIN.							
Stevens's Point.....	Sept. 4, 1854	510	May 18, 1854	592,894	.....	.....	592,894
La Crosse.....	Sept. 18, 1854	510	May 18, 1854	683,982	.....	.....	683,982
Willow River.....	Sept. 11, 1854	510	May 18, 1854	702,659	.....	.....	702,659
Menasha.....	Aug. 21, 1854	510	May 18, 1854	45,059	.....	.....	45,059
Mineral Point.....	Aug. 21, 1854	510	May 18, 1854	481	.....	.....	481
Total.....				2,025,075	.....	.....	2,025,075
MICHIGAN.							
Sault Ste. Marie.....	Sept. 4, 1854	511	May 18, 1854	896,587	.....	.....	896,587
Duncan.....	Sept. 18, 1854	511	May 18, 1854	438,296	.....	.....	438,296
Total.....				1,334,883	.....	.....	1,334,883
MINNESOTA TERRITORY.							
Stillwater.....	Sept. 11, 1854	514	June 3, 1854	116,501	Part indefi- nitely.	111,921	4,580
Brownsville.....	Sept. 11, 1854	514	June 3, 1854	} 944,341	Indefinitely	610,104	334,237
Brownsville.....	Sept. 25, 1854	514	June 3, 1854		Indefinitely	111,662	.....
Minneapolis.....	Sept. 18, 1854	514	June 3, 1854	111,662	Indefinitely	.....	.....
Total.....				1,172,504	.....	833,687	338,817
MISSOURI.							
St. Louis.....	Jan. 15, 1855	524	Sept. 15, 1854	} United States sections southwest of Pacific railroad.	.....	.....	.....
Jackson.....	Jan. 8, 1855	524	Sept. 15, 1854		.....	.....	.....
Clinton.....	Dec. 18, 1854	524	Sept. 15, 1854	} Outside six miles ditto.	.....	.....	.....
Springfield.....	Dec. 18, 1854	524	Sept. 15, 1854		.....	.....	.....
St. Louis.....	Oct. 16, 1854	524	Sept. 15, 1854	} Outside of six miles limits of Hannibal and St. Joseph's railroad.	.....	.....	.....
Palmyra.....	Jan. 15, 1855	523	Sept. 15, 1854		.....	.....	.....
Milan.....	Jan. 8, 1855	523	Sept. 15, 1854	} Outside of six miles limits of Hannibal and St. Joseph's railroad.	.....	.....	.....
Plattsburg.....	Dec. 18, 1854	523	Sept. 15, 1854		.....	.....	.....
Total.....				9,023,848	.....	833,831	8,190,017

RECAPITULATION.

STATES.	Quantity originally proclaimed.	Postponed.		Under proclamation.
		Till when.	Quantity.	
	<i>Acres.</i>		<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>
Iowa.....	4,491,386	Indefinitely....	144	4,491,242
Wisconsin.....	2,025,075	.....	.....	2,025,075
Michigan.....	1,334,883	.....	.....	1,334,883
Minnesota.....	1,172,504	Indefinitely....	833,687	338,817
Missouri.....	United States alternate sections.	.....	.....	.....
Total as above.....	9,023,848	.....	833,831	8,190,017

E.

Estimate of appropriations required for the office of the Commissioner of the General Land Office for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1856.

For compensation of the Commissioner, Recorder, three principal clerks, (including an addition of \$200 to salary of principal clerk of public lands by act of March 3, 1853,) draughtsman and assistant draughtsman, messengers, assistant messengers, and packers, authorized by act of July 4, 1836, (L. & Brown, vol. 5, page 107,) the pay of the messengers, assistant messengers, and packers, increased by acts of September 30, 1850, and April 22, 1854, (L. & B., vol. 9, page 527, and pamphlet acts 1st session 33d Congress, page 276.)	\$18,280
For compensation of clerks in the four classes authorized by 3d section of act of March 3, 1853, (L. & B., pamph., 2d session 32d Congress, page 211,) including the sum of \$200 in addition to the pay of the disbursing clerk under same act, and also including the increase authorized by act of April 22, 1854..	146,400
For compensation of principal clerk of private land claims as superintendent of Chickasaw fund, under act of March 3, 1851, (L. & B., vol. 9, page 616).....	250

Contingent expenses.

For compensation of six laborers, as per acts of April 22, 1854, and August 4, 1854, (L. & B., pamphlet laws 1st session 33d Congress, pages 276 and 572).....	3,456
For cash system and military patents, under laws prior to September 30, 1850; patent and other records, tract-books and blanks for this and the district land offices; binding plats, field-notes, &c.; stationery and miscellaneous items.....	33,525
NOTE.—Increase caused by the great increase of sales, &c., and the further increase anticipated from the operation of the graduation act; each entry, of course, requiring separate patent and record.	
For expenses consequent on the swamp land act of September, 1850; military bounty acts of September 28, 1850, March 22, 1852, and August 31, 1852:	
For swamp land patents and records, lists, binding, ruling, &c., military patents and records of various kinds under above acts; records of correspondence, engraving scrip, &c., under last-named act.....	26,100
For tract-books, &c., for new land offices created during 1st session 33d Congress.	6,000
For amount required to answer the resolution of the House of Representatives of August 4, 1854, as to the amount of lands in each class according to the graduation act.....	30,000
For expenses of removing this office, furniture, &c., including carpets for new rooms.....	10,000

F.

Estimate of appropriations required for surveying the public lands for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1856.

Object of appropriation.	Amount.
1. For surveying the public lands, (exclusive of those in California, Oregon, Washington, New Mexico, and Kansas and Nebraska,) including incidental expenses and island surveys in the interior, and all other special and difficult surveys demanding augmented rates, to be apportioned and applied to the several surveying districts, according to the exigencies of the public service, including the expenses of selecting swamp lands, and the compensation and expenses to surveyor to locate private land claims in Louisiana, in addition to the unexpended balances of all former appropriations for the same objects.....	\$115,000 00
2. For the resurvey and correction of thirty townships in Michigan, situated north of the first correction line, and west of the meridian, averaging sixty miles each, at a rate not exceeding six dollars per mile.....	10,800 00

F—Continued.

Object of appropriation.	Amount.
3. For the resurvey and correction of townships forty-four to forty-eight north, inclusive, of ranges eighteen, nineteen, and twenty, west, situated in the upper peninsula of Michigan, estimated at thirteen full townships, averaging sixty miles each, at a rate not exceeding six dollars per mile.....	\$4,680 00
4. For correcting erroneous and defective lines of public and private surveys in Illinois and Missouri, at a rate not exceeding six dollars per mile, including office work.....	3,000 00
5. For the resurvey and correction of old erroneous surveys in Arkansas, discovered since the last report by the surveyor general, at a rate not exceeding six dollars per mile.....	9,504 00
6. For the renewal and correction of old erroneous and defective surveys in Arkansas, discovered since the last estimate by the surveyor general, where the marks have become obliterated, by time, accident, and other causes, at a rate not exceeding four dollars per mile.....	4,896 00
7. For surveys in Louisiana, at augmented rates now authorized by law.....	23,091 00
8. For retracing and renewing all obliterated, imperfect, and defective surveys in the State of Florida, and making relocations of the lines of private land claims therein, and for locating private land claims under the act of June 28, 1848; also, for detached and unfinished surveys, and for the execution of surveys rendered difficult by reason of swamps, lakes, &c.: and to be expended at rates not exceeding six dollars per mile.....	10,000 00
9. For preparing the unfinished records of public and private surveys, to be transferred to the State authorities, under the provisions of the act of June 12, 1840, in those districts where the surveys are about being completed.....	20,000 00
10. For resurveys and examinations of the surveys of public lands in those States where the offices of the surveyors general have been or shall be closed, under the acts of June 12, 1840, and January 22, 1853, including two thousand dollars for the salary of the clerk detailed to this special service in the General Land Office.....	3,000 00
Total.....	203,971 00

G.

Estimates of appropriation for the surveying department for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1856.

Object of appropriation.	Amount.	Total.
<i>For salaries of surveyors general and their clerks, in addition to the balances of former appropriations, viz:</i>		
1. For compensation of the surveyor general northwest of the Ohio, per 10th section of act of May 18, 1796, (Statutes at Large, volume 1, page 464).....	\$2,000	
2. For clerks in his office, per 1st section of act of May 9, 1836, (Statutes at Large, volume 5, page 26).....	6,300	\$8,300
3. For compensation of the surveyor general of Illinois and Missouri, per 1st section of act of April 3, 1818, (Statutes at Large, volume 3, page 412).....	2,000	
4. For clerks in his office, per 1st section of act of May 9, 1836, (Statutes at Large, volume 5, page 26).....	3,820	15,820

G—Continued.

Object of appropriation.	Amount.	Total.
5. For compensation of the surveyor general of Louisiana, per 5th section of the act of March 3, 1831, (Statutes at Large, volume 4, page 492).....	\$2, 000	\$4, 500
6. For clerks in his office, per 1st section of act of May 9, 1836, (Statutes at Large, volume 5, page 26).....	2, 500	
7. For compensation of the surveyor general of Florida, per 1st section of act of March 2, 1833, (Statutes at Large, volume 4, page 624).....	2, 000	5, 500
8. For clerks in his office, per 1st section of act of May 9, 1836, (Statutes at Large, volume 5, page 26).....	3, 500	
9. For compensation of the surveyor general of Wisconsin and Iowa, per act of August 8, 1846, (Statutes at Large, volume 9, page 79).....	2, 000	8, 300
10. For clerks in his office, per same act.....	6, 300	
11. For compensation of the surveyor general of Arkansas, per act of August 8, 1846, (Statutes at Large, volume 9, page 79).....	2, 000	8, 300
12. For clerks in his office, per same act.....	6, 300	
13. For compensation of the surveyor general of Oregon, per 11th section of act of March 3, 1853, (Statutes at Large, page 248).....	3, 500	7, 500
14. For clerks in his office, per act of September 27, 1850, (Statutes at Large, volume 9, page 496).....	4, 000	
15. For compensation of the surveyor general of California, per 1st section of act of March 3, 1851, (Statutes at Large, page 617).....	4, 500	39, 500
16. For clerks in his office, per act of August 4, 1854, (Statutes at Large, pages 552 and 566).....	35, 000	
17. For compensation of the surveyor general of Washington Territory, per 7th section of act of July 17, 1854, (Statutes at Large, page 306).....	3, 500	7, 500
18. For clerks in his office, per same act.....	4, 000	
19. For compensation of the surveyor general of New Mexico, per 1st section of the act of July 22, 1854, (Statutes at Large, page 308).....	3, 000	7, 000
20. For clerks in his office, per same act.....	4, 000	
21. For compensation of the surveyor general of Kansas and Nebraska, per 10th section of act of July 22, 1854, (Statutes at Large, page 309).....	2, 000	8, 300
22. For clerks in his office, per same act.....	6, 300	
23. 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 to be employed in transcribing field-notes of surveys, for the purpose of preserving them at the seat of government.....		61, 000
24. For salary of the recorder of land titles in Missouri, per act of March 2, 1805, (Statutes at Large, page 326,) paid prior to July 1, 1849, out of the surveying fund.....		500
Making an aggregate of.....		172, 020

H.

ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE SURVEYORS GENERAL.

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR GENERAL OF MICHIGAN.

SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Detroit, November 8, 1854.

SIR: In compliance with your instructions of 11th of August last, I have prepared and herewith transmit my annual report, with the usual accompanying papers, in triplicate. The statements marked A, B, C, D, E, F, G, and H, will be found to exhibit the progress and condition of the field and office work in this district since the date of the last report from this office.

The amount of field-work that has been undertaken during the past year, when compared with some former years, will be found to be small; but it has not consequently been unimportant. The original surveys have necessarily been confined within a narrow limit; but with the exception of such islands as it may be found advisable to have surveyed hereafter, they are fully completed. A correctional survey of the remainder of Mr. Hemingway's district, the peculiar nature of which was noticed at length in my last report, has been consummated, leaving nothing more to be done in the field than the resurvey and correction of such portions of the original surveys as have been, and may hereafter be, reported to your office as being fraudulent and defective to an extent that will make such resurveys and corrections absolutely necessary, to enable the government to sell, and purchasers to find the lands that they may have bought.

With a view to ascertain the extent, character, and locality of such further frauds and defects in the surveys as may not have been brought to the knowledge of this office, further examinations have been made by disinterested deputies of experience and undoubted integrity; the result of which in most instances has been gratifying, inasmuch as no contract has been found to be seriously defective that was not before supposed to be so. In the upper peninsula twenty-seven different contracts have been examined to a sufficient extent to show the general character of the work in each; only two of which exhibit unmistakable evidences of fraud, and these were surveyed by deputies whose work in other parts of the State it has been necessary to resurvey in several instances. By these examinations, I think that sufficient has been elicited to enable me to confidently state that the general system of fraud and dishonesty that was commenced several years since, and carried into effect by so many of the surveyors on the lower peninsula of this State, made but a beginning here, before being subjected to an ordeal that such knavery and corruption could not successfully withstand.

In the lower peninsula six different contracts have been examined; in two of them many of the section lines are reported as never having

been run, and those lines that were found are so erroneous as to be of but little use. The remaining four districts, for want of time, were not as thoroughly inspected; but it is the opinion of the examiner that most and perhaps all of the surveys in them may be made available, although they are not in all cases found to be as represented by the original notes.

I have estimated for resurvey and correction thirty townships situated in the lower peninsula, all of which have been examined, and the condition of the original work in them has at different times been communicated to your office.

I have, in addition to these thirty townships, estimated for the resurvey and correction of a district of about thirteen full townships in the upper peninsula, fronting upon the great natural harbor at Grand island, Lake Superior. It has been known to this office for several years that this district required a resurvey; but it not being located in the immediate vicinity of any important settlements or improvements, it was thought best to leave it until appropriations should be made for the correction of surveys in those districts where a more pressing demand for the public lands existed. I am informed that purchases to a considerable amount have been made during the last year within this district; a resurvey should therefore be made without further delay, so that those difficulties that must otherwise arise from the want of them may, if possible, be avoided.

In estimating for resurveys I have endeavored, as far as practicable from the information that I can derive upon the subject, to select from among those towns that it is known need to be connected, such as will most benefit the public to have resurveyed first. As a brief statement of the general character of these defective and fraudulent surveys, together with the necessity existing for their speedy correction, was made in my last annual report, it is perhaps unnecessary to again lay the facts there stated before you. Experience has shown that those remarks are, and will continue to be, applicable to all resurveys that it may be expedient to undertake in this State.

It will be necessary to make other resurveys than those now estimated for; but they have been left for another season, as I believe the true policy in carrying on this work to be, to undertake no more than can be contracted to deputies whose experience, capacity, and honesty have been tested and approved by this office.

It was stated in my last report, that the returns of the deputy who was selected by my predecessor to make a survey of the village of Sault St. Marie had been received. A full and careful examination and protraction of that entire survey was made, and resulted in its rejection by this office, for reasons that have heretofore been presented to you in detail. In compliance with instructions received from you in July last, I immediately selected one of my most competent deputies, furnished him with such full and minute special instructions as the peculiar nature of his duties would seem to require, and despatched him to the above village, for the purpose of making the survey of that place what it was intended it should be by the act authorizing it; and if the winter season does not commence unusually severe, I hope that the deputy may be able to complete the arduous duties assigned him

before the close of navigation. Whenever his returns are received, I shall endeavor to bring to a close, as soon as practicable, such action as it may be necessary for this office to take in relation to the same.

It will be seen, upon reference to the different statements herewith transmitted, that the amount of office-work that has been done will compare favorably with former years. The paging, indexing, and preparing for the binder the records and transcripts of field-notes of the surveys in the upper peninsula, which has heretofore been unavoidably retarded by the unfinished condition of the field-work, has been commenced, and is now being carried forward as rapidly as practicable.

The making up of the lists of swamp and overflowed lands within this State, with the exception of a few townships, the surveys of which have but recently been approved, has been completed, unless it should be thought advisable to make out new lists of such townships as may hereafter be resurveyed.

During the coming year I hope to be able to furnish the land office at Sault St. Marie with the descriptive notes of all the townships situated in that district. The labor of making out such lists from the surveys that have been made within the last few years, is found to be nearly double what it formerly was, on account of the very full and lengthy descriptions that the surveyors have been required to give of the peculiar topographical and geological features of the country.

The same is also the case in the making of the plats, and the recording and transcribing of the field-notes; but the additional amount of labor and expense thus incurred is of but little or no importance when compared with the great fund of useful and valuable information that is by such means afforded to those who are daily purchasing the public lands.

The miscellaneous work that has been performed in the office during the past year, and of which it does not appear important that a minute statement should be made, has been more than equal to any former year. The fact that no charge is made for information that can be derived by taking extracts from and examining the original field-notes and plats in this office, seems to be fully appreciated by a numerous class of persons, and much time that might be employed in regular office duties is necessarily consumed in affording such persons an opportunity to acquire the information that they desire.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

LEANDER CHAPMAN,
Surveyor General.

JOHN WILSON, Esq.,
Commissioner General Land Office, Washington, D. C.

A.

Statement showing the amount, character, and present condition of the field-work that has been undertaken in this district since the 28th of October, 1853, together with field-work that was uncompleted at that date.

Name of deputy, with date of contract or instructions.	Character and location of work.	Remarks.
Thos. Whelpley: Instructions May 24, 1854.	Survey of islands in Thunder bay and vicinity.	Work completed. The survey of islands in township 34 N., range 7 E.; townships 30 and 34 N., range 8 E.; townships 28 and 32 N., range 9 E.; and townships 30 and 31 N., range 10 E., returned.
Geo. H. Cannon: Instructions May 23, 1853, and May 17, 1854.	Correctional survey of township 49 N., range 10 W.; townships 47, 49, and 50 N., range 11 W. Examinations of a portion of the original surveys between the meridian and range 18 west, in the Upper Peninsula, and a survey of all unsurveyed islands found while prosecuting this work.	Work all completed, and returns received of the correctional survey of examinations required, and of the survey of islands in township 47 N., ranges 2 and 3 W.; township 48 N., range 5 W., and township 45 N., range 12 W.
W. L. Coffinberry: Contract January 6, 1853.	Resurvey of townships 21 and 22 N., ranges 6, 7, and 8 W.	Surveys completed and returns received, excepting township 21 N., range 7 W.; for the resurvey of which Mr. Coffinberry has been released.
A. B. Wood: Instructions May 10, 1854.	Examinations in different contracts of original surveys between the 4th and 5th correction line, and west of range 26 W., in the Upper Peninsula.	Examinations of several townships made in each of eight different contracts, and returns received.
Wm. Burt: Instructions May 10, 1854.	Examinations in different contracts of original surveys south of the 5th correction line, and between ranges 21 and 26 W., in Upper Peninsula.	Examinations of several townships made in each of eight different contracts, and returns received.
A. P. Brewer: Instructions Aug. 22, 1854.	Examinations of a portion of the original surveys between the 1st and 2d correction lines, and west of the meridian.	Partial returns of examinations made and received.
Geo. H. Cannon: Contract Oct. 5, 1854.	Resurvey of township 35 N., range 1 W.; townships 34, 35, 36, 37, and 38 N., ranges 1 and 2 E.; townships 34, 35, 36, and 37 N., range 3 E., and township 36 N., ranges 4 and 5 E.	Deputy has just entered the field.
Thos. Whelpley: Instructions July 31, 1854.	Retracing, re-establishing, and correcting the original survey of the village of Sault St. Marie.	Deputy engaged upon the work; returns expected soon.

LEANDER CHAPMAN, *Surveyor General.*

SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE, *Detroit, Nov. 8, 1854.*

B.

Statement of original plats made, and of copies transmitted to the General Land Office, since October 28, 1853, with date of transmission.

Townships.	Ranges.	Land district.	Number of copies.			When sent to Commissioner.
			Original.	Commissioner.	Total.	
26 north	10 west.....	Cheboygan	1	1	2	Nov. 3, 1853
49 north	33 west.....	Lake Superior..	1	1	2	Nov. 15, 1853
46 and 47 north.....	34 west.....	do	2	2	4	do
47 north.....	35 west.....	do	1	1	2	do
44 north.....	41 west.....	do	1	1	2	do
45 and 46 north.....	23 west.....	do	2	2	4	do
37 north.....	24 and 25 west..	Cheboygan	2	2	4	Jan. 10, 1854
33 north.....	26 west.....	do	1	1	2	do
25 north.....	8 west.....	do	1	1	2	Jan. 19, 1854
22, 23, 24, and 25 north	9 west.....	do	4	4	8	do
22 north	6 and 7 west....	do	2	2	4	Jan. 25, 1854
23 and 24 north.....	6 west.....	do	2	2	4	Feb. 15, 1854
23 and 25 north.....	7 west.....	do	2	2	4	do
24 north.....	8 west.....	do	1	1	2	do
21 and 22 north.....	8 west.....	do	2	2	4	Feb. 17, 1854
46, 47, and 48 north..	10 west.....	Lake Superior..	3	3	6	Mar. 23, 1854
48 north.....	11 west.....	do	1	1	2	do
43, 46, 47, and 48 north	22 west.....	do	4	4	8	May 24, 1854
42 north	23 west.....	do	1	1	2	do
34 (island) north.....	7 east.....	Cheboygan	1	1	2	Aug 4, 1854
30 & 34 (islands) north	8 east.....	do	2	2	4	do
28 & 32 (islands) north	9 east.....	do	2	2	4	do
30 & 31 (islands) north	10 east.....	do	2	2	4	do
43 north.....	23 west.....	Lake Superior..	1	1	2	do
44 and 45 north.....	25 and 26 west..	do	4	4	8	do
21 and 23 north.....	4 west.....	Cheboygan	2	2	4	do
22 and 23 north.....	5 west.....	do	2	2	4	do
49 north.....	27 west.....	Lake Superior..	1	1	2	Sept. 5, 1854
48 and 49 north.....	34 and 35 west..	do	4	4	8	do
47 (island) north.....	2 and 3 west....	do	2	2	4	Sept. 26, 1854
48 (island) north.....	5 west.....	do	1	1	2	do
45 (island) north.....	12 west.....	do	1	1	2	do
37 north.....	27 west.....	Cheboygan	1	1	2	Oct. 4, 1854
34 and 35 north.....	28 and 29 west..	do	4	4	8	do
49 north.....	10 west.....	Lake Superior..	1	0	1	Not sent.
47, 49, and 50 north ..	11 west.....	do	3	0	3	do
Total			63	64	132	

LEANDER CHAPMAN,
Surveyor General.

SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Detroit, November 8, 1854.

C.—*Statement of registers' plats made and of maps sent to the land offices in this district since October 28, 1853, with date of transmission.*

Townships.	Ranges.	Land district.	No. of copies.	When sent.
44 and 45 north.....	22 west.....	Lake Superior...	2	June 7, 1854.
44, 46, and 47 north.....	23 west.....	do.....	3	do.....
42 and 43 north.....	24 west.....	do.....	2	do.....
43 north.....	25 west.....	do.....	1	do.....
43 north.....	26 west.....	do.....	1	do.....
49 north.....	28 west.....	do.....	1	do.....
49 and 50 north.....	29 west.....	do.....	2	do.....
49 and 50 north.....	30 west.....	do.....	2	do.....
49 and 50 north.....	31 west.....	do.....	2	do.....
46, 48, and 49 north.....	32 west.....	do.....	3	do.....
46, 48, and 49 north.....	33 west.....	do.....	3	do.....
46 and 47 north.....	34 west.....	do.....	2	do.....
47 north.....	35 west.....	do.....	1	do.....
50 north.....	36 and 37 west.....	do.....	2	do.....
44 north.....	41 west.....	do.....	1	do.....
44 and 45 north.....	43 west.....	do.....	2	do.....
13, 14, 15, 16, and 17 north..	1 west.....	Saginaw.....	5	Aug. 16, 1854
13 north.....	2 west.....	do.....	1	do.....
46, 47, and 48 north.....	10 west.....	Lake Superior...	3	Aug. 28, 1854
48 north.....	11 west.....	do.....	1	do.....
42, 46, 47, and 48 north.....	22 west.....	do.....	4	do.....
43 and 45 north.....	23 west.....	do.....	2	do.....
44 and 45 north.....	25 west.....	do.....	2	do.....
44 and 45 north.....	26 west.....	do.....	2	do.....
47 north.....	33 west.....	do.....	1	do.....
24 north.....	1 west.....	Cheboygan.....	1	do.....
23 north.....	2 west.....	do.....	1	do.....
25 and 27 north.....	3 west.....	do.....	2	do.....
21, 23, 24, and 27 north.....	4 west.....	do.....	4	do.....
22, 23, 24, 25, 26, and 27 north	5 west.....	do.....	6	do.....
22, 23, 24, and 27 north.....	6 west.....	do.....	4	do.....
22, 23, 25, and 26 north.....	7 west.....	do.....	4	do.....
21, 22, 23, 24, and 25 north..	8 west.....	do.....	5	do.....
22, 23, 24, 25, and 28 north..	9 west.....	do.....	5	do.....
22, 23, 24, 25, and 26 north..	10 west.....	do.....	5	do.....
30 north.....	11 west.....	do.....	1	do.....
37, 38, 39, 40, and 41 north..	24 west.....	do.....	5	do.....
37, 38, 39, and 40 north.....	25 west.....	do.....	4	do.....
37, 38, 40, and 41 north.....	26 west.....	do.....	4	do.....
38 and 39 north.....	27 west.....	do.....	2	do.....
36 north.....	28 west.....	do.....	1	do.....
47 (islands) north.....	2 and 3 west.....	Lake Superior...	2	Not sent.
48 (islands) north.....	5 west.....	do.....	1	do.....
45 (islands) north.....	12 west.....	do.....	1	do.....
37 north.....	27 west.....	do.....	1	do.....
34 and 35 north.....	28 west.....	do.....	2	do.....
34 and 35 north.....	29 west.....	do.....	2	do.....
34 (islands) north.....	1 east.....	Cheboygan.....	1	do.....
30 and 34 (islands) north.....	8 east.....	do.....	2	do.....
28 and 32 (islands) north.....	9 east.....	do.....	2	do.....
30 and 31 (islands) north.....	10 east.....	do.....	2	do.....
49 north.....	27 west.....	Lake Superior...	1	do.....
48 and 49 north.....	34 and 35 west.....	do.....	4	do.....
		Total.....	126	

LEANDER CHAPMAN, *Surveyor General.*

SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE, *Detroit, November 8, 1854.*

D.—List of townships, the field-notes of which have been recorded or transcribed since October 28, 1853.

Townships.	Ranges.	Situation.	Pages.	Character of work.
45, 46, 47, 48, and 49 north.....	14 west.....	Upper peninsula	627	Transcripts.
41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, and 47 north.....	15 west.....	do.....		
41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, and 49 north.....	16 west.....	do.....	571	Transcripts.
41, 42, and 43 north.....	17 west.....	do.....		
48 and 49 north.....	15 west.....	do.....	807	Transcripts.
41, 42, and 43 north.....	18 west.....	do.....		
41, 42, and 43 north.....	19 west.....	do.....		
41, 42, and 43 north.....	20 west.....	do.....		
41, 42, 43, and 44 north.....	21 west.....	do.....		
43 north.....	19 west.....	do.....		
41, 42, and 43 north.....	20 west.....	do.....	928	Records.
41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, & 48 north.....	21 west.....	do.....		
41, 42, 43, 44, 45, and 46 north.....	22 west.....	do.....	884	Records.
44, 45, 46, 47, and 48 north.....	17 west.....	do.....		
51, 52, 53, 54, 55, and 56 north.....	34 west.....	do.....		
51, 52, 53, 54, 55, and 56 north.....	35 west.....	do.....		
51, 52, 53, 54, and 55 north.....	36 west.....	do.....		
45, 46, 47, and 48 north.....	21 west.....	do.....		
41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, & 48 north.....	22 west.....	do.....	755	Transcripts.
41, 42, 44, and 45 north.....	23 west.....	do.....		
51, 52, 53, and 54 north.....	37 west.....	do.....	492	Records.
51, 52, and 53 north.....	38 west.....	do.....		
51, 52, and 53 north.....	39 west.....	do.....		
51 and 52 north.....	40 west.....	do.....		
51 north.....	41, 42, 43, 44 w.....	do.....	401	Transcripts.
51, 52, 53, 54, 55, and 56 north.....	34 west.....	do.....		
51, 52, and 53 north.....	35 west.....	do.....	952	Records.
47 and 48 north.....	22 west.....	do.....		
41, 42, 43, 45, 46, and 47 north.....	23 west.....	do.....	172	Records.
41, 42, 43, 44, and 45 north.....	24 west.....	do.....		
41, 42, and 43 north.....	25 west.....	do.....		
41 north.....	26 west.....	do.....		
44 north.....	23 west.....	do.....	621	Transcripts.
44 and 45 north.....	25 west.....	do.....		
46 and 47 north.....	23 west.....	do.....	509	Transcripts.
41, 42, 43, 44, and 45 north.....	24 west.....	do.....		
41, 42, and 43 north.....	25 west.....	do.....		
41 north.....	26 west.....	do.....		
54, 55, and 56 north.....	35 west.....	do.....	378	Transcripts.
51, 52, 53, 54, and 55 north.....	36 west.....	do.....		
51, 52, 53, and 54 north.....	37 west.....	do.....		
51, 52, and 53 north.....	38 west.....	do.....		
40 north.....	16 west.....	do.....	72	Records.
39 and 40 north.....	17 west.....	do.....		
38, 39, and 40 north.....	18 west.....	do.....		
37, 38, 39, and 40 north.....	19 west.....	do.....		
39 north.....	20 west.....	do.....	62	
41, 42, and 43 north.....	1 east.....	do.....		
Bois Blanc island.....				
42 north.....	26 west.....			
Aggregate number of pages.....			8,230	
To which add making and copying lists of swamp lands granted to the State by act of April 28, 1850.....			621	
			8,851	

LEANDER CHAPMAN, *Surveyor General*

SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE, *Detroit*, November 8, 1854.

E.—List of descriptive notes made since October 28, 1853, the date of the last annual report.

Townships.	Ranges.	Land district.	No. of copies.
51, 53, and 54 north.....	34 west.....	Lake Superior.....	3
51, 52, 53, 54, 55, and 56 north.....	35 west.....	do.....	6
42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, and 56 north.....	36 west.....	do.....	15
42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, and 54 north.....	37 west.....	do.....	13
43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, and 53 north.....	38 west.....	do.....	11
44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, and 50 north.....	39 west.....	do.....	7
44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, and 50 north.....	40 west.....	do.....	7
44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, and 51 north.....	41 west.....	do.....	7
44, 45, 46, 47, and 51 north.....	42 west.....	do.....	5
44, 45, 46, and 51 north.....	43 west.....	do.....	4
45, 46, and 51 north.....	44 west.....	do.....	3
45 and 46 north.....	45 west.....	do.....	2
45, 46, 47, and 48 north.....	46 west.....	do.....	4
		Total.....	87

LEANDER CHAPMAN, *Surveyor General.*

SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE, *Detroit, November 8, 1854.*

F.—The United States in account with Leander Chapman, surveyor general northwest of the Ohio.

SALARY ACCOUNT.

		Dr.	
1853.			
Dec.	31	To amount paid surveyor general and clerks for the 4th quarter of 1853.....	\$2,396 04
1854.			
Mar.	31	To amount paid surveyor general and clerks for the 1st quarter of 1854.....	2,531 10
June	30	To amount paid surveyor general and clerks for the 2d quarter of 1854.....	2,476 34
Sept.	30	To amount paid surveyor general and clerks for the 3d quarter of 1854.....	2,111 21
		To amount to balance.....	372 78
			9,887 47
1853.			
Oct.	5	By balance of account for 3d quarter of 1853.....	\$62 47
Dec.	29	By treasury draft (in part) No. 7020 on treasury Interior warrant No. 6735.....	2,475 00
1854.			
Mar.	24	By treasury draft (in part) No. 7483 on treasury Interior warrant No. 7186.....	2,475 00
June	29	By treasury draft (in part) No. 7925 on treasury Interior warrant No. 7629.....	2,500 00
Sept.	26	By treasury draft (in part) No. 8444 on treasury Interior warrant No. 8145.....	2,375 00
			9,887 47
		By balance in hands of surveyor general.....	372 78

LEANDER CHAPMAN, *Surveyor General.*

SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE, *Detroit, November 8, 1854.*

F—Continued.

*The United States in account with Leander Chapman, surveyor general
northwest of the Ohio.*

DISBURSEMENT ACCOUNT.

1853.		Dr.	
Dec. 31	1854.	To amount of disbursements for 4th quarter of 1853.....	\$262 87
Mar. 31		To amount of disbursements for 1st quarter of 1854.....	205 32
June 30		To amount of disbursements for 2d quarter of 1854.....	205 16
Sept. 30		To amount of disbursements for 3d quarter of 1854.....	176 37
		To amount to balance.....	239 82
			1,089 54
1853.		Cr.	
Oct. 5		By balance of account for 3d quarter of 1853.....	\$239 54
Dec. 29		By treasury draft (in part) No. 7020 on treasury Interior warrant No. 6735.....	200 00
Mar. 20		By treasury draft (in part) No. 7483 on treasury Interior warrant No. 7186.....	200 00
June 29		By treasury draft (in part) No. 7925 on treasury Interior warrant No. 7629.....	250 00
Sept. 26		By treasury draft (in part) No. 8444 on treasury Interior warrant No. 8145.....	200 00
			1,089 54
		By above balance.....	239 82

LEANDER CHAPMAN,
Surveyor General.

SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Detroit, November 8, 1854.

H.

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 30th June, 1856.

For compensation of the surveyor general, per tenth section of the act of 18th May, 1796.....	\$2,000 00
For compensation of clerks in his office, per first section of the act of 9th May, 1836.....	8,300 00
Total.....	<u>10,300 00</u>

Estimate of appropriations required to defray the incidental expenses of the surveyor general's office at Detroit for the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1856.

For stationery, binding, printing, and postage.....	\$400 00
For office rent and fuel.....	575 00
For services of messenger.....	120 00
Total.....	<u>1,095 00</u>

Estimate of appropriations required for continuing the resurveys and correction of fraudulent and defective surveys in Michigan for the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1856.

For the resurvey and correction of thirty townships situated north of the first correction line and west of meridian, averaging sixty miles each, at a price not exceeding six dollars per mile.....	\$10,800 00
For the resurvey and correction of townships 44 to 48 north inclusive, in ranges 18, 19, and 20, west, situate in the upper peninsula, estimated at thirteen full townships, averaging sixty miles each, at a price not exceeding six dollars per mile.....	4,680 00
Total.....	<u>15,480 00</u>

LEANDER CHAPMAN,
Surveyor General.

SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Detroit, November 8, 1854.

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR GENERAL FOR ILLINOIS AND MISSOURI.

OFFICE OF SURVEYOR GENERAL FOR ILLINOIS AND MISSOURI,
St. Louis, October 31, 1854.

SIR: In compliance with your instructions of the 11th August last, I have prepared, and now transmit, the following report upon the operations in this district since the 28th of October, 1853, the date of the last annual report from this office.

I.—RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS OF PUBLIC FUNDS.

Statement A shows those receipts and disbursements under each head of expenditures. The balance of public moneys in my hands is \$697 46.

It has been my constant desire to keep the expenses incurred by the several branches of the service within the means provided therefor; to preserve order and regularity in my accounts with the department; and to render them promptly after the expiration of every quarter.

II.—SURVEYS OF PUBLIC LANDS IN ILLINOIS AND MISSOURI, AND RESURVEYS OF DEFECTIVE AND INCOMPLETE LINES.

By your joint instructions of 31st October, 1853, to Warner Lewis, esq., surveyor general at Dubuque, and myself, we were directed to have the public surveys in both the States of Iowa and Missouri closed from range 18 west, easterly to the Des Moines river, on the "Sullivan line,"—retraced in 1850 by the commissioners appointed under the decree of the Supreme Court of the United States in 1849—and which retraced line was adopted by the said court in 1850 as the boundary line between the said States.

Having conferred on the subject with Mr. Lewis, he authorized me, in his letter of the 7th of February, to carry the matter through, so far as the selection of a deputy and the field operations were concerned. Upon this authorization, I selected for the field-work John W. Williams, esq., who, for the last fifteen years, has been known to this office as a most competent and faithful deputy, and who is also known as such by the Dubuque office, for which he has executed contracts of surveying, and I instructed him, on the 2d of June, to make the required connections. Mr. Williams has performed his work, to the satisfaction of this office, on the Missouri side of the State line; and I have but little doubt that the work on the Iowa side will be equally acceptable to Surveyor General Lewis. The returns were completed here some days ago; and as soon as this report is transmitted, the matter, as regards this office, will be carried through, and the necessary plats forwarded, as well as the deputy's account, when it has received Mr. Lewis's approval.

The instructions of 14th September, 1852, for the connections of townships 16 north, ranges 9 to 12 east of the fifth principal meridian, with the State line between Arkansas and Missouri, east of St. Francis river, could not be complied with during the present year on account of my inability to find a competent deputy willing to undertake the work.

From recent intercourse with the surveyor of the country embracing those townships, I am induced to believe that the matter may be intrusted to his care, and I will therefore instruct him accordingly. Upon an examination of the plats, I find that the only connections needed are in range 12, for the ranges west thereof are either unsurveyed and granted to the State under the swamp act, or already connected with the State line.

The survey of township 24 north, range 16 east of the fifth principal meridian, which Aaron Snider, esq., was, on the 1st of Septem-

ber, 1853, instructed to execute, has been returned and finally disposed of.

The work of Frederick W. Rohland in township 47 north, ranges 1 and 2 east of the fifth principal meridian, has been completed, and the necessary plats are prepared for transmission.

Two islands of the Illinois river—one in township 33 north, range 1 west of the third principal meridian, and the other in township 15 north, range 10 east of the fourth principal meridian—were surveyed by John P. Blake, during the past year, under instructions of the 9th of February, 1852, and the office-work has been completed.

Some old lines have been corrected in townships 2 and 3 north, range 7 west of the 5th principal meridian; also, in township 47 north, range 7 east of the 5th principal meridian.

It having been discovered that many of the lines of townships 4 and 5 north, range 7 west of the 3d principal meridian, were erroneous, Joseph Burnap, esq., was, on the 9th of June, instructed to rectify them. His returns were examined, found correct, and the business is disposed of.

I am preparing the instructions necessary to effect the resurveys authorized in your letter of the 29th March, in townships 49 to 52 north, range 2 east of the 5th principal meridian, Palmyra district, Missouri. I have waited for this season, when the absence of vegetation will enable the deputy to find old corners more easily than he could during the months of the summer. The work will range over a considerable extent of land which is already disposed of by the United States. On that account the instructions for the protection of acquired rights in making resurveys will be strictly adhered to.

According to your instructions of the 10th February last, directing me to have all the unsurveyed islands of this district surveyed, and suggesting the propriety of the co-operation of the office at Dubuque concerning such islands of that part of the Mississippi river which borders on Iowa and Illinois, I corresponded with Surveyor General Lewis, and with his consent appointed John Wilson Williams, on the 27th of the same month, to perform this part of the work. That deputy has made partial returns, and will resume his operations during the approaching winter. When this is completed, I will instruct him to explore the balance of the Mississippi river running along this district, as well as the Missouri river, and to run out their unsurveyed islands. It is perhaps proper to remark, that from all the information received on the subject, I am induced to believe the whole matter will be but of small benefit to the government in view of the lands that are likely to accrue to the domain, and to the deputies, as regards the compensation afforded them for this kind of labor.

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

The report on those claims promised last year was sent the 21st of January last, upon your special demand therefor of the 28th November, 1853.

During the year—

Of the first class of confirmations still remaining unsurveyed—tha

is, those the location of which had been fixed by an ancient survey—the 400 arpents confirmed to Henry Dielle, (Dec. 45,) and the 840 arpents to Gerrard and Fleming, (Dec. 147,) have been surveyed.

Of the second class, viz: those the situation of which is plainly ascertained, but are altogether within the lines of land confirmed or disposed of before the passage of the act of 1836.

The claim of Abraham Randall, senior, (Dec. No. 320,) has been finally acted upon by the issuing of certificate of relocation No. 188, for 300 arpents, the amount confirmed.

The situation of the claim of Victor Lagoterie of 690 arpents, (Dec. No. 149,) embraced in the third class, (the claims for which no locality had been found, and which on that account were denied the benefit of relocation,) having been clearly ascertained, a certificate of relocation, No. 189, was issued in favor of that claimant or his legal representatives; the original survey being all covered by valid interferences.

Upon the whole, three surveys were executed, seven certificates of relocation issued, and two surveys platted and recorded. This business is drawing to a close.

IV.—RECORDS OF LAND TITLES UNDER THE ACT OF JUNE 12, 1840.

There have been recorded during the year the field-notes of eight hundred and eight exterior lines, and the subdivision of four hundred and eighty-nine townships, in Missouri; and in Illinois, the field-notes of three hundred and thirty-three exterior lines, and the subdivision of one hundred and eighty-five townships; also fifty-five plats of Missouri townships, most of them containing a large number of private surveys, have been recorded. The business is progressing rapidly.

V.—SURVEYS OF TOWNS AND VILLAGES IN MISSOURI, NAMED IN THE ACT OF 13TH OF JUNE, 1812, AND 26TH MAY, 1824.

In my last report I dwelt at some length upon the survey of the out-boundaries of those towns and villages as required by the act above quoted, having in my remarks a special reference to the survey of the outlines of St. Louis, which had been fixed by one of my predecessors, because I had doubts touching the correctness of that survey, from my apprehension of the letter of the law. Your decision of the 26th of April last, and its affirmation by the Secretary of the Interior, transmitted with your letter of the 4th of May, have set the matter at rest as far as this office is concerned.

We made during the year—

Saint Charles.—Two connected plats of the town, out-lots and common-field lots; a plat and transcript of the survey of the out-boundaries, and two copies thereof.

Carondelet.—Plat and transcript of the survey of the out-boundaries of the town, common and common-fields, and one copy.

Saint Ferdinand.—Plat and transcript of the survey of the out-boundaries of the village and common-field lots, out-lots and commons. One copy is prepared for your office.

Sainte Genevieve and New Bourbon.—Connected plat of the town, village and out-lots, and common-field lots, and plat and transcript of the out-boundaries of the two localities in a single tract.

In platting the surveys of the out-boundary lines of the above towns and villages, I have, according to instructions, used the field-notes of the tracts included therein, and those of the tracts adjoining outside. These notes were complete in all cases, except for Sainte Genevieve and New Bourbon, where the continuity of the line was broken for a short distance.

The connection rendered necessary thereby was made by Frederick Masberger, esq., under instructions of the 14th of April last.

It is hardly possible to prosecute this branch of the business with a proper despatch, because the clerks conversant with, and engaged in it, are too frequently withdrawn therefrom to attend to other duties of daily occurrence and equal importance. But for this, the platting and transcribing of the surveys of the out-boundaries of such of the remaining towns and villages as have not yet been fixed would have been perfected, where the same is possible, and surveys of individual lots platted and described, and also recorded. Also the report asked for on the Cozzens surveys in the Grande Prairie common-field of St. Louis is not yet ready for transmission, though much advanced. Besides the causes of delay just alluded to, I have in this instance waited long beyond the time allowed in the public notice to contending parties, for the arguments which some of them intended to submit in support of their rights. Even now they are not yet all produced. This indulgence may perhaps appear to be unjustifiable, but nevertheless I have thought it proper to extend it, on account of the great interests at stake, and for the purpose of preventing the dissatisfaction that would be sure to follow a decision taken without a full understanding of all the facts bearing on the several cases.

Moreover, the work itself is considerable, for it requires a separate and distinct report on each of the twenty-two cases involved in the question. It may be also proper to state that I am informed of several compromises between adverse parties, by which they have amicably apportioned among themselves the contested land.

This I hope and believe is to prove the ultimate end of the controversy; but it will not prevent me from resuming the preparation of the report, as soon as our current work shall permit it.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS WORK.

The surveys of the Indian reservations by the treaties of Prairie du Chien of 29th of July and 1st of August, 1830, and of Camp Tippecanoe of 20th of October, 1832, in the northern part of Illinois, have been taken up, by platting and describing twenty-nine of them, and by recording the same, together with the transcripts of seven surveys heretofore disposed of. I intend at an early day to complete this business, by forwarding to you such of those transcripts as have not yet been transmitted.

The plats of fifty-four townships in Missouri, and four in Illinois, have been recorded—in all fifty-eight plats. Of this number forty-three Missouri plats, and three Illinois plats, have been copied for

yours and the registers' offices, to replace the former plats which are worn out or defective.

Of township plats made during the last or preceding years, there have been transmitted to your office twenty-eight, to registers in Illinois one hundred and thirty-one, and to registers in Missouri forty-four.

Of subdivisions there have been sent to your office eighty plats, to registers in Illinois thirteen, and to registers in Missouri thirty-one. Also seventy-one descriptive lists of townships were sent to the register at Edwardsville, Illinois.

The letters, statements, public notices, &c., during the year, cover eight hundred and ninety pages of letter-paper. When written or issued they are preserved in copy-press books, and then recorded. The record is up to the date of this report.

VII.—SWAMP LANDS DONATED BY ACT OF 28TH SEPTEMBER, 1850.

In preparing the lists of swamp and overflowed lands which were certified to your office during the fall of last year, there were struck from the original returns of selections by the State agents such tracts as were indicated, by the plats and field-notes of their survey, not to be of the character intended by the act of the 28th September, 1850. This was done in consequence of the construction by this office of the several instructions on the subject. The total amount thus withdrawn was, in the two States, 1,129,075 acres.

But, under the explicit directions contained in the letter of 21st of April on the subject, viz: "that the field-notes were not conclusive against the State, but upon the production of satisfactory evidence by the State authorities that the lands selected by the State agents were of the character contemplated by the act, they should be certified to this office, even though the indications of the field-notes gave a contrary character," I took the matter up again, examined all the evidences that had been produced by the State agents, either with their original lists or subsequently sent back for remedying defects, but since returned with the necessary amendments; and finding that the said evidences were in conformity with the directions of the 21st of April, I had new lists of the tracts originally withdrawn prepared for each district in the two States, except for that of Quincy, Illinois, the list of which already embraced all the original State selections within its limits.

These additional lists were certified and transmitted to yours and the registers' offices on the 12th instant.

Statement C^a exhibits the number of acres returned for Missouri in the additional lists, amounting in the aggregate to 468,969.01 acres; and statement C^b the number of acres returned for Illinois—that is, 778,247.93; making a total of 1,247,216.94 acres since the last annual report. In this, however, are included the amounts of several small lists certified to you from lists that were from time to time directed to this office by State agents in addition to their original selections.

When lands selected by the State as swamps are contested by individuals who entered them subsequently to said selections, your instructions on the subject are strictly and impartially followed. From present indications it seems that the few instances of contest for which

applications were made will hardly require decisions at this office, for we have not yet received any evidence from the registers and receivers of the districts in which the contested lands are situated, upon which to base said decisions, except in a single case.

I was instructed on the 31st of January to have an examination made of the lands selected by the agent of Schuyler county, Missouri, and to report the result to you. The report was made on the 12th of May, and on the 13th of June you informed me that the honorable the Secretary of the Interior had revoked the said agent's selections. As requested, I had a new list of swamp lands in that county made from the plats and field-notes of the public surveys, and transmitted it to you on the 12th instant.

The directors of the Hannibal and St. Joseph Railroad Company having apprized this office of their intention to contest the right of the State of Missouri to a large number of swamp tracts within the limits of the grant, made by Congress to aid in the construction of the road, you authorized me in your letter of the 17th of April to have the investigation of the matter held in this office. In accordance with the instructions contained in the letter, I issued to all parties concerned in the controversy such public notices as, in my opinion, were necessary to insure its publicity, giving therein to them ample time to prepare their evidence. Some counties sent in affidavits as to the swampy character of the contested tracts, but others did not seem to have any proceedings had under the notice.

As requested, I gave my opinion on each contested tract, and laid the whole matter before you for a decision. When it is known, I will lose no time in altering our lists in conformity therewith, as the case may be, and of advising the registers of the transaction, by giving them the necessary data to carry it into effect.

The funds allowed for office-work on the swamp lands being exhausted, I hope that the necessary means will be allowed to complete what remains to be done.

VIII.—ESTIMATE OF FUNDS WANTED FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 1855-'56.

Those estimates were transmitted in my letter of the 12th of September. There are seven items, comprising an aggregate amount of \$25,120.

Items Nos. 1 and 2 are fixed by the act of Congress of May 9, 1836.

No. 3 is based upon the allowances generally made during a number of years past, as an addition to the insufficiency of the \$5,820, of Nos. 1 and 2, to carry out and keep up the current office-work.

No. 4. This item, of \$3,000, is for the correction of erroneous and defective lines in the public and private surveys of the district. There was a liberal appropriation made by Congress at the last session for this branch of the service during the current year, even more than was asked for in the estimates of last year. This is, perhaps, owing to the applications for resurveys of old lines made directly to the department, either by our representatives in Congress or the inhabitants of the localities in which they lie, and which applications it may be intended to grant. Numerous inquiries have lately been made on the subject of instructions which it was expected we should have re-

ceived from you for such resurveys, although they were not asked for by this office, whose action in the matter is regulated by the directions contained in the letter of the 31st of December last. Whatever may be the true condition of the case, and the amount of resurveying still needed before the close of the office, the existing appropriations will be inadequate to the payment of the work on the connection of the State line between Iowa and Missouri; the survey of unsurveyed islands; the large amount of resurveying authorized by the letter of the 17th of April, in the Palmyra district, Missouri, and the scattered jobs of that kind of work which are already known, and those which are still coming to light from time to time. I have therefore introduced this item in my estimate, and hope that it will be granted.

Item No. 5. This item of \$2,500 is for the incidental expenses of the office. They have much increased of late, in consequence of the high prices now paid for all the articles needed. Besides the customary expenses for rent, fuel and stationery, we require binding for a large amount of books and loose plats. The sooner this is done the better, to insure the preservation of the records and to stop the loss of time attending the unavoidable misplacing of the plats in their present condition. The item will be hardly sufficient for the wants of the service.

Item No. 6. With the unexpended balance of former appropriations, this estimate will likely be sufficient to complete this branch of our business, provided it is not again burdened with resurveys and litigious cases of the nature of those that have cost in years past so much money and labor to bring them to a close.

Item No. 7. The item of \$8,000 is asked for completing the records of the land titles in the district preparatory to delivering them to the authorities of the two States, as prescribed by the act of 12th of June, 1840. Under the appropriate head I have stated what has been done during the year towards this object. The record of field-notes in both States is much advanced. When it is completed, the other books and records will also be transcribed which require it; and their proper indexes, references, annotations and statements, necessary to render the whole record of each State of easy access and apprehension for all time to come, will have to be prepared. This will be no inconsiderable task. I therefore hope the allowance requested for it will be made, provided the next Congress appropriates, as in the last session, a general fund for this purpose.

There is another item, not mentioned in my estimates of 12th September, which I feel it my duty to bring to your attention. It is the paucity of such law-books in the office as are wanted, to be consulted and guided by in its operations. When references to State statutes and federal and State decisions are necessary, we are obliged to have recourse to the libraries of private gentlemen, and there borrow the volumes which afford the desired information.

This, to say the least, is very inconvenient, and to prevent its future recurrence I respectfully ask that a sum of \$300 be asked from Congress at the next session to purchase the supply of law-books this office stands in need of, and that the necessity of its being allowed be recommended by you to that honorable body.

Inasmuch as the operations detailed in this report cannot for the most part be exhibited on maps, I have not on that account deemed it necessary to have diagrams of the two States prepared to accompany the same.

This report is, in conformity with standing instructions, sent to you in triplicate.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN LOUGHBOROUGH,
Surveyor General.

JOHN WILSON, Esq.,
Commissioner of the General Land Office.

A.

General statement of receipts and disbursements by the surveyor general for Illinois and Missouri, of the public funds allowed for the several services of his office since the 28th October, 1853, the date of his last annual report.

A.—Appropriation of \$5,820 of March 3, 1853, and same of August 4, 1854, for compensation to the surveyor general and his clerks; and apportionments of \$4,000 made on May 31, 1853, and \$4,800 on September 4, 1854, for compensation to extra clerks, out of the appropriations for that object by the acts of said March 3, 1853, and August 4, 1854.

Balance due the United States on October 28, 1853.....	\$979 42	
Received from the Treasurer in the 4th quarter, 1853.....	1,455 00	
Received from the Treasurer in the 1st quarter, 1854.....	2,455 00	
Received from the Treasurer in the 2d quarter, 1854.....	2,455 00	
Received from the Treasurer in the 3d quarter, 1854.....	2,655 00	
		\$9,999 42
Expended during the 4th quarter, 1853.....	2,377 01	
Expended during the 1st quarter, 1854.....	2,573 69	
Expended during the 2d quarter, 1854.....	2,343 05	
Expended during the 3d quarter, 1854.....	2,638 67	
		9,932 42
Balance due the United States October 31, 1854.....		67 00

B.—Appropriation of \$1,694 47, of August 3, 1852, for additional compensation to certain deputy surveyors, of one dollar per mile on surveys executed by them.

Balance due the United States October 28, 1853.....	\$236 75	
Paid during the 1st quarter, 1854.....	\$4 88	
Amount transmitted to the Treasurer May 6, 1854.....	231 87	
		\$236 75

C.—Appropriation for the survey of towns and villages in Missouri, named in the acts of June 13, 1812, and May 26, 1824.

Balance due the United States October 28, 1853.....	\$626 31	
Received from the Treasurer in the 3d quarter, 1854.....	1,200 00	
		\$1,826 31
Expended during the 4th quarter, 1853.....	166 03	
Expended during the 1st quarter, 1854.....	148 15	
Expended during the 2d quarter, 1854.....	209 21	
Expended during the 3d quarter, 1854.....	195 98	
		719 37
Balance due the United States October 31, 1854.....		1,106 94

D.—Appropriation for the correction of erroneous and defective lines of the public and private surveys in Missouri.

Balance due the United States October 28, 1853.....		\$809 50	
Expended during the 4th quarter, 1853.....	\$169 08		
Expended during the 2d quarter, 1854.....	81 13		
Expended during the 3d quarter, 1854.....	436 92		
		<u>687 13</u>	
			\$122 37
			<u>1,296 31</u>

E.—Apportionments made to carry into effect the act of September 28, 1850, donating swamp lands, &c., to the States in which they are situated.

Expended during the 4th quarter, 1853.....	\$3,287 39	
Expended during the 1st quarter, 1854.....	846 75	
Expended during the 2d quarter, 1854.....	478 58	
Expended during the 3d quarter, 1854.....	627 75	
	<u>\$5,240 47</u>	
Balance due the United States October 28, 1853	658 89	
Cash received from the Treasurer in the 4th quarter, 1853.....	1,650 11	
Cash received from the Treasurer in the 1st quarter, 1854.....	2,900 00	
	<u>5,209 00</u>	

Balance due the surveyor general on October 31, 1854.....	\$31 47
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F.—Apportionments of \$9,500 made May 31, 1853, for recording land titles, and meeting incidental expenses of office; of \$2,500 of September 4, 1854, for same expenses, out of the appropriations of March 3, 1853, and August 4, 1854, for surveying the public lands; and of \$8,000 for recording land titles, out of the appropriation of \$15,000 for that object of the 4th August, 1854.

Expended during the 4th quarter, 1853.....	\$2,789 68	
Expended during the 1st quarter, 1854.....	1,908 69	
Expended during the 2d quarter, 1854.....	2,752 51	
Expended during the 3d quarter, 1854.....	2,241 50	
	<u>\$9,692 38</u>	
Balance due the United States October 28, 1853	302 24	
Received from the Treasurer in the 4th quarter, 1853.....	2,072 76	
Received from the Treasurer in the 1st quarter, 1854.....	2,375 00	
Received from the Treasurer in the 2d quarter, 1854.....	2,375 00	
Received from the Treasurer in the 3d quarter, 1854.....	2 000 00	
	<u>9,125 00</u>	

Balance due the surveyor general October, 31, 1854.....	567 38	
		598 85
Aggregate balance due by the surveyor general, October 31, 1854.....		<u>697 46</u>

JNO. LOUGHBOROUGH,
Surveyor General.

SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE, St. Louis, October 31, 1854.

B.

OFFICE OF THE SURVEYOR GENERAL,
St. Louis, September 12, 1854.

SIR: In compliance with your instructions of the 11th August last, I herewith submit the estimate of funds required for the service of this district during the fiscal year 1855-'56.

1. For the salary of the surveyor general.....	\$2,000
2. For salaries of clerks, as per act of 9th May, 1836.....	3,820
3. For salaries of additional clerks, to supply the deficiency of the appropriation under second head.....	4,800
4. For the correction of erroneous and defective lines of the private and public surveys, and for the payment of small jobs of surveying, such as private claims, &c.....	3,000
5. For the incidental expenses of the office, including rent, fuel, binding, &c.....	2,500
6. For the completion of the surveys of towns and villages in Missouri.....	1,000
7. For terminating the records of land titles in Illinois and Missouri, under the act of June 12, 1840.....	8,000
	<u>25,120</u>

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. LOUGHBOROUGH,
Surveyor General.

JOHN WILSON, Esq.,
Commissioner of the General Land Office.

C.

Statement showing, for each land district in the State of Missouri, the number of acres of land returned by the surveyor general for Illinois and Missouri since the 28th October, 1853, under the act of Congress of September 28, 1850; donating swamp and overflowed lands, &c.

Districts.	Acres.
St. Louis.....	21,603. 11
Springfield.....	70,917. 22
Clinton.....	118,705. 12
Jackson.....	15,638. 95
Palmyra.....	79,951. 92
Milan.....	64,602. 65
St. Louisburg.....	76,690. 48
Fayette.....	20,859. 56
Total.....	<u>468,969. 01</u>

JNO. LOUGHBOROUGH, *Surveyor General.*

SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE, ST. LOUIS, October 31, 1854.

Statement showing, for each land district in the State of Illinois, the number of acres of land returned by the surveyor general for Illinois and Missouri since the 28th October, 1853, under the act of Congress of September 28, 1850, donating swamp and overflowed lands, &c.

Districts.	Acres.
Edwardsville.....	19,050.39
Palestine.....	34,933.29
Vandalia.....	189,657.86
Springfield.....	64,995.15
Chicago.....	56,962.25
Kaskaskia.....	30,470.64
Dixon.....	7,587.71
Danville.....	265,454.26
Shawneetown.....	109,136.38
Total.....	778,247.93

JNO. LOUGHBOROUGH, *Surveyor General.*

SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE, *St. Louis, October 31, 1854.*

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR GENERAL OF ARKANSAS.

SURVEYOR'S OFFICE,

Little Rock, October 18, 1854.

SIR: The following, with accompanying documents (A 1,) A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, is submitted as my annual report of the condition of the field and office work connected with this office.

FIELD-WORK.

Statement A exhibits the condition of contracts not closed at the date of the last annual report from this office, from which it will be seen that the surveys then under contract have been fully completed, field-notes examined and approved, plats furnished the proper offices, and accounts adjusted or transmitted for that purpose, with the single exception of the contract No. 2, of John W. Garretson, D. S. The resurvey and correction of T. 12 N., R. 4 W., as returned by him under his contract, has not been approved by me, for reasons set forth in my communication of 26th June last to the Commissioner of the General Land Office, to whom the subject has been referred for instructions.

Table B is intended to exhibit the condition of the contracts for the survey of the public lands entered into since the date of the last annual report from this office.

No. 1 is special instructions of Paul B. Starbuck, D. S., of 7th November, 1853, to survey the east boundaries of T. 4 and 5 S., R. 5 W., and to examine and report upon the resurveys in T. 5 S., R. 5 W., then recently executed by Granville McPherson, D. S., under his contract of 5th July, 1853. The field-notes of the boundaries have

been received, examined, approved and platted, and transmitted to the General Land Office. The examination of Mr. McPherson's work resulted favorably to him, and his resurvey of T. 5 S., R. 5 W., has been approved; platted, and account transmitted to the General Land Office for adjustment.

No. 2 is the contract of Paul B. Starbuck, D. S., of 4th December, 1853, embracing eight townships, the field-notes of the resurvey of three of which have been returned, examined, approved, and plats prepared. The townships will doubtless be completed and returned previous to the expiration of the time allowed, as the deputy is assiduously pursuing his labors, notwithstanding the unfavorable season for field operations.

No. 3 is the contract of Granville McPherson of February 25, 1854, under which he has returned the field-notes of four townships and fragments of another; of which three have been examined, approved, paid for, and plats disposed of.

No. 4 is the contract of David W. Lowe, D. S., of 21st April, 1854, under which he has returned the field-notes of one township, and asks to be released from his contract, as he cannot, on account of ill health, make the required surveys within the period named in his contract. If there is no probability of his resuming his work at an early day, I shall cause the remaining work in his contract to be executed by other reliable deputy surveyors.

No. 5, entered into by Allen and James A. Martin, 22d April, 1854, who are now in the field diligently prosecuting the surveys embraced in their contract, and which they will doubtless complete within the time allowed.

No. 6. James A. Martin, D. S., under special instructions of 24th April, 1854, was required to make certain corrections in T. 4 S., R. 17 W., the field-work of which he has completed, and notes returned but not examined.

No. 7 is the contract of John W. Garretson, under which he has resurveyed and returned the field-notes of four townships, which have not been examined. With my approbation Mr. Garretson has relinquished six of the townships embraced in his contract, for the reason that he found it impossible, owing to the approach of the wet season, to complete the whole within the period named in his contract.

No. 8 is the contract of James S. Garretson of 18th September, 1854, and embraces the townships relinquished by John W. Garretson; and the surveys will doubtless be executed and notes returned as required by the terms of his contract.

OFFICE-WORK.

Plats.

C is a list of plats recalculated and reconstructed from the original field-notes, to supply the place of mutilated, defaced or unauthenticated plats now on file in this and the register's offices—26 in all.

D is a list of plats constructed from the field-notes of the late resurveys, and number 176 plats; total 202 plats constructed during the year.

Transcripts of field-notes.

E is a list of townships and boundaries, the field-notes of which have been transcribed for transmission to the General Land Office; total subdivisions 5—boundaries 13.

Record of field-notes to be transferred to the State of Arkansas under act of 12th June, 1840.

This important work has been prosecuted with energy and industry; and it will be seen by diagram A 1, that during the past year the field-notes of 383 townships and 412 boundaries have been recorded, and all compared except the last quarter's work. The greatest care and attention is given to this branch of office-labor, not only in order to insure accuracy in all minutiae, but to obtain the highest mechanical perfection in the record.

Descriptive lists.

With the exception of those heretofore reported as requiring to be copied on account of the illegible manner in which they were made, and those of townships retraced or resurveyed, this branch of the office work has been closed.

F is a list showing that of the former thirty, and latter ten, have been made during the year.

It is deemed unnecessary to encumber this report with a more detailed statement of the duties performed by the clerical force employed, but I will remark, in addition to the foregoing, that the preparation of contracts and instructions for deputy surveyors, diagrams of field-notes for deputy surveyors, the examination and protraction of the late resurveys, calculation of areas, maintaining the necessary correspondence, keeping up the records and files of the office, preparation of subdivisional diagrams for the registers' offices, and attention to calls for information on subjects connected with the office, more particularly that of the swamp lands, the construction of swamp land diagrams, and lists of the same for State authorities, registers, and Commissioner, comprise no small share of the labor performed by the force employed in this office.

SWAMP LANDS.

The whole amount of lands designated by the plats and field-notes on file in this office, as inuring to the State of Arkansas under the act of Congress of the 28th September, 1850, were certified for confirmation to the Commissioner of the General Land Office previous to the date of the last annual report from this office.

The State authorities having produced satisfactory evidence as to the swampy and overflowed character of a portion of the lands selected by their agents, and rejected by my predecessor because not sustained by the field-notes on file in this office, I have, under the Commissioner's instructions of 14th May and 21st December, 1853, and 8th April, 1854, certified to the Commissioner for confirmation lists of lands

embracing $1,871,317\frac{31}{100}$ acres; to which add $6,593,625\frac{32}{100}$ acres—the amount heretofore recommended for confirmation—makes a grand total of $8,464,942\frac{63}{100}$ acres ascertained to inure to the State under the swamp land act, subject, of course, to be reduced by the amount of lands disposed of by the government prior to the date of the act. The remainder of the rejected lists, amounting to $577,975\frac{68}{100}$ acres, awaits the additional proof required of the State before they can be properly certified to the General Land Office.

The State authorities having assumed the entire control of the swamp land selections in this State, no action on my part can be taken until additional reports are received from them. I am informed, that under the rules and instructions prescribed to them relative to the evidence which will be deemed satisfactory to me, the State locating agents are now in the field making the necessary surveys and examinations; and their reports will doubtless be received at an early day, upon which the proper examinations will at once be instituted; and if the evidence be found satisfactory, lists will be certified for your action thereon.

Table G is a list of townships in which have been discovered defaced, fraudulent, or erroneous surveys since the date of the last annual report from this office.

In the annual report from this office dated October 12, 1853, your attention was directed to the facts elicited upon examinations of the surveys executed by Charles H. Pelham, late deputy surveyor. Further examinations into his work have more fully confirmed the impressions then entertained as to the fraudulent character of his returns. As an illustration, you are respectfully referred to the plat of township 11 north, range 3 west, constructed from Pelham's notes, and contrast that part of it west of White river with the plat of the same constructed from the field-notes of resurvey of John W. Garretson, deputy surveyor, both of which are on file in the General Land Office, from which it will be seen that the western tier of sections is wider by near a half mile than represented to be by Pelham; and the south side of section thirty-one, represented by Pelham to be 109.51 chains, is found by Garretson to be 144.20 chains. Also, it will be seen that fractional section thirty-four, containing 153.39 acres, is represented to lie on the west bank of White river; whereas Mr. Garretson shows by his resurvey and traverse of that river that no part of section thirty-four lies on the west bank, and that the river cuts off a considerable portion of the northeast quarter of section thirty-three, represented by Pelham's notes as a full quarter-section; nor is this difference between the old and new surveys caused by a change in the bed of the stream, as White river rarely changes its bed, and there is no reason to suppose that it has done so since 1830 and 1831, the date of Pelham's survey. The frauds here stated at once rendered it necessary to resurvey township 10 north, range 3 west, and township 11 north, range 3 west, east of White river, and township 12 north, range 3 west.

As remarked in my annual report, to which reference is above made, "the extent of the fraudulent and erroneous work returned by Mr. Pelham cannot be conjectured," extending as it does through a period of more than thirty years; but enough is already known to

discredit all the returns he has ever made to this office, and I have therefore felt it my duty to send forward estimates for the examination, and, if necessary, the resurvey of a portion of the townships, the field-notes of which bear his signature, selecting those lying in a district of country difficult to survey, and therefore most likely to abound in error and fraud.

The returns of Milton Sanders, deputy surveyor, under his contract of 4th November, 1837, are found to be, as far as examined, fraudulent. These townships are embraced in the contract of James S. Garretson, deputy surveyor, of 18th September, 1854, who is now engaged in the resurvey of township 1 south, range 9 west, and verbally reports that in a portion of the township blazed lines and index trees are found; but in no respect do they agree with the field-notes returned by Sanders, and are supposed to be the work of Wm. G. Saffold, deputy surveyor, under his contract of 13th October, 1836, rejected for fraud and error, and himself removed from office in 1837 by E. Cross, then surveyor of public lands in this district.

The propriety of resurveying townships disposed of by the government, on account of the destruction by time or accident of the marks of a survey originally good, may perhaps be questioned; but where the surveys have not been made, or have been executed in an erroneous or fraudulent manner, so that the field-notes and plats by which the lands were sold present a different state of facts from that found to exist in the field, it is clearly the duty of the government, in justice to those to whom she has disposed of the land, to cause a faithful and accurate survey of the same to be made. In townships not disposed of by the government it is not less clearly her interest, in order to sell the lands, to have them surveyed—since it is a well-known fact that, in this State, in townships in which but few tracts of land had been sold, upon a resurvey almost the whole of the vacant lands have at once been entered or located with scrip issued by the government.

Statement H is a copy of the estimates for the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1856, transmitted to the General Land Office first September last, in which are embraced two items for resurveys proposed to be made for reasons stated in another part of this report, in order that the subject may be presented to Congress at the next session, and the necessary appropriations made.

No further increase of the clerical force of this office is proposed; the present is deemed sufficient for efficiency, and the estimate embraced in statement H, for their salaries or compensation, conforms to that of last year.

All of which is respectfully submitted:

GEORGE MILBOURNE,

Surveyor General.

JOHN WILSON, Esq.,
Commissioner.

A.—Statement showing the condition of the contracts not closed October 12, 1853, the date of last annual report from this office.

Number.	Date of contract.	Contractor.	Time allowed.	Estimated number of miles.	Price per mile.	Estimated value of contract.	Number of miles returned.	Amount adjusted at the General Land Office.	Remarks.
1	1851. Oct. 22	John W. Garretson..	1852. Mar. 1	394	\$4 and 6	\$1,600	<i>M. chs. lks.</i> 450 67 21	\$2,220 29	Contract completed. Plats of township 1 north, range 4 west, and townships 5 and 6 south, range 2 west, with the account for the survey of the fragments therein, amounting to \$——, transmitted to General Land Office for adjustment, as per voucher No. 2, 4th quarter of 1854. All plats sent to registers of the land offices, except the three last named.
2	1852. April 9,	John W. Garretson..	Oct. 1 (time extended.) 1853.	500	4 and 6	2,000	2,108 69 33	8,100 24	Surveys completed, field-notes examined, and all approved with the exception of township 12 north, range 4 west. Plats made and disposed of. Accounts paid or sent to General Land Office for adjustment.
3	Dec. 9	Paul B. Starbuck....	Nov. 1	600	4	2,400	637 66 75	2,551 33	Work completed; field-notes returned, examined, and approved; and plats sent to register and Commissioner, and account paid.
4	1853. Mar. 9	David W. Lowe.....	Nov. 1	300	4	1,200	378 21 03	1,513 05	Work completed; field-notes returned, examined, and approved; plats made out and sent to register and Commissioner; and account paid.
5	July 5	Granville McPherson	1854. Jan. 1	250	4	1,000	269 11 25	1,106 55	Surveys completed and approved; plats made and sent to register and Commissioner; and account sent to the General Land Office for adjustment.
6	Sept. 28	Allen Martin and Jas. A. Martin.	June 1	500	4 and 6	2,500	1,114 02 20	4,486 77	Work completed; field-notes returned, examined, and approved; plats made and sent to register and Commissioner; and account paid.

*B.—Statement showing the condition of contracts for the survey of the pub-
date of the last annual*

Number.	Date of contract or instructions.	Contractor.	Time allowed.	Lands embraced in contract.
1	Nov. 7, 1853. Special in- structions.	Paul B. Starbuck..	Dec. 1.....	East boundaries of townships 4 and 5 south, range 6 west; and examinations in township 5 south, range 5 west.
2	Dec. 21.....	Paul B. Starbuck..	Dec. 1, 1854	Township 1 north, range 3 west, west of White river; townships 1, 2, and 3 north, range 8 west; township 3 south, range 3 west; townships 4, 5, and 6 south, range 4 west.
3	Feb. 25.....	Granville McPherson.	Jan. 1, 1855	Townships 4, 5, and 6 south, range 3 west; townships 3, 4, and 5 north, range 1 east; unsurveyed fragments in townships 4 and 5 north, range 4 east; and township 2 south, range 1 west.
4	April 21.....	David W. Lowe...	May 1.....	Township 16 north, range 1 west; township 18 north, ranges 1 and 3 west; township 11 north, range 3 west, east of White river; township 10 north, range 3 west, west of White river; examinations and corrections in township 20 north, range 6 west; and township 10 north, range 3 west, east of White river.
5	April 22.....	Allen and James A. Martin.	Jan. 1.....	Townships 9, 10, 11, and 12 north, range 6 west; townships 10, 11, and 12 north, range 7 west; and township 10 north, range 8 west.
6	Ap'l 24. Spe- cial inst'ns.	James A. Martin..	Oct. 1.....	Corrections in township 4 south, range 17 west.
7	May 13.....	John W. Garret- son.	July 1.....	Erroneous and unsurveyed fragments in township 12 north, range 3 west; township 6 north, ranges 16 and 17 west; township 5 north, range 16 west; townships 5 and 7 north, range 14 west; township 1 north, range 12 west; township 1 south, range 9 west; townships 9, 10, and 11 south, range 5 west; townships 1 and 2 south, range 8 west; townships 2 and 3 south, range 8 west; townships 1 and 2 north, range 9 west; townships 1 and 2 north, range 10 west; township 2 north, ranges 11 and 12 west.
8	Sept. 18, 1854	James S. Garret- son.	July 1, 1855...	Townships 1 and 2 south, range 8 west; township 1 north, range 10 west; townships 2 and 3 south, range 9 west.

lic lands in the State of Arkansas, entered into since October 12, 1853, the report from this office.

Estimated number of miles.	Price per mile.	Estimated value of contract.	Number of m's executed and returned.	Amount of account adjusted at General Land Office.	Remarks.
15	\$6	\$90	<i>M. chs. lks.</i> 13 30 88	-----	Work executed, examined, and approved, but account not transmitted for payment.
500	4 and 6	2,500	194 28 39	-----	Townships 1, 2, and 3 north, range 8 west, executed, field-notes examined and approved, and plats prepared for transmission.
450	4 and 6	2,300	343 30 46	\$920 26	Field-notes of townships 3, 4, and 5 north, range 1 east, have been returned, examined, and approved, plats made and sent to the proper offices, and account for the work, amounting to \$920 26, adjusted at the General Land Office. Field-notes of townships 4 and 5 north, range 4 east, have been returned, but not examined.
300	4 and 6	1,250	108 01 83	-----	Field-notes of township 18 north, range 1 west, returned, but not examined. Mr. Lowe asks to be relieved from the remainder of the surveying embraced in his contract, on account of ill-health.
600	4	2,500	-----	-----	Deputies in the field.
5	6	30	5 12 23	-----	Surveys completed; not examined.
600	4	2,500	334 65 30	-----	Field-notes of township 12 north, range 3 west; townships 9, 10, and 11 north, range 5 west, returned, but not examined; townships 1 and 2 south, range 8 west; township 1 north, range 10 west; and townships 2 and 3 south, range 9 west, relinquished to James S. Garretson. (See No. 8.)
300	4	1,200	-----	-----	Deputy in the field.

C.

List of plats reconstructed and recalculated from the original field-notes to supply the place of mutilated or defaced plats now on file in this and the registers' offices.

Townships.	No. of copies.	Remarks.
Township 3 north, range 9 west.....	3	Not disposed of.
Township 4 north, range 9 west.....	3	Do.
Township 4 north, range 8 west.....	3	Do.
Township 4 north, range 11 west.....	3	Do.
Township 3 north, range 11 west.....	3	Do.
Township 4 north, range 12 west.....	2	Do.
Township 3 north, range 10 west.....	2	Do.
Township 5 south, range 19 west.....	2	Copy sent to register.
Township 6 south, range 20 west.....	2	Do.
Township 5 north, range 15 west.....	3	Not disposed of.
	26	

D.

List of plats constructed from the field-notes of resurveys returned, examined, and approved, since the date of the last annual report from this office.

Townships.	Number of copies.
Township 10 south, range 19 west.....	3
Township 2 south, range 6 west.....	3
Township 2 south, range 3 west.....	2
Township 1 south, range 7 west.....	1
Township 9 south, range 23 west.....	3
Township 4 south, range 5 west.....	3
Township 5 south, range 5 west.....	3
Township 10 south, range 29 west.....	3
Township 9 south, range 28 west.....	3
Township 3 north, range 22 west.....	3
Township 3 north, range 23 west.....	3
Section 3, township 11 south, range 18 west.....	3
Township 9 south, range 22 west.....	3
Township 10 south, range 20 west.....	3
Township 12 south, range 23 west.....	3
Township 10 south, range 28 west.....	3
Township 9 south, range 29 west.....	3
Township 13 south, range 22 west.....	3
Township 3 north, range 1 east.....	3
Township 4 north, range 1 east.....	3
Township 5 north, range 1 east.....	3
Fractional sections 1 and 12, township 8 south, range 19 west.....	3
Township 15 north, range 4 west.....	1
Township 13 north, range 6 west.....	3
Town-hip 1 south, range 6 west.....	3

D—Continued.

Townships.	Number of copies.
Township 13 north, range 4 west.....	3
Township 14 north, range 7 west.....	3
Township 2 south, range 6 west.....	2
Township 2 south, range 5 west.....	2
Township 2 south, range 4 west.....	2
Township 10 north, range 4 west.....	2
Township 11 north, range 4 west.....	2
Township 14 north, range 5 west.....	2
Township 15 north, range 4 west.....	2
Township 11 south, range 19 west, north of Little Missouri river.....	3
Township 14 north, range 4 west.....	2
Township 13 north, range 4 west.....	3
Township 20 north, range 1 west.....	2
Township 19 north, range 6 west.....	2
Township 17 north, range 6 west.....	2
Township 16 north, range 4 west.....	2
Township 18 north, range 16 west.....	1
Township 3 south, range 4 west.....	2
Township 3 south, range 5 west.....	2
Township 1 south, range 7 west.....	2
Township 13 north, range 5 west.....	3
Township 11 north, range 3 west.....	3
Township 12 north, range 5 west.....	3
Township 8 south, range 20 west.....	3
Township 11 north, range 1 east.....	3
Township 13 north, range 7 west.....	3
Township 8 north, range 3 east.....	2
Township 9 north, range 1 west.....	2
Township 13 north, range 1 west.....	3
Township 14 north, range 1 west.....	2
Township 15 north, range 1 west.....	2
Township 13 north, range 8 west.....	2
Township 14 north, range 8 west.....	2
Township 10 north, range 3 east.....	2
Township 12 north, range 3 east.....	2
Townships 1, 2, and 3 north, range 8 west.....	6
Township 5 south, range 2 west.....	2
Township 6 south, range 2 west.....	2
Township 1 north, range 4 west.....	2
Township 5 south, range 5 west.....	1
Township 19 north, range 6 west.....	3
Township 16 north, range 4 west.....	2
Township 16 north, range 6 west.....	3
Township 17 north, range 6 west.....	3
Township 20 north, range 1 west.....	3
Total.....	177

E.

List of townships and boundaries, the field-notes of which have been transcribed for the General Land Office since the date of the last annual report from this office.

- Resurvey of township 11 north, range 4 west.
- Resurvey of township 16 north, range 5 west.
- Resurvey of township 11 north, range 4 west.
- Resurvey of township 11 north, range 3 west.
- Resurvey of township 12 north, range 5 west.
- Resurvey of the east boundary of township 12 north, range 5 west.
- Resurvey of the south boundary of township 12 north, range 5 west.
- Resurvey of the south boundary of township 15 north, range 4 west.
- Resurvey of the east boundary of township 15 north, range 4 west.
- Resurvey of the east boundary of township 16 north, range 6 west.
- Resurvey of the south boundary of township 12 north, range 4 west.
- Resurvey of the south boundary of township 12 north, range 3 west.
- Resurvey of the east boundary of township 11 north, range 4 west.
- Resurvey of the south boundary of township 11 north, range 3 west.
- Resurvey of the east boundary of township 11 north, range 5 west.
- Resurvey of part of the east boundary of township 11 north, range 4 west.
- Resurvey of part of the east boundary of township 2 south, range 3 west.
- Resurvey of part of the south boundary of township 1 south, range 3 west.

F.

List of townships, the descriptive lists of which have been made from the field-notes of resurvey or retracement, and compared, since the date of the last annual report from this office.

- Township 3 south, range 4 west.
- Township 3 south, range 5 west.
- Township 4 south, range 5 west.
- Township 5 south, range 5 west.
- Township 1 south, range 6 west.
- Township 2 south, range 6 west.
- Township 1 south, range 7 west.
- Township 11 north, range 4 west.
- Township 13 north, range 4 west.
- Township 13 north, range 5 west.

In addition to which, 30 of the 300 descriptive lists heretofore reported as requiring it have been copied; making in all 40 prepared for the registers' offices.

G.—List of townships in which have been discovered, by examination in the field, fraudulent, erroneous, or defaced surveys, since the date of the last annual report from this office, and the estimated number of miles of such work.

Townships.	Number of miles.
Township 2 north, range 21 west.....	60
Township 2 north, range 22 west.....	60
Township 2 north, range 23 west.....	60
Township 2 north, range 24 west.....	60
Township 3 north, range 24 west.....	60
Township 12 north, range 3 west.....	80
Township 10 north, range 3 west.....	80
Township 16 north, range 1 west.....	72
Township 11 north, range 3 west.....	70
Township 1 north, range 10 west.....	70
Township 2 north, range 10 west.....	72
Township 1 north, range 9 west.....	60
Township 2 north, range 9 west.....	60
Township 2 north, range 11 west.....	60
Township 1 south, range 8 west.....	60
Township 2 south, range 8 west.....	60
Township 1 south, range 9 west.....	60
Township 2 south, range 9 west.....	60
Township 3 south, range 9 west.....	60
Total.....	1, 224

Also the following townships, the returns of which are suspected to be fraudulent or erroneous, being a part of those surveyed by Charles H. Pelham, late deputy surveyor, or sub-deputies under him, and therefore requiring examination and correction, or resurvey.

Townships.	Number of miles.
Township 9 north, range 3 west.....	60
Township 9 north, range 4 west.....	60
Township 10 north, range 1 west.....	60
Township 10 north, range 2 west.....	60
Township 11 north, range 1 west.....	60
Township 11 north, range 2 west.....	60
Township 12 north, range 2 west.....	60
Township 13 north, range 2 west.....	60
Township 13 north, range 3 west.....	80
Township 14 north, range 2 west.....	80
Township 14 north, range 3 west.....	72
Township 15 north, range 2 west.....	72
Township 18 north, range 1 east.....	80
Township 18 north, range 2 east.....	72
Township 19 north, range 1 east.....	80
Township 19 north, range 2 east.....	100
Township 20 north, range 2 east.....	72
Township 18 north, range 21 west.....	66
Township 19 north, range 21 west.....	66
Township 17 north, range 20 west.....	66
Township 18 north, range 19 west.....	66
Township 20 north, range 19 west.....	66
Township 21 north, range 19 west.....	66
Total.....	1, 584

H.—Copy of the “*estimates*” forwarded 1st September last, in accordance with the request in the Commissioner’s letter of August 11, 1853, of sums under the respective heads of salaries and incidental expenses, that will be required to meet the disbursements for the surveying district of Arkansas for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1856.

Surveys.

For 1,584 miles of fraudulent and erroneous surveys discovered since the date of the last estimate of such work from this office, at a rate not exceeding six dollars per mile.....	\$9,504	
For 1,224 miles of fraudulent and erroneous surveys, or surveys the marks of which have been obliterated or destroyed by time, accident, or other causes, ascertained since the date of the last estimate from this office for such work, at the rate of four dollars per mile.....	4,896	\$14,400

Salaries and compensation.

For salary of the surveyor general.....	2,000	
For salary of four regular clerks.....	4,900	
For compensation of seven clerks to draught record field-notes for the use of the State, copy field-notes for the General Land Office, and to make descriptive lists for the registers’ offices.....	7,000	13,900

Incidental expenses.

For office rent.....	350	
For fuel and servant-hire.....	250	
For stationery, binding, &c.....	250	850
		29,150

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR GENERAL OF LOUISIANA.

SURVEYOR GENERAL’S OFFICE,

Donaldsonville, La., October 1, 1854.

SIR: In obedience to your instructions of 11th August last, I have now the honor to submit, in triplicate, the annual report, exhibiting by the accompanying documents (A to H) the condition of the surveying department of Louisiana on the 1st instant, and the amount of bureau and field labor performed by it since the 1st October, 1853, the date of my last report.

A is a list of all contracts let, and orders of survey issued, since 1st October, 1853, and shows the completion, or present condition as far as known, of the work to be performed under them. From it, it will be seen that one hundred and sixteen townships have been embraced by thirty-four contracts and two orders of survey. Of these—

44 townships have been completed and paid for;

5 are being copied, and will soon be approved;

6 are now being examined;

12 are delayed until surveyors shall have made necessary field corrections;

3 included in the cancelled contract of A. J. Powell have not since been relet; and

46 remain to be surveyed and returned.

Total 116

A more detailed explanation than that which is afforded by the column of "remarks" in this document, may in some instances be proper.

The oldest contract in the department, that of J. C. Taylor, is still incomplete; of the townships in it which lie upon Lake Pontchartrain he has returned two, comprising but a few miles of running; and as he reports the adjoining two impracticable, I am ready to release him from them. Of the remaining townships, which are in the immediate neighborhood of Baton Rouge, he states he is now preparing field-notes.

It was reported last year that Samuel Perin had made partial returns, under his then expired contract in the southeastern district, and that to enable him to make the field corrections requisite to their approval, he would be given additional time upon the renewal of his bond. As reported to your office on the 19th December last, the time was extended to 1st April, 1854, and Mr. Perin's insufficient returns were delivered to him that he might substitute perfect notes, in conformity with the full instructions given to him. On the 25th March last he deposited notes which, being found still to be erroneous, were rejected; and again on the 26th August he filed a third set. These last have undergone examination, and exhibit the necessity of their being recopied after further work shall have been performed in the field.

Confident that Mr. Perin had exercised all the ability he possessed, and had expended much money in his fruitless exertions properly to perform the surveys, this office has, until recently, been loth to act summarily with him. It will now be impelled to do so, unless its requirements are at once fully executed.

It is not intended to be concealed, though it is painfully admitted, that the employment of two or three deputies in the department, whose want of zeal, capacity, or integrity, has been manifested during the past year, and which could not for lack of opportunity have been previously detected by the vigilance of my predecessor, has somewhat retarded the surveys in the year, inasmuch as they could have been contracted to other surveyors of activity, ability, and fidelity. But, notwithstanding these drawbacks, and the fact that the severe epidemic which pervaded Louisiana to a very late period in the last surveying season, and which again recurred this year, with the effect of checking field operations in the spring, of detaining absent deputies from the State, and preventing those in it from resuming work early in the present season, it is a matter of felicitation that the amount of labor performed has exceeded that of the previous year; for while the number of the townships which had been under contract during that year exceeded those let during this, only six townships, the number which remained unsurveyed at the date of the last report, exceeded those which now so remain, by twenty-four townships.

With reference to the contract of N. H. Phelps, of March 2, 1854, for two townships in the southwestern district, opposite to which the remark occurs, "No returns made," it may be due to him to state that he proceeded to work immediately upon entering into the contract, but was compelled, by severe sickness, to desist for many weeks. He has recently been at the office, and reported, that by dint of persevering labor, through the past intensely hot summer, he has brought

his work within a few miles of completion, and will shortly return it to the office.

The order issued to Geo. S. Walmsley, on the 21st ultimo, for the survey of the "Las Ormigas" and "La Nana" grants, confirmed by the United States Supreme Court to Davenport *et als.*, is a repetition of one given to him in pursuance of your instructions of 18th January, 1854, which he had not fulfilled, as the claimants had not agreed to pay for the survey, as required by the sixth section of the act of 26th May, 1824.

For the same reason, the survey has not been made which, on the 31st August, 1853, you directed this office to execute, of the claims of the heirs of J. B. McCarty, on Vermillion river, in the southwestern district.

The survey of the claim of Charles J. B. Florian, ordered by your letter of 24th June, 1853, to be made to the extent of a league, to which limit it was held only to have been confirmed, was not performed, owing to my inability to prevail upon a surveyor to undertake the work, which, owing to the nature of the country, would have been of very difficult field execution. My failure, however, has been less regretted, because of the impossibility of making a satisfactory survey of the league, and because of the entreaties of the claimants for delay, until Congress should have had reasonable time to act upon their petition. The claim has since (by act of July 27th last) been confirmed to the full extent of the survey made by A. F. Rightor in 1839, which of course supersedes the necessity of the survey directed by your aforesaid letter of 24th June, 1854.

The location of detached grants not yet performed which you have ordered from time to time, and of those claims which have been confirmed by the last session of Congress, will be executed this season by the surveyor appointed for the purpose.

B.—This is a statement showing the estimated liabilities of the department for surveys to be performed under contracts and instructions.

There are embraced in it, as hereinbefore stated, seventy-one townships, without counting lines of several townships within the rejected De Bastrop claim, nor separate surveys to be performed under special instructions.

The total liabilities when all the surveys are returned,	
will be.....	\$41,719 38
And as the balance of appropriations on hand for such	
surveys is.....	65,122 96

There would remain.....	\$23,403 58
applicable to surveys proposed in document C.	

C is a list of proposed surveys for the year ending 30th June, 1856. It consists in larger part of surveys which have already been sanctioned by appropriations by Congress, based upon estimates submitted in previous reports of this office.

In addition to these I have proposed anew such resurveys only as critical office investigation, or field examination, has demonstrated to be necessary.

The importance of resurveying the south half of township 7 N., range

10 W., was communicated to your office on the 27th of March last, and that of township 3 S., range 3 E., southwestern district, also proposed, shall be reported hereafter by separate letter. The resurvey of the New Orleans township (township 12 S., range 11 E., southeast district, east of the river) is again proposed. It was first estimated for appropriation by Surveyor General Landry, in 1846, at eight dollars per mile, and repeated by him in 1847, wherein he states: "At the prices allowed, I have very great difficulty in procuring competent men to undertake work of this kind." The estimate was continued in the annual reports of 1848, '49, '50, '51, and '52. In that of 1849, Surveyor General Boyd increased its amount to ten dollars per mile, and said: "I doubt whether a surveyor can be had to survey it even at the price I have estimated." After it had thus remained appropriated for *during six years*, and after repeated endeavors to prevail upon several surveyors to undertake the work even at the advanced estimate which I proposed to make, and believing it useless longer to ask money for surveys which I had no prospect of having performed, while to continue the estimate would have the effect of thrusting out other work which it was very desirable should be executed, or of swelling the amount of appropriations sought to such an extent as to jeopard their allowance, I was compelled, in the last annual report, to drop it from the surveys proposed to be made during the year ending 30th June next. Soon after I had done so, Mr. Augustus S. Phelps, the present street commissioner of New Orleans, who had been for many years actively, and with reputation, employed by this office as a deputy surveyor, expressed a willingness to undertake the survey, if included in the present estimates, at twenty dollars per mile. It is accordingly so inserted. The only map of this township in the office is one protracted from a book of field-notes by Andrew McCollam, deputy surveyor, here on file, but claimed as his private property. The map itself was not approved, apparently because of the many conflicts it represented on the private claims, and because many claims, which have been confirmed, were not surveyed nor shown upon it. The township contains some 2,000 acres of public lands, which would inure to Louisiana as swamp, but which cannot be listed to the State—as it is her earnest wish and interest it shall be—until the United States government shall have executed the survey of such township and claim lines as it is incumbent upon it to perform. I trust a consideration of these reasons, and of the fact that the necessity of the resurvey was stated in the annual reports of seven successive years, and had been sanctioned repeatedly by Congress, will be held by your office a sufficient justification of my again submitting the estimate. The payment of twenty dollars per mile is not deemed more than a just compensation for the labor which must be expended upon the work: a less rate would not command intelligence and fidelity. Its complexity will be greatly enhanced by the almost total obliteration of the original landmarks in the neighborhood of New Orleans. Many of the claims are within the limits or suburbs of the city, and the tracts fronting formerly on the Mississippi river now, by reason of the rapidly-forming batture, bind upon Magazine street, several streets from the river. Moreover, it is most probable that some of the lines will not run with the streets, but cross them

obliquely, and the local attraction may be so intense and general as to render the use of the needle impracticable, thus greatly augmenting the difficulty of the resurvey.

With regard to the other townships in the several districts whose resurvey is proposed by this document, it may only be necessary to repeat that most of them were represented upon the diagram of the State, accompanying the report of last year, as townships which might require corrective or additional surveys when the notes or field-work were properly examined; and that the protraction or examination of these, or the surveys of adjoining townships made during the year, have fully demonstrated the necessity of their resurvey.

In explanation of township 11 S., range 6 E., southwestern district, being marked upon the diagram of the State with the letter P., while an amount is not specifically estimated for its resurvey, I have to refer to the report made to your office by my predecessor on the 26th August, 1851, from which it will be perceived that it has been designed that the surveyor, to locate private claims, shall do whatever work may be necessary in this township.

D is an estimate of funds required to be appropriated for the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1856, and will be found to be a partial summary of documents B and C.

No new resurveys are proposed in the Greensburg district, as it is expected that those now under contract will complete it, with the exception of such surveys as may be made by the surveyor to locate private claims.

With the performance of Mr. Hunter's contract, and with the survey of "Las Ormigas" and "La Nana" grants, and that proposed of the south half of township 7 N., range 10 W., it is also hoped that the northwestern district will be completed during the present year.

The sums asked in this estimate for the payment of draughtsmen and clerks are the same as those sought in the report of the last year, and are deemed necessary to the efficient performance of the duties of the office, which are of growing multiplicity and complexity. It has been your urgently-expressed desire, and my unremitting effort, finally to close the surveys in this State. To do so thoroughly, the bureau force must be sufficient, not only to act promptly upon the resurveys as they are returned, but to investigate past work which may hereafter have to be resurveyed, to transcribe field-notes, and to prepare the immense number of plats which are requisite to the issue of patents.

The services hereinbefore specified, which can only be performed by the surveyor to locate private claims, make it indispensably necessary that the sum be appropriated which is estimated for his employment.

E is a list of swamp lands selected by this office during the year ending 1st October, 1854, as inuring to the State of Louisiana.

Selections of surveyed swamp lands.

	Acres.	Acres.
Southeastern district, west of Mississippi river,	18,581.30	
Southeastern district, east of Mississippi river,	12,851.22	
		31,432.52

Southwestern district.....	3,832.22
District north of Red river.....	117,885.09
Northwestern district.....	638.72
Greensburg district.....	8,865.93
Estimated area of unsurveyed swamp lands listed	4,089.92
	12,955.85

Grand total..... 226,744.40

But as many of the lists showing the above selections are in correction or addition to those previously sent up, when the necessary additions or deductions are made, the above grand total would be reduced..... 38,918.21

Leaving the net selections of the year..... 187,826.19

Which added to those made up to the date of the last annual report..... 9,739,347.75

Would show the entire quantity of swamp lands listed to the State, under acts of 2d March, 1849, and 28th September, 1850, to be..... 9,927,173.94

subject to be diminished at your department by the rejection of such portions as may have been sold or rightfully claimed by individuals.

From this statement it will be perceived that the swamp selections have been very nearly 400,000 acres less than those of the past year; and during the ensuing one they will still be less, for in the larger amount of work to be performed, the selections have already been made, and will be but slightly modified by the proposed resurveys. The new selections will lie principally within the rejected De Bastrop grant, whose entire survey, it is expected, will be performed this winter.

I recommended, in my last annual report, that the unsurveyed townships, marked M, upon the accompanying diagram, which were believed to be impassable marsh, or swamp, unfit for cultivation, should be examined by the State, "to the end that if they contain only such lands as would inure to Louisiana, they might be listed and patented to her; but if, on the contrary, they include high lands, these might be surveyed by the United States;" and I am assured, by many persons, that if this recommendation be carried out, it would bring into market much land that would be of ready sale by the State and United States.

F is a list of documents transmitted to the several land offices during the year ending October 1, 1854.

To the General Land Office.

Township maps.....	45
Diagrams of surveys.....	54
Plats of private claims.....	3
Accounts for surveys.....	47
Contingent expenses and salary accounts.....	91
Letters and reports.....	146
Lists of swamp lands in thirty-nine townships.....	39
Total.....	425

To the register of the northwestern district.

Township maps.....	1
Diagrams of surveys.....	6
Letters.....	8
Total.....	15

To the register of the district north of Red river.

Township maps.....	15
Diagrams of surveys.....	8
Letters.....	23
Lists of swamp lands in fifteen townships.....	15
Total.....	61

To the register of the southwestern district.

Township maps.....	5
Diagrams of surveys.....	15
Plats for patent certificates.....	2
Plats of private claims.....	3
Letters.....	28
Lists of swamp lands in five townships.....	5
Total.....	58

To the register of the southeastern district.

Township maps.....	12
Diagrams of surveys.....	14
Plats of patent certificates.....	2
Plat of private claim.....	1
Letters.....	34
List of swamp lands in ten townships.....	10
Total.....	73

To the register of the Greensburg district.

Township maps.....	13
Diagrams of surveys.....	10
Plats for patent certificates.....	132
Letters.....	38
Lists of swamp lands in nine townships.....	9
Total.....	202

To the State register at Baton Rouge.

Township maps.....	48
Letters.....	35
Lists of swamp lands in forty-three townships.....	43
Total.....	126

In addition to which there have been written, to deputy surveyors, letters to the number of.....	161
Over one hundred copies of maps have been sent, and two hundred and forty-nine letters have been written to individuals...	349
Making a total of documents sent from the office, of.....	1,470

A comparison of this statement with the similar one which accompanied the report of 1st October, 1853, will show that (notwithstanding the progress of the surveys has been greatly impeded by the epidemic of last year and of this summer) more work has been performed than during the preceding year.

In the bureau, the returns of the surveyors have been acted upon to date; and although severe sickness has visited several of our number, and duty has unavoidably called others, from time to time, for short periods, from our desks, I am confident that, on the showing of this report, and from a view of the work sent to the department, there will be found not only satisfactory evidence that this office has usefully, accurately, and thoroughly performed as much labor as its force could accomplish, but an abundant earnest that all its energy and industry will still be exerted faithfully to discharge its onerous, important, and complex duties.

It is a list of deputy surveyors who have held commissions at any time during the year; one has died, another has been cashiered, two have left the State, and the rest remain in the active service of the office.

It is a diagram of the State, exhibiting the extent and condition of surveys in Louisiana. It represents townships which have been surveyed and considered complete, as far as necessary or practicable; those now under contract; those proposed for survey; those which, although surveyed, require corrective surveys; those in which swamp lands have been selected under acts of March 2, 1849, and September 28, 1850; those in which there are no swamp lands, or none mentioned on the field-notes of the surveys now on file; and, finally, those supposed to be impassable marsh, unfit for cultivation. Upon it has been placed, at the General Land Office, "the assumed extent of the swamp and overflowed lands," which is not accurate, but may be corrected by the map understood now to be in preparation at your office, upon a large scale, to exhibit such lands as under the swamp grants will belong to the State of Louisiana.

Thanking you, sir, for the prompt attention you have given to the reports and accounts sent up during the year, and gratefully appreciating your official and personal courtesy to myself, I submit this report with great respect, and am,

Your obedient servant,

WM. J. McCULLOH,

Surveyor General, Louisiana.

Hon. JOHN WILSON,

Commissioner of the General Land Office, Washington.

A.—Tabular statement of surveying contracts in Louisiana on the 1st October, 1853, the date of

Date.	Name of contractor.	District.	Expiration of contract.	Time extended to—	Estimated number of miles.	Price per mile.
Oct. 28, 1842 Dec. 1, 1846	Andrew Crawford..... J. Claxton Taylor	Southeastern Greensburg.....	June 1, 1843 Dec. 1, 1847	 May 1, 1854	190	\$5 & 8 7 & 8
Dec. 7, 1850 Feb. 12, 1851	W. W. Farmer..... Samuel Perin	North of Red river. Southeastern	Dec. 1, 1851 Feb. 1, 1852	July 1, 1854 April 1, 1854	240 190	8 8
Mar. 14, 1851	Samuel C. Hepburn....	Greensburg.....	Mar. 1, 1852	Jan. 1, 1855	460	8
Nov. 19, 1851	Charles J. Cabell.....	North of Red river.	July 1, 1852	Jan. 1, 1854	{ 180 222	7 8
Nov. 22, 1851 May 5, 1852	Silas Taylor..... John Campbell	do..... Southwestern.....	July 1, 1852 Oct. 1, 1852	..... .....	{ 180 168 446	7 8 8
June 20, 1852	A. S. Phelps	Southwestern and north of Red river.	June 1, 1853	.....	275	8
Nov. 4, 1852 Nov. 8, 1852 Nov. 9, 1852 Nov. 9, 1852	Noah H. Phelps..... Joseph Gorlinski..... A. B. Clack..... Henry Curtis.....	North of Red river. Greensburg..... North of Red river. .....do.....	July 1, 1853 Dec. 31, 1853 July 1, 1853 July 1, 1853	Jan. 1, 1854 Jan. 1, 1854 Jan. 1, 1854	176 318 185 180	8 8 7 7
Nov. 9, 1852 Nov. 11, 1852	Robert Boyd	do.....	July 1, 1853	Jan. 1, 1854	200	7
	W. J. McCulloh.....	Southwestern.....	Jan. 1, 1854	.....	500	8
Dec. 4, 1852 Dec. 29, 1852 Jan. 6, 1853	R. C. Porent	Greensburg.....	Dec. 31, 1853	.....	223	8
	Theodore Gillespie	do.....	Nov. 30, 1853	July 1, 1854	260	8
	A. J. Powell	Southeastern	May 1, 1854	.....	745	7 & 8
Jan. 29, 1853	Charles J. Cabell.....	Southwestern.....	May 1, 1854	May 1, 1855	770	8
Mar. 1, 1853 Mar. 4, 1853 Mar. 3, 1853	A. B. Clack..... Thomas Mullet..... William Sevey	North of Red river. Southeastern ..........do.....	Mar. 1, 1854 June 1, 1854 June 1, 1854	..... ..... .....	136 125 420	7 8 8
Mar. 29, 1853	Thomas Hunter.....	Northwestern.....	June 1, 1854	.....	300	8
Oct. 3, 1853 Oct. 29, 1853	D. A. Waterston	Greensburg.....	Sept. 30, 1854	.....	122	8
	Joseph Gorlinski	Southeastern	Jan. 1, 1855	.....	370	8
Nov. 2, 1853	Maurice Hanké	do.....	Jan. 1, 1855	.....	435	8
Dec. 3, 1853 Jan. 10, 1854 Mar. 2, 1854 Mar. 2, 1854 Sept. 19, 1854 Sept. 19, 1854 Sept. 20, 1854 Sept. 20, 1854	Henry Curtis..... Silas Taylor..... R. C. Brent	North of Red river. Southeastern ..........do.....	Dec. 31, 1854 Jan. 1, 1855 July 1, 1855	..... ..... .....	70 216 530	7 8 8
	Noah H. Phelps.....	Southwestern.....	Jan. 1, 1855	.....	300	8
	Maurice Hanké	Southeastern	Jan. 1, 1855	.....	100	8
	Henry Curtis.....	North of Red river.	Sept. 1, 1855	.....	310	7 & 8
	Charles M. Bradford	Southwestern.....	Sept. 1, 1855	.....	430	8
	Robert Boyd	North of Red river.	Sept. 1, 1855	.....	502	7

October, 1854, and including those annulled or completed since the 1st the last annual report.

Amount of bonds.	Amount paid, including all accounts sent up.	Number of townships in contract.	Number of unfinished townships at date of last report.	Number of townships remaining unfinished.	Remarks.
\$7,500 00	\$3,817 55	3	3	.....	Contract completed and paid for.
7,766 00	4,403 68	14	7	7	Townships 8 and 9 south, range 9 east, returned, not yet approved; townships 7 and 8 south, range 1 west, and township 7 south, range 2 east, and townships 8 and 9 south, range 8 east, not yet returned.
3,840 00	2,505 01	2	2	.....	Contract completed and paid for.
3,040 00	.....	5	5	5	Returns in the office; additional and corrective work, and probably field examination of the survey required.
6,880 00	2,930 74	5	5	2	Township 4 south, range 1 west, and townships 3 and 4 south, range 1 east, approved and paid for.
6,000 00	2,514 12	(*)	3	1	Township 23 north, ranges 5 and 6, and all the boundaries, approved and paid for; township 22 north, range 5 east, returned, but requires correction.
5,460 00	2,212 89	(*)	1	.....	Contract completed; final account to be sent up hereafter.
4,364 48	2,181 23	4	1	1	Instructions to complete the cancelled contract of Walsh and Campbell. Township 10 south, range 3 east, and township 11, ranges 3 and 4 east, approved and paid; township 10, range 4 east, returned, not yet approved; field corrections have been made in it since date of last report.
4,240 00	2,454 99	4	3	.....	To examine, complete, and certify the correctness of unfinished contract of A. G. Phelps, deceased. Township 5 north, range 3 west, north of Red river; township 6 south, range 1 east, southwest district, approved and paid for; township 3 south, range 2 east, relinquished.
2,816 00	2,082 01	2	2	.....	Contract completed.
5,570 00	2,849 00	5	4	.....	Contract completed.
2,590 00	.....	4	4	4	All returned; surveys undergoing field examination.
2,520 00	1,003 11	3	3	1	All returned; township 19 north, range 8 east, will be soon approved; townships 20 and 21 north, range 8 east, approved and paid for.
2,800 00	1,568 39	3	3	.....	Contract completed.
8,000 00	1,835 16	3	3	.....	Township 6 south, range 4 east, completed, approved, and paid for; township 8 south, ranges 5 and 6 east, relinquished, and recontracted to N. H. Phelps, March 2, 1854.
3,568 00	1,745 21	3	2	.....	Contract completed.
4,160 00	2,275 59	3	2	.....	Contract completed.
10,260 00	.....	10	10	.....	Townships 12 and 13 south, range 16 east, west of river, returned; examined in the field, found erroneous and fraudulent; contract cancelled, as reported to the Commissioner of General Land Office, January 24, 1854.
12,320 00	1,899 86	5	5	4	Township 9 south, range 6 east, approved and paid for; the remainder not yet returned.
1,904 00	1,276 04	2	2	.....	Contract completed.
2,000 00	.....	2	2	2	Township 3 south, range 8 east, returned, but requires correction.
6,720 00	485 39	6	4	1	Townships 13 and 14 south, range 24 east, and township 14 south, range 23 east, relinquished, and recontracted to Maurice Hanké, November 2, 1853; township 13 south, range 23 east, returned, not yet approved.
4,800 00	.....	7	7	7	No returns made; surveys delayed by high water and by the epidemic.
1,952 00	1,012 75	2	.....	.....	Contract completed.
5,936 00	1,359 55	8	.....	5	Township 17 south, range 15 east, township 18 south, range 16 east, and township 19 south, range 17 east, approved and paid for. The remaining townships are returned, but require correction.
6,960 00	1,367 16	6	.....	3	Townships 12 and 13 south, range 10 east, and township 13 south, range 24 east, approved and paid for.
1,120 00	418 60	1	.....	.....	Contract completed.
3,456 00	.....	4	.....	4	No returns made.
8,100 00	1,480 00	7	.....	5	Townships 12 and 13 south, range 16 east, approved and paid for.
4,000 00	.....	2	.....	2	No returns made.
1,600 00	.....	1	.....	1	
4,600 00	.....	3	.....	3	
7,000 00	.....	3	.....	3	
7,000 00	.....	6	.....	6	

* Boundaries and 3 townships.

Date.	Name of contractor.	District.	Expiration of contract.	Time extended to—	Estimated number of miles.	Price per mile.
Mar. 19, 1852	Thomas Hunter.....	Northwestern.....	.....	Sept. 1, 1853	5	\$8
Mar. 30, 1853	do.....	do.....	.....	Sept. 15, 1853	5	8
Aug. 5, 1853	do.....	do.....	.....	July 1, 1854	30	8
Aug. 5, 1853	do.....	do.....	.....	July 1, 1854	5	8
Oct. 18, 1853	W. H. Osborne.....	do.....	.....	.....	42	8
Oct. 26, 1853	Thomas W. Lafavelle..	Southeastern .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Dec. 14, 1853	Samuel C. Hepburn...	do.....	.....	.....	\$5 per day and	.....
Jan. 3, 1854	A. S. Phelps	do.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Feb. 28, 1854	Robert Boyd	Northwestern.....	.....	.....	\$5 per day and	.....
July 5, 1854	Joseph Gorlinski	Southeastern .....	.....	.....	.....	8
July 6, 1854	Silas Taylor.....	do.....	.....	.....	10	8
Sept. 21, 1854	G. S. Walmsley.....	Northwestern.....	.....	.....	To be paid by th	.....
Sept. 23, 1854	A. L. Mershon.....	North of Red river.	.....	.....	\$5 per day and	.....

SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Donaldsonville, La., October 1, 1854.

Continued.

OF SURVEY.

Amount of bonds.	Amount paid, including all accounts sent up.	Number of townships in contract.	Number of unfinished townships at date of last report.	Number of townships remaining unfinished.	Remarks.
.....	\$50 12	.....	.....	.....	Claim of legal representatives of Antonio Mora, register and receiver, 1840, No. 154, township 9, range 9 west. Returned and approved.
.....	72 42	.....	.....	.....	Claim of Asa Hickman, register and receiver, 1840, No. 151, township 8 north, range 8 west. Returned and approved.
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Claims of Le Clair, Himenes, Mendez, and Slaughter, Sutton's report, Nos. 2, 4, 16, and 17, in townships 7 and 8 north, range 5 west. Not yet returned.
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Claim of Frederick Williams, register and receiver, 1837, No. 36, supposed to be in township 7 north, range 4 west. Not yet returned.
.....	335 51	.....	.....	.....	North $\frac{1}{4}$ of township 7 north, range 10 west, and claim of Jonathan Thompson, assignee of John Carline. Returned and approved.
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Guy Dufossat, register and receiver, No. 405. Order cancelled, and reissued to A. S. Phelps, January 3 1854.
expenses....	142 85	.....	.....	.....	Examination of A. J. Powell's returns of township 12 south, range 16 east. Returned and paid for.
.....	193 66	.....	.....	.....	Claim of Guy Dufossat, No. 405 of register and receiver's report of 1816. Approved and paid for.
expenses....	132 25	.....	.....	.....	Surveys in townships 19 and 20 north, range 16 west, ordered by Commissioner's letter of February 9, 1854. Approved.
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Resurvey of township 16 south, range 12 east, east of river, made necessary by that of the adjoining township.
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Claim of Robert Martin, register, 1816, No. 34. To be extended and surveyed in township 17 south, range 16 east, under instructions of May 28, 1852.
e claimant..	.....	.....	.....	.....	Surveys of "Las Ormigas and La Nana." Confirmed by the United States Supreme Court to Devenport and others.
expenses....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Examination now being made of A. B. Clack's surveys: townships 19, 20, and 21 north, range 9 east, and township 19 north, range 10 east.

WM. J. McCULLOH,
Surveyor General, Louisiana.

B.

Statement showing the estimated amount of liabilities of the surveying department in Louisiana for surveys under contract and instructions on the 1st of October, 1854.

Description of the surveys.	Estimated number of miles.	Price per mile.	Estimated amount of contract.	Name of surveyor.	Date of contract or instructions.	Remarks.
SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT.						
Township 10 south, range 4 east.	180	\$8	\$1,440 00	John Campbell...	Instruct'ns of May 3, 1852	Formerly included in the contract of Walsh and Campbell, dated Oct. 7, 1842. See voucher No. 2, 1st quarter of 1844, and J. Campbell's affidavit of Jan. 26, 1846.
Township 9 south, range 5 east, 160 miles; township 10 south, range 5 east, 160 miles; township 10 south, range 6 east, 200 miles; township 11 south, range 5 east, 60 miles.	620	8	4,960 00	C. J. Cabell.....	Jan. 29, 1853	
Township 8 south, range 5 east, 150 miles; township 8 south, range 6 east, 150 miles.	300	8	2,400 00	N. H. Phelps....	Mar. 2, 1854	
Township 3 south, range 2 east, 60 miles; township 4 south, range 3 east, 170 miles; township 5 south, range 3 east, 200 miles.	430	8	3,440 00	C. M. Bradford...	Sept. 20, 1854	
Total.....	.....		12,240 00			
NORTHWESTERN DISTRICT.						
Township 11 north, range 8 west, 100 miles; township 11 north, range 9 west, 20 miles; township 15 north, range 12 west, 15 miles; township 15 north, range 13 west, 5 miles; township 16 north, range 12 west, 50 miles; township 16 north, range 13 west, 60 miles; township 17 north, range 13 west, 50 miles.	300	8	2,400 00	Thomas Hunter..	Mar. 29, 1853	Not yet returned. These surveys, except township 11 north, ranges 8 and 9 west, are adjacent to the "Grappe Claim."
Townships 7 and 8 north, range 5 west.	30	8	240 00	Thomas Hunter..	Instruct'ns of Aug. 5, 1853	
Township 7 north, range 4 west.	5	8	40 00	Thomas Hunter..	Instruct'ns of Aug. 5, 1853	
Total.....	.....		2,680 00			
SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT.						
Township 12 south, range 8 east, 80 miles; township 13 south, range 8 east, 10 miles; township 11 south, range 9 east, 10 miles; township 12 south, range 9 east, 80 miles; township 13 south, range 9 east, 10 miles; east of Mississippi river.	190	8	1,520 00	Samuel Perin....	Feb. 12, 1851	Undergoing examination

B—Continued.

Description of the surveys.	Estimated number of miles.	Price per mile.	Estimated amount of contract.	Name of surveyor.	Date of contract or instructions.	Remarks.
Township 3 south, range 8 east, 100 miles; township 3 south, range 9 east, 65 miles; west of Mississippi river.	165	8	\$1,320 00	Thomas Mullett..	Mar. 4, 1853	Township 3 south, range 8 east, returned; requires further field-work.
Township 13 south, range 23 east, 60 miles; west of Mississippi river.	60	8	480 00	William Sevey...	Mar. 12, 1853	Returned.
Township 16 south, range 13 east, 64 miles; township 16 south, range 14 east, 8 miles; township 17 south, range 14 east, 63 miles; township 18 south, range 15 east, 41 miles; township 19 south, range 16 east, 50 miles; east of Mississippi river.	226	8	1,808 00	Joseph Gorlinski..	Oct. 29, 1853	Returns made; requires some corrections.
Township 14 south, range 23 east, 150 miles; township 14 south, range 24 east, 100 miles; west of Mississippi river; and claim of A. Milne, R. and R., A No. 33, in township 11 south, range 12 east, east of Mississippi river.	265	8	2,120 00	Maurice Hanké ..	Nov. 2, 1853	Part returned.
Township 13 south, range 13 east, 10 miles; township 13 south, range 14 east, 120 miles; township 14 south, range 13 east, 6 miles; township 15 south, range 13 east, 80 miles; west of Mississippi river.	216	8	1,728 00	Silas Taylor.....	Jan. 10, 1854	No returns.
Township 11 south, range 6 east, 100 miles, east of Mississippi river; township 12 south, range 17 east, 80 miles; township 13 south, range 17 east, 40 miles; township 13 south, range 20 east, 170 miles; township 12 south, range 20 east, 25 miles; west of Mississippi river.	415	8	3,320 00	R. C. Brent	Mar. 2, 1854	
Township 17 south, range 16 east, west of Mississippi river.	10	8	80 00	Silas Taylor.....	May 8, 1852	Completion of the claim of Robert Martin, Harper's report, No. 34.
Township 14 south, range 20 east, west of Mississippi river.	100	8	800 00	Maurice Hanké ..	Sept. 19, 1854	
Total.....			13,176 00			
DISTRICT NORTH OF RED RIVER.						
Township 22 north, range 5 east, interior lines.	70	7	490 00	C. J. Cabell.....	Nov. 19, 1851	Returned, but requires corrections.
Township boundaries	54	8	432 00	Silas Taylor.....	Nov. 2, 1851	All returned and approved, and will be included in final account to be sent up hereafter.
Township 19 north, range 9 east, township 20 north, range 9 east, township 21 north, range 9 east, 70 miles each; township 19 north, range 10 east, 5 miles.	215	7	1,505 00	A. B. Clack.....	Nov. 9, 1852	All returned; undergoing field examination.
Township 19 north, range 8 east.	70	7	490 00	Henry Curtis.....	Nov. 9, 1852	Returned, and will be sent up shortly.

B—Continued.

Description of the surveys.	Estimated number of miles.	Price per mile.	Estimated amount of contract.	Name of surveyor.	Date of contract or instructions.	Remarks.
Township 23 north, range 3 east, 30 miles; townships 21, 22, and 23 north, range 4 east, 80 miles each; township 21 north, range 5 east, 142 miles; township 21 north, range 6 east, 90 miles.	502	\$7	\$3,514 00	Robert Boyd	Sept. 20, 1854	
Township 22 north, range 7 east, 100 miles; township 23 north, range 7 east, 100 miles	200	7	1,400 00	Henry Curtis...	Sept. 19, 1854	
Township 16 north, range 11 east, 110 miles.	110	8	880 00	Henry Curtis.....	Sept. 19, 1854	
Total.....	.....	.....	8,711 00			
GREENSBURG DISTRICT.						
Township 7 south, range 1 west, 90 miles; township 8 south, range 1 west, 60 miles; township 7 south, range 2 east, 90 miles; townships 8 and 9 south, ranges 8 and 9 east, 35 miles.	275	8	2,200 00	J. C. Taylor.....	Dec. 1, 1846	Partial returns made.
Township 1 south, range 3 west, 100 miles; township 1 south, range 4 west, 100 miles.	200	8	1,600 00	Sam. C. Hepburn.	Mar. 14, 1852	
Add the following unsettled accounts, viz:						
Geo. C. Vansant, for township 9 south, range 13 east; sent Dec. 22, 1846.	.....	.....	726 27			
H. T. Williams, for township 1 north, ranges 5 and 6 west; sent June 30, 1847.	.....	.....	386 11			
Total.....	.....	.....	4,912 38			
Total amount of liabilities.	.....	.....	41,719 38			

WM. J. McCULLOH,
Surveyor General, Louisiana.

SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Donaldsonville, La., October 1, 1854.

C.

Proposed surveys in the State of Louisiana for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1856, including those already authorized by appropriations:

Districts and townships.	Estimated number of miles.	Price per mile.	Amount at augmented rates.	Remarks.
SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT.				
Township 2 south, range 1 east, 105 miles; township 1 south, range 3 east, 100 miles; township 2 south, range 2 east, 100 miles; township 3 south, range 1 east, 125 miles; townships 7, 8, and 9 south, range 1 east, 75 miles each; township 15 south, range 12 east, 20 miles; township 15 south, range 11 east, 30 miles; townships 3, 4, and 5 south, range 12 west; and townships 4, 5, and 6 south, range 13 west, 75 miles.	780	\$8	\$6,240	Estimated in report of 1848. Townships in ranges 12 and 13 west; traverse of Sabine river.
Township 2 south, range 3 east, 95 miles; township 16 south, range 10 east, 25 miles; township 14 south, range 8 east, 20 miles; township 15 south, range 7 east, 30 miles.	170	8	1,360	Estimated in reports of 1849, 1850, 1851, and 1852.
Township 1 south, range 1 east, 75 miles.....	80	8	640	Estimated in report of 1853.
Townships 7, 8, 9, and 10 south, range 13 west...	60	8	480	Included in report of 1853; traverse of Sabine river.
<i>New proposed surveys.</i>				
Township 3 south, range 3 east, 160 miles; township 12 south, range 9 east, 20 miles; township 16 south, range 9 east, 40 miles; township 2 north, range 4 east, 85 miles; township 4 north, range 3 west, 110 miles.	415	8	3,320	
Township 5 south, range 2 west, 25 miles; township 5 south, range 3 west, 10 miles; township 6 south, range 2 west, 75 miles; township 6 south, range 3 west, 30 miles; township 7 south, range 1 west, 90 miles; township 7 south, range 2 west, 55 miles; township 7 south, range 3 west, 15 miles; township 8 south, ranges 2 and 3 west, 30 miles each.	360	7	2,520	
Total southwestern district.....	.....	.....	14,560	
DISTRICT NORTH OF RED RIVER.				
Township 19 north, range 4 east, 60 miles; township 19 north, ranges 5, 6, and 7 east, 80 miles each; township 20 north, range 4 east, 80 miles; township 20 north, ranges 5, 6, and 7 east; and township 21 north, range 7 east, 80 miles each; township 22 north, ranges 6 and 8 east; and township 23 north, range 8 east, 80 miles each.	940	7	6,580	Estimated in reports of 1851 and 1852; embraced by the "Bastrop grant."
<i>New proposed surveys.</i>				
Township 2 north, range 2 east, 20 miles; township 2 north, range 3 east, 25 miles; township 3 north, range 1 east, 45 miles; township 3 north, range 2 east, 20 miles; township 3 north, range 3 east, 100 miles; township 3 north, range 4 east, 25 miles; township 4 north, range 1 east, 90 miles.	325	7	2,275	
Total district north of Red river .....	.....	.....	8,855	
NORTHWESTERN DISTRICT.				
<i>New proposed surveys.</i>				
Township 7 north, range 10 west, (south half of the township.)	40	8	320	See surveyor general's letter of March 27, 1854.
Total northwestern district.....	.....	.....	320	

C—Continued.

Districts and townships.	Estimated number of miles.	Price per mile.	Amount at augmented rates.	Remarks.
SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT, WEST OF RIVER.				
Township 12 south, range 14 east, 30 miles; township 14 south, range 18 east, 40 miles; township 14 south, range 19 east, 40 miles; township 15 south, range 16 east, 50 miles; township 15 south, range 17 east, 40 miles; township 15 south, range 18 east, 40 miles; township 15 south, range 20 east, 40 miles; township 15 south, range 21 east, 40 miles; township 17 south, range 19 east, 40 miles; township 17 south, range 20 east, 40 miles; township 17 south, range 21 east, 30 miles; township 18 south, range 18 east, 120 miles; township 18 south, range 19 east, 80 miles; township 19 south, range 17 east, 50 miles; township 19 south, range 18 east, 90 miles; township 19 south, range 19 east, 25 miles; township 20 south, range 18 east, 80 miles; township 20 south, range 29 east, 15 miles.	880	\$8	\$7,040	Estimated in reports of 1849, 1850, and 1852.
Township 6 south, range 9 east.....	210	8	1,680	Estimated in reports of 1847 to 1852; formerly included in A. W. Warren's contract.
Township 14 south, ranges 21 and 22 east, 80 miles each.	160	7	1,120	} Formerly included in contract of A. J. Powell.
Township 13 south, range 22 east.....	90	8	720	
Township 15 south, range 19 east, 10 miles; township 16 south, range 20 east, 15 miles; township 16 south, range 21 east, 25 miles.	50	8	400	Estimated in report of 1853; original survey outside of the "Florian claim."
Township 4 south, range 10 east, 175 miles; township 15 south, range 12 east, 10 miles; township 17 south, range 17 east, 30 miles; township 17 south, range 18 east, 60 miles; township 20 south, range 30 east, 20 miles; township 13 south, range 18 east, 35 miles.	330	8	2,640	Estimated in report of 1853; original survey erroneous, or does not agree with the confirmation.
<i>New proposed surveys.</i>				
Township 13 south, range 21 east, 60 miles; township 15 south, range 24 east, 80 miles; township 16 south, ranges 24 and 25 east, 90 miles; township 5 south, range 8 east, 165 miles; township 6 south, range 8 east, 100 miles.	395	8	3,160	
Total southeastern district, west of river....	.....	.....	16,760	
SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT, EAST OF RIVER.				
Township 12 south, range 11 east.....	150	20	3,000	Orleans township.
Total southeastern district, east of river....	.....	.....	3,000	
Total of proposed surveys.....	.....	.....	43,495	

WM. J. McCULLOH,
Surveyor General, Louisiana.

SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Donaldsonville, Louisiana, October 1, 1854.

D.

Estimate of funds to be appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1856, for surveys in Louisiana, for compensation of the surveyor general, and the clerks in his office, and for the contingent expenses of the surveyor general's office.

Present liabilities for unpaid surveys under contract and instructions, viz :

Southwestern district.....	\$12,240 00	
Northwestern district.....	2,680 00	
Southeastern district.....	13,176 00	
North of Red River district.....	8,711 00	
Greensburg district.....	4,912 38	
		\$41,719 38

Proposed surveys of this and former years.

Southwestern district.....	14,560 00	
North of Red River district.....	8,855 00	
Southeastern district.....	19,760 00	
Northwestern district.....	320 00	
		43,495 00
Salary and expenses of surveyor of private claims.....	3,000 00	

Total liabilities, actual and proposed.....	88,214 38
Total appropriations on hand.....	65,122 96

Amount to be appropriated for surveys.....	\$23,091 42
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For salaries.

Compensation of surveyor general.....	2,000 00	
Four clerks, (for current business of the office).....	4,400 00	
Four clerks to be employed in examining and protracting surveyors' returns, &c.....	4,400 00	
Two draughtsmen, preparing maps, &c.....	2,400 00	
		13,200 00

Contingent expenses.

Rent of rooms for the surveyor general's office.....	400 00	
For stationery, furniture, postage, book-binding, freight, documents from registers, fuel, servant-hire, &c.....	1,200 00	
		1,600 00

Total amount of appropriations required for the year ending June 30, 1856.....	37,891 42
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WM. J. McCULLOH, *Surveyor General, La*

SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE, DONALDSONVILLE, LA.,

October 1, 1854.

E.

Statement of swamp lands accruing to the State of Louisiana, under the provisions of an act of Congress approved September 28, 1850, excepting such portions thereof as are rightfully claimed or owned by individuals, listed since October 1, 1853, by the surveyor general of Louisiana, in accordance with instructions from the Commissioner of the General Land Office, dated November 21, 1850, to October 1, 1854.

Southeastern district, west of the Mississippi river.

Township.	Range.	Land surveyed.	Estimated unsurveyed.	Total.
		<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>
5 south.....	9 east.....	13,731.10	.....	13,731.10
5 south.....	11 east.....	473.92	.....	473.92
12 south.....	16 east.....	604.52	.....	604.52
13 south.....	16 east.....	3,732.84	.....	3,732.84
13 south.....	24 east.....	38.92	.....	38.92
		18,581.30	.....	18,581.30

Southeastern district, east of the Mississippi river.

12 south.....	10 east.....	54.04	.....	54.04
17 south.....	15 east.....	2,081.62	.....	2,081.62
18 south.....	16 east.....	3,444.20	.....	3,444.20
19 south.....	17 east.....	6,637.39	.....	6,637.39
19 south.....	18 east.....	633.97	.....	633.97
		12,851.22	.....	12,851.22

Southwestern district.

6 south.....	4 east.....	23.48	.....	23.48
6 south.....	5 east.....	87.36	.....	87.36
9 south.....	6 east.....	3,410.61	.....	3,410.61
2 north.....	1 west.....	150.40	.....	150.40
3 north.....	2 west.....	160.37	.....	160.37
		3,832.22	.....	3,832.22

District north of Red river.

7 north.....	4 east.....	11,939.29	.....	11,939.29
8 north.....	5 east.....	16,823.60	.....	16,823.60
9 north.....	5 east.....	.24	.....	.24
14 north.....	9 east.....	75.59	.....	75.59
15 north.....	9 east.....	153.10	.....	153.10
18 north.....	3 east.....	2,867.57	.....	2,867.57
18 north.....	4 east.....	3,892.10	.....	3,892.10
18 north.....	5 east.....	12,159.53	.....	12,159.53
18 north.....	6 east.....	12,008.22	.....	12,008.22

E—Continued.

District north of Red river—Continued.

Township.	Range.	Land surveyed.	Estimated un-surveyed.	Total.
		<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>
18 north	7 east	5,244. 51	.....	5,244. 51
20 north	8 east	20,969. 41	.....	20,969. 41
20 north	10 east	1,503. 76	.....	1,503. 76
21 north	8 east	20,465. 04	.....	20,465. 04
22 north	9 east	22,560. 46	.....	22,560. 46
22 north	10 east	1,492. 18	.....	1,492. 18
23 north	5 east	4,272. 74	.....	4,272. 74
23 north	6 east	3,128. 24	.....	3,128. 24
23 north	9 east	19,291. 40	.....	19,291. 40
23 north	10 east	19,038. 11		19,038. 11
		177,885. 09		177,885. 09

Northwestern district.

20 north	14 west	638. 72		638. 72
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Greensburg district.

3 south.....	1 east	182. 00		182. 00
8 south.....	4 east	1,876. 35		1,876. 35
8 south.....	6 east	3,828. 12	.....	3,828. 12
9 south.....	4 east	945. 46	.....	945. 46
9 south.....	6 east	12. 92	.....	12. 92
5 south.....	1 west	513. 84	.....	513. 84
5 south.....	2 west	1,505. 24	.....	1,505. 24
6 south.....	1 west .....	.....	3,624. 80	3,624. 80
6 south.....	2 west	2. 00	465. 12	467. 12
		8,865. 93	4,089. 92	12,955. 85

RECAPITULATION.

Total area of swamp lands selected in the southeastern district, west of river..	18,851. 30
Do.....do.....do.....east of river..	12,851. 22
Do.....do.....southwestern district.....	3,832. 22
Do.....do.....district north of Red river.....	177,885. 09
Do.....do.....northwestern district.....	638. 72
Do.....do.....Greensburg district.....	12,955. 85
Grand total.....	226,744. 40

But the net total to be added to selections made up to date of last report, is only 187,826. 19 acres.

WM. J. McCULLOH,
Surveyor General Louisiana.

SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Donaldsonville, La., October 1, 1854.

F.

List of documents representing surveys sent to the General Land Office, to the district offices, and to the State register's office at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, since the 1st of October, 1853, to date, (October 1, 1854.)

General Land Office.	District office.	State register's office.	District.	Remarks.
Map of township 7 north, range 10 west.	Map of township 7 north, range 10 west.	-----	Northwestern	North half of township.
Diagram of township 8 north, range 8 west.	Diagram of township 8 north, range 8 west.	-----	do.	Secs. 39, 3, } Showing the position and 4. } of the claim of Asa Secs. 41, 33, } Hickman. and 34. }
Diagram of township 9 north, range 8 west.	Diagram of township 9 north, range 8 west.	-----	do.	
Plat of township 9 north, range 9 west.	Diagram of township 9 north, range 9 west.	-----	do.	
		Map of township 12 north, range 10 west.	do.	Sections 39, 28, 29, 32, and 33; claim of Antonio Mora.
		Map of township 10 north, range 9 west.	do.	East of Red river.
Diagram of township 19 north, range 16 west.	Diagram of township 19 north, range 16 west.	-----	do.	Sections 5 and 6.
Diagram of township 20 north, range 14 west.	Diagram of township 20 north, range 14 west.	-----	do.	Section 29, south of Red river.
Diagram of township 20 north, range 16 west.	Diagram of township 20 north, range 16 west.	-----	do.	Sections 31 and 32.
Diagram	-----	-----	do.	East and north boundaries of township 18 north, ranges 5 and 6 east; east and north boundaries of townships 21 and 22 north, range 4 east; east, north, and west boundaries of township 23 north, range 4 east.
Plat	-----	-----	do.	Asa Hickman, register and receiver, 1840, No. 151.
Diagram of township 7 north, range 3 east.	Diagram of township 7 north, range 3 east.	-----	N. of Red river.	Sections 25 and 41.

Map of township 7 north, range 4 east.	Map of township 7 north, range 4 east.	do.....	
Diagram of township 8 north, range 4 east.	Diagram of township 8 north, range 4 east.	do.....	Sections 13, 24, 25, 37, 38, 39, 43, 44, 45, 46, and 47.
Diagram of township 8 north, range 4 east.	Diagram of township 8 north, range 4 east.	do.....	Sections 27, 32, 33, 34, 35, 40, 41, and 42.
Map of township 8 north, range 5 eas	Map of township 8 north, range 5 east.	do.....	
	Map of township 8 north, range 5 east.	do.....	
Diagram of township 9 north, range 5 east.	Diagram of township 9 north, range 5 east.	do.....	Sections 34, 51, 54, and 55.
	Diagram of township 10 north, range 7 east.	do.....	Sections 1, 12, 13, 14, 23, 25, 26, 37, 40, 41, and 42.
	Diagram of township 10 north, range 8 east.	do.....	Sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 18, 37, 47, 49, and 50.
Diagram of township 17 north, range 4 east.	Diagram of township 17 north, range 4 east.	do.....	Sections 2 and 43.
Map of township 18 north, range 3 east.	Map of township 18 north, range 3 east.	do.....	
Map of township 18 north, range 4 east.	Map of township 18 north, range 4 east.	do.....	
Diagram of township 18 north, range 5 east.	do.....	do.....	Sections 37 and 38.
Map of township 18 north, range 5 east.	Map of township 18 north, range 5 east.	do.....	
Map of township 18 north, range 6 east.	Map of township 18 north, range 6 east.	do.....	
Map of township 18 north, range 7 east.	Map of township 18 north, range 7 east.	do.....	
Diagram of township 19 north, range 4 east.	Diagram of township 19 north, range 4 east.	do.....	Section 49.
Diagram	do.....	do.....	North boundaries of townships 19, 20, 21, 22, and 23 north, ranges 5, 6, and 7 east; east boundaries of townships 19, 20, 21, 22, and 23 north, ranges 5 and 6 east.
Map of township 20 north, range 8 east.	Map of township 20 north, range 8 east.	do.....	
	Map of township 20 north, range 8 east.	do.....	

F—Continued.

178

REPORT OF THE

General Land Office.	District office.	State register's office.	District.	Remarks.
Map of township 21 north, range 8 east.	Map of township 21 north, range 8 east.	Map of township 21 north, range 8 east.	N. of Red river.	
		Map of township 20 north, range 10 east.	do.....	
		Map of township 20 north, range 10 east.	do.....	
		Map of township 22 north, range 9 east.	do.....	
Map of township 22 north, range 9 east.	Map of township 22 north, range 9 east.	do.....	do.....	
Map of township 22 north, range 10 east.	Map of township 22 north, range 10 east.	do.....	do.....	
Map of township 23 north, range 5 east.	Map of township 23 north, range 5 east.	Map of township 23 north, range 5 east.	do.....	
Map of township 23 north, range 6 east.	Map of township 23 north, range 6 east.	Map of township 23 north, range 6 east.	do.....	
Map of township 23 north, range 9 east.	Map of township 23 north, range 9 east.	do.....	do.....	
Map of township 23 north, range 10 east.	Map of township 23 north, range 10 east.	Map of township 23 north, range 10 east.	do.....	
		Map of township 2 south, range 1 west.	Southwestern	
	Map of township 3 south, range 7 east.	do.....	do.....	Certified copy.
Diagram of township 4 south, range 1 east.	Diagram of township 4 south, range 1 east.	do.....	do.....	Section 46.
Map of township 5 south, range 1 east.	Map of township 5 south, range 1 east.	do.....	do.....	
Diagram of township 5 south, range 2 east.	Diagram of township 5 south, range 2 east.	do.....	do.....	Sections 50, 61, and 62.
Diagram of township 5 south, range 4 east.	Diagram of township 5 south, range 4 east.	do.....	do.....	Sections 40, 41, 42, 55, 57, 64, and 91.
Diagram of township 5 south, range 5 east.	Diagram of township 5 south, range 5 east.	do.....	do.....	Sections 31, 43, 44, and 48.

Map of township 6 south, range 1 east.	Map of township 6 south, range 1 east.	do.	
Diagram of township 6 south, range 1 west.	Diagram of township 6 south, range 1 west.	do.	Section 37.
Diagram of township 6 south, range 2 east.	Diagram of township 6 south, range 2 east.	do.	Section 50.
Diagram of township 6 south, range 3 east.	Diagram of township 6 south, range 3 east.	do.	Sections 41, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 50, 51, 52, 53, 56, 57, 58, and 59.
Map of township 6 south, range 4 east.	Map of township 6 south, range 4 east.	do.	
Diagram of township 6 south, range 5 east.	Diagram of township 6 south, range 5 east.	do.	Sections 7, 9, 13, 29, 30, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, and 60.
Diagram of township 7 south, range 1 east.	Diagram of township 7 south, range 1 east.	do.	Section 37.
Diagram of township 7 south, range 4 east.	Diagram of township 7 south, range 4 east.	do.	Sections 123 and 140.
Diagram of township 7 south, range 5 east.	Diagram of township 7 south, range 5 east.	do.	Section 119.
	Map of township 8 south, range 3 east.	do.	
Diagram of township 8 south, range 5 east.	Diagram of township 8 south, range 5 east.	do.	Sections 36, 110, 112, and 113.
Diagram of township 8 south, range 6 east.	Diagram of township 8 south, range 6 east.	do.	Sections 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, and 45.
	Plat of townships 8 and 9 north, range 10 east.	do.	C. Brown, B. No. 2100, in duplicate.
Map of township 9 south, range 6 east.	Map of township 9 south, range 6 east.	do.	
	Map of township 9 south, range 6 east.	do.	
Diagram of township 9 south, range 7 east.	Diagram of township 9 south, range 7 east.	do.	Sections 40 and 41.
	Plat of township 13 south, range 9 east.	do.	Chetimachas Indians. Sections 22, 23, 27, and 34.
	Plat of township 13 south, range 9 east.	do.	M. R. Pecot, section 5.
	Plat of township 13 south, range 9 east.	do.	Fuselier & Evans, section 11.
	Map of township 15 south, range 11 east.	do.	

General Land Office.	District office.	State register's office.	District.	Remarks.
		Map of township 17 south, range 9 east.	Southwestern.	
Diagram of township 17 south, range 9 east.	Diagram of township 17 south, range 9 east.	-----do-----	do	Subdivisions of section 10.
Diagram of township 4 south, range 9 east.	Diagram of township 4 south, range 9 east.	-----do-----	Southeastern	Sections 56, 58, 60, 62, and 63.
Diagram of township 4 south, range 10 east.	Diagram of township 4 south, range 10 east.	-----do-----	do	Sections 54, 55, 56, 57, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, and 117.
Diagram of township 4 south, range 11 east.	Diagram of township 4 south, range 11 east.	-----do-----	do	Sections 15, 16, 17, and 18.
Map of township 5 south, range 9 east.	Map of township 5 south, range 9 east.	Map of township 5 south, range 9 east.	-----do-----	West of the river
Map of township 5 south, range 10 east.	Map of township 5 south, range 10 east.	-----do-----	do	
Map of township 5 south, range 11 east.	Map of township 5 south, range 11 east.	Part of township 5 south, range 11 east, west of river.	-----do-----	
Diagram of township 6 south, range 9 east.	Diagram of township 6 south, range 9 east.	-----do-----	do	Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 123.
Diagram of township 6 south, range 10 east.	Diagram of township 6 south, range 10 east.	-----do-----	do	Northern third of township.
Diagram of township 6 south, range 11 east.	Diagram of township 6 south, range 11 east.	-----do-----	do	Sections 7, 8, 37, 38, 2, 87, 88, and 89.
Diagram of township 10 south, range 14 east.	Diagram of township 10 south, range 14 east.	-----do-----	do	Claim of Guy Dufossat, register and receiver of 1816, No. 405.
Diagram of township 11 south, range 14 east.	Diagram of township 11 south, range 14 east.	-----do-----	do	
Diagram of township 12 south, range 14 east.	Diagram of township 12 south, range 14 east.	-----do-----	do	
	Plat	-----do-----	do	Plat in duplicate.

Plat of townships 10 and 11 south, range 14 east.	Plat of townships 10 and 11 south, range 14 east.	do.....	Claim of heirs of Brazilier, register and receiver, 1816, No. 509.
Map of township 11 south, range 10 east.	Map of township 11 south, range 10 east.	do.....	} Connected.
Map of township 12 south, range 10 east.	Map of township 12 south, range 10 east.	Map of townships 11, 12, and 13 south, range 10 east.	
Map of township 13 south, range 10 east.	Map of township 13 south, range 10 east.	do.....	
Diagram of township 12 south, range 9 east.	Diagram of township 12 south, range 9 east.	do.....	Section 42.
Diagram of township 12 south, range 11 east.	Diagram of township 12 south, range 11 east.	do.....	Sections 23, 26, and 30.
Diagram of township 12 south, range 15 east.	Diagram of township 12 south, range 15 east.	do.....	Sections 63, 64, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 84, 85, 86, and 87.
Map of township 12 south, range 16 east.	Map of township 12 south, range 16 east.	Map of township 12 south, range 16 east.	Northern half of township.
Map of township 13 south, range 16 east.	Map of township 13 south, range 16 east.	Map of township 13 south, range 16 east.	
Diagram of township 13 south, range 16 east.	Diagram of township 13 south, range 16 east.	do.....	Subdivisions of section 33.
		Map of township 13 south, range 25 east.	East of river.
		Map of township 14 south, range 25 east.	East of river.
		do.....	West of river.
		Map of township 16 south, range 25 east.	East of river.
		do.....	East of river.
		do.....	East of river.
		Map of township 19 south, range 17 east.	East of river.
		do.....	East of river.
		Greensburg...	In duplicate for 59 claims, being all those confirmed except sections 51 and 52.
Map of township 13 south, range 24 east.	Map of township 13 south, range 24 east.		
Map of township 17 south, range 15 east.	Map of township 17 south, range 15 east.		
Map of township 18 south, range 16 east.	Map of township 18 south, range 16 east.		
Map of township 19 south, range 17 east.	Map of township 19 south, range 17 east.		
Diagram of township 19 south, range 18 east.	Diagram of township 19 south, range 18 east.		
	Plats of township 1 south, range 1 east.		

F—Continued.

182

REPORT OF THE

General Land Office.	District office.	State register's office.	District.	Remarks.
		Map of township 2 south, range 4 west.	Greensburg.	
Map of township 3 south, range 1 east.	Map of township 3 south, range 1 east.	.....	..... do	
Diagram of township 3 south, range 1 west.	Diagram of township 3 south, range 1 west.	.....	..... do	Sections 109, 111, and 112.
Diagram of township 3 south, range 1 east.	.....	.....	..... do	Explanations of account.
Diagram of township 3 south, range 1 west.	Diagram of township 3 south, range 1 west.	.....	..... do	Sections 78, 79, 80, 116, and 118.
Diagram of township 3 south, range 2 east.	Diagram of township 3 south, range 2 east.	.....	..... do	Sections 53, 59, and 83.
	Plat of township 3 south, ranges 1 and 2 east, and township 4 south, range 2 east.	.....	..... do	In duplicate. Claim of John Gale, C. and S., 1820, No. 44.
	Plat of townships 3 and 4 south, range 3 west.	.....	..... do	Claim of St. M. Cobb.
		Map of township 3 south, range 4 west.	 do	
Map of township 4 south, range 1 east.	Map of township 4 south, range 1 east.	.....	..... do	
Map of township 4 south, range 1 west.	Map of township 4 south, range 1 west.	.....	..... do	
		Map of township 4 south, range 10 east.	 do	
Diagram of township 5 south, range 1 east.	Diagram of township 5 south, range 1 east.	.....	..... do	Section 60.
Map of township 5 south, range 1 west.	Map of township 5 south, range 1 west.	Map of township 5 south, range 1 west.	 do	
Diagram of township 5 south, range 1 west.	Diagram of township 5 south, range 1 west.	.....	..... do	

Map of township 5 south, range 2 west.	Map of township 5 south, range 2 west.	Map of township 5 south, range 2 west.	do.	
Map of township 5 south, range 4 east.	Map of township 5 south, range 4 east.	do.	do.	
		Map of township 5 south, range 10 east.	do.	
Map of township 6 south, range 1 west.	Map of township 6 south, range 1 west.	Map of township 6 south, range 1 west.	do.	
Map of township 6 south, range 2 west.	Map of township 6 south, range 2 west.	Map of township 6 south, range 2 west.	do.	
Diagram of township 6 south, range 2 east.	Diagram of township 6 south, range 2 east.	do.	do.	Sections 3 and 78.
		Map of township 6 south, range 10 east.	do.	
		Map of township 6 south, range 13 east.	do.	
	Plat of township 6 south, range 11 east.	do.	do.	In duplicate. Claim of James Tate, section 37.
Map of township 7 south, range 4 east.	Map of township 7 south, range 4 east.	do.	do.	
Diagram of township 7 south, range 3 east.	Diagram of township 7 south, range 3 east.	do.	do.	Sections 25 and 31.
		Map of township 7 south, range 12 east.	do.	
		Map of township 7 south, range 13 east.	do.	
		Map of township 7 south, range 14 east.	do.	
Map of township 8 south, range 4 east.	Map of township 8 south, range 4 east.	Map of township 8 south, range 4 east.	do.	
	Plat of township 8 south, range 4 east.	do.	do.	In duplicate. Claim of Joseph Deis, or Dean, section 49.
Diagram of township 8 south, range 5 east.	Diagram of township 8 south, range 5 east.	do.	do.	Sections 1, 12, 13, and 25.
Diagram of township 8 south, range 5 east.	Diagram of township 8 south, range 5 east.	do.	do.	Sections 19, 30, 40, and 41.
Map of township 8 south, range 6 east.	Map of township 8 south, range 6 east.	do.	do.	} Connected.
Map of township 9 south, range 6 east.	Map of township 9 south, range 6 east.	do.	do.	

F—Continued.

General Land Office.	District office.	State register's office.	District.	Remarks.
Diagram of township 8 south, range 7 east. Map of township 9 south, range 4 east.		Map of township 8 south, range 6 east.	Greensburg.	
	Plat of townships 8 and 9 south, range 6 east.	do.....	do.....	In duplicate. Heirs of John Sily, sections 46 and 38.
	Plat of township 8 south, range 6 east.	do.....	do.....	In duplicate. Heirs of John Sily, section 45.
	Diagram of township 8 south, range 7 east.	do.....	do.....	Section 43.
	Map of township 9 south, range 4 east.	Map of township 9 south, range 4 east.	do.....	
	Plat	do.....	do.....	In duplicate. Claim of Wm. Roach, C. and S., 1821, No. 349.
		Map of township 10 south, range 14 east.	do.....	
		Map of township 10 south, range 15 east.	do.....	

RECAPITULATION.

Documents.	Sent to General Land Office.	Sent to district office.	Sent to State register's office.	Total.
Maps	45	46	48	139
Diagrams	54	53	.....	107
Plats	3	139	.....	142
Swamp lists	39	39	43	121
Total of documents sent .....	.....	.....	.....	509

DONALDSONVILLE, LOUISIANA, October 1, 1854,

WM. J. McCULLOH, Surveyor General of Louisiana.

G.

List of deputy surveyors in the State of Louisiana holding commissions from Wm. J. McCulloh, surveyor general of Louisiana, during the year ending October 1, 1854.

Name.	Date of oath.	Place of residence.	How employed.
	1853.		
William Sevey.....	July 1	Donaldsonville	Contract in southeastern district.
William H. Orsborn..	July 7	Parish of Rapides.....	Contract in northwestern district.
J. Claxton Taylor....	July 9	Baton Rouge.....	Contract in Greensburg district.
John J. Knowlton....	July 9	Parish of W. Feliciana.	Do do.
Charles Jos. Cabell...	July 9	Donaldsonville	Contract in southwestern and north of Red river districts.
Andrew J. Powell....	July 11	do.....	Contract in southeastern district cancelled, and commission withdrawn.
Joseph Gorlinski.....	July 11	Baton Rouge	Contract in southeastern district.
A. L. Fields.....	July 13	Franklin.	
Noah H. Phelps.....	July 13	Harrisonburg	Contract in southwestern district.
Andrew Crawford....	July 13	Parish of Point Coupee.	Contract in southeastern district.
Thomas Hunter.....	July 15	Parish of Natchitoches.	Contract in northwestern district.
Andrew B. Clack.....	July 22	Parish of Morehouse...	Contract north of Red river district.
W. W. Farmer.....	July 22	Parish of Ouachita.....	Do do.
Abner D. Miner.....	Aug. 19	New Iberia.....	Contract in southwestern district.
Henry Curtis.....	Aug. 29	Parish of Morehouse...	Contract north of Red river district.
Robert Boyd.....	Aug. 31	Donaldsonville	Do do.
Thomas Mullett.....	Sept. 10	do.....	Contract in southeastern district.
Samuel C. Hepburn...	Sept. 17	do.....	Contract in Greensburg district.
David A. Watterston..	Oct. 1	Baton Rouge.....	Do do.
Theodore Gillespie...	Oct. 1	New Orleans	Do do.
Augustus S. Phelps...	Oct. 27	do.....	Locating claims in southeastern district.
Maurice Hanke.....	Nov. 1	Donaldsonville	Contract in southeastern district.
John Boyd.....	Nov. 5	Do.	
Silas Taylor.....	Nov. 21	do.....	Do do.
Samuel Perin.....	Nov. 29	Parish of St. Charles...	Do do.
Robert C. Brent.....	Dec. 20	Baton Rouge.....	Do do.
	1854.		
Alfred A. Fusilier....	Jan. 18	Parish of St. Mary.	
George S. Walmsley..	Mar. 6	Cloutierville.....	Surveying claims of Las Ormigas and La Nana, in northwestern district.
Jonas K. Lothrop....	Mar. 31	Harrisonburg.	
Wilson C. Robert....	Aug. 8	Parish of Avoyelles.	
Charles M. Bradford..	Sept. 20	New Orleans.....	Contract in southwestern district.
Albert L. Mershon...	Sept. 23	Donaldsonville	Examining surveys in district north of Red river.
	1853.		
Thomas W. Lafarelle.	Oct. 26	New Orleans.....	(Deceased.)

WM. J. McCULLOH, *Surveyor General of La.*

SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Donaldsonville, La., October 1, 1854.

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR GENERAL OF FLORIDA.

SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,
St. Augustine, Florida, October 28, 1854.

SIR: In conformity with instructions dated 11th August, 1854, from your office, I have the honor to transmit herewith in triplicate the following documents, marked A, B, C, D, E, illustrative of the condition of the surveys in this State, and showing the operations of this office since my last annual report.

A.—Diagram giving in one connected view the condition and extent of the surveys in the State.

B.—Complete tabular statement of all the contracts for surveys since my last annual report. A map of the boundary between Alabama and Florida, surveyed by Benjamin F. Whitner, jr., exhibiting an accurate sketch of the topographical features of the country through which the line passes, and the mounds erected by Andrew Ellicott, Esq., ("commissioner on behalf of the United States during part of the year 1796, the years 1797, 1798, 1799, and part of the year 1800, for determining the boundary between the United States and the possessions of his Catholic Majesty in America,") made from Mr. Whitner's field-notes, is on file in this office, and a copy sent to the General Land Office.

C.—Statement of original township plats and diagrams made since the date of last annual report, and copies sent to the General and district land offices.

Owing to the increased value of lands in the State and the unusual demand, much time has been consumed in giving information to persons who visit the office for the purpose of ascertaining the locality of private claims, and exhibiting to persons the notes of these surveys and their connexion with the public lands.

This character of office-work is constantly increasing: to this, and the fact that part of the force of the office have been employed in examining and reprotracting and testing old work, may be ascribed the falling short of the number of plats and diagrams from last year.

Several of these claims it is believed will require corrective surveys, and the same or equivalent force will have to be so occupied to still greater extent during the next year in protraction necessary to a total completion and correct representation of these surveys.

D.—Statement of contracts for surveying the public lands in the State of Florida, made by former surveyor general, that were not closed at the date of last annual report, and their present condition.

E.—Estimate of appropriations required for the office of the surveyor general of Florida, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1856. The sums asked for in this statement, for the pay of draughtsmen and clerks indispensably necessary for the vigorous prosecution of the duties devolving upon this office, and the vast amount of labor necessary for recording the private claims and properly indexing; recording and replatting the public surveys, necessary before binding in volumes preparatory to the transfer of the records of the office to the State, have been estimated consistently with the public service. I have inclu-

ded, in the amount asked for this purpose, the sum of fifteen hundred dollars for preparing a map of the State upon the scale suggested by you in your communication of June 11, 1853. When is considered the complicated, tedious and laborious nature of the work, requiring for the service officers of ability and experience, it is hoped the amount will not be deemed extravagant for the services expected to be rendered. In making this estimate I have endeavored to have economy in view.

I shall shortly send up lists of the swamp lands in the ranges lying south and west, and north and east, and south and east, in the Tallahassee district, and south and east in the Newnansville district as far as the second basis parallel; they only await my personal examination. From the very commencement of my term of office this subject has occupied my deliberate attention.

The "swamp land agent" has been engaged in making swamp land plats, delineating the topography thereon from the original field-notes, and coloring thereon the selections made by the "State agents," noting those that the field-notes would take, independent of the affidavits of the State agents. This will be completed in a short time.

The assistant is employed in comparing and writing out lists of the lands to be approved. In order to be fully satisfied, and to separate those which the field-notes would take, before certifying that the quality of the lands are such as required to inure to the State by the act of Congress of 28th September, 1850, the field-notes have necessarily to be consulted. The imperfect manner in which some of the earlier notes were kept and written occasions much trouble, and materially adds to the time and labor necessary to complete the reports.

This branch of the business of the office is progressing rapidly. The labor, however, of making up and examining the lists, is much greater than was at first anticipated. In accordance to the suggestions made in your communication of October 6, 1853, I have required of the "State agents" the following affidavit to the lists they file for examination and approval:

I, ———, being duly sworn, depose and say that I am an agent appointed by the governor of the State of Florida to select swamp and overflowed lands for said State under the provisions of the act of Congress of September 28, 1850. I further depose and say that I am well acquainted with the method of surveying and marking the public lands, and that I have made, in my own proper person, examination of the lands embraced in the foregoing list, viz: (here follows a description of the lands selected, with the legal subdivisions;) and that from said examination I have discovered and am well satisfied that every forty-acre lot, or its equivalent legal subdivision, *embraced in said list*, is the greater part swamp or swampy, or subject to such overflow as to render the same unfit for cultivation without artificial draining or embankment, or subject to periodical overflow during the *growing, growing or harvesting season*, and has been commonly so *flowed* at different periods for a number of years as to destroy or injure crops.

*Witness my hand this ——— day of ———, 185 .

_____,
State Agent.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this ——— day of ———, 185 .

Justice of the Peace.

All the selections embraced in the lists of the State agents, which could not be taken by the field-notes, entirely rest upon these affidavits, and are supported and approved by me, as being of the character contemplated by the act of Congress of 28th September, 1850, solely upon them. The affidavit accompanying each list is upon file in the office.

JOHN WESTCOTT,
Surveyor General

Hon. JOHN WILSON,
Commissioner General Land Office, Washington, D. C.

B.

Statement showing the condition of contracts for the survey of the public lands in the State of Florida, entered into since September 30, 1853, the date of the last annual report from this office.

Date of contract.	Name of contractor.	Time allowed.	Price per mile.	Miles returned.	Amount of contract.
				<i>Ms. chs. lks.</i>	
Oct. 10, 1853	William J. Reyes.....	Feb. 20, 1854	\$6		
Oct. 22, 1853	Benj. F. Whitner, jr..	Feb. 1, 1854	5 & 10	307 30 66	\$2, 048 73
Mar. 2, 1854	Asa A. Stewart.....	May 1, 1854	6	4 0 1	24 00
May 3, 1854	Samuel J. Perry.....	Nov. 1, 1854	5		2, 500 00
July 1, 1854	John Jackson.....	Nov. 1, 1854	5		2, 680 00
July 13, 1854	A. Johnson.....	Aug. 1, 1854	6		

JOHN WESTCOTT,
Surveyor General

SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE, St. Augustine, October 31, 1854.

C.

List of original township plats made since the date of last annual report, and copies sent to the General and district land offices, with date of transmission.

Range.	Township.	Land district.	No. of copies made				When sent to commissioner.	When sent to register.	Number of field-note books.
			Original.	Commissioner.	Register.	Total.			
8 west.....	7 and 8 south.....	Tallahassee.....	2	2	2	6	Sept. 16, 1853	Sept. 16, 1853	4
37 east.....	36 south.....	St. Augustine....	1	1	1	3	Sept. 27, 1853	Sept. 27, 1853	2
38 east.....	36 south.....	do.....	1	1	1	3	do.....	do.....	2
39 east.....	36 south.....	do.....	1	1	1	3	do.....	do.....	2
35 east.....	28 and 31 south	do.....	2	2	2	6	Nov. 21, 1853	Nov. 21, 1853	4
37 east.....	33 south.....	do.....	1	1	1	3	do.....	do.....	2
1 west.....	1 and 2 north.....	Tallahassee.....	2	2	2	6	Nov. 27, 1853	Nov. 27, 1853	4
27 east.....	28 and 29 south.....	St. Augustine....	2	2	2	6	Dec. 12, 1853	Dec. 12, 1853	4
28 east.....	28 and 29 south.....	do.....	2	2	2	6	do.....	do.....	4
29 east.....	29 south.....	do.....	1	1	1	3	do.....	do.....	2
34 east.....	28, 29, and 30 south.....	do.....	3	3	3	9	do.....	do.....	6
35 east.....	29 and 30 south.....	do.....	2	2	2	6	do.....	do.....	4
8 west.....	6 south.....	Tallahassee.....	1	1	1	3	Dec. 17, 1853	Dec. 17, 1853	2
9 west.....	8 south.....	do.....	1	1	1	3	do.....	do.....	2
36 east.....	34 south.....	St. Augustine....	1	1	1	3	Dec. 26, 1853	Dec. 26, 1853	2
37 east.....	34 and 35 south.....	do.....	2	2	2	6	do.....	do.....	4
38 east.....	35 south.....	do.....	1	1	1	3	do.....	do.....	2
39 east.....	35 south.....	do.....	1	1	1	3	do.....	do.....	2
40 east.....	35 and 36 south.....	do.....	2	2	2	6	do.....	do.....	4
37 east.....	37 and 38 south.....	do.....	2	2	2	6	Jan. 2, 1854	Jan. 2, 1854	4
38 east.....	37, 38, and 39 south.....	do.....	3	3	3	9	do.....	do.....	6
39 east.....	37, 38, and 39 south.....	do.....	3	3	3	9	do.....	do.....	6
40 east.....	37 south.....	do.....	1	1	1	3	do.....	do.....	2
41 east.....	39 south.....	do.....	1	1	1	3	do.....	do.....	2
31 east.....	28 and 29 south.....	do.....	2	2	2	6	Jan. 10, 1854	Jan. 10, 1854	4
32 east.....	30 south.....	do.....	1	1	1	3	do.....	do.....	2
33 east.....	30 south.....	do.....	1	1	1	3	do.....	do.....	2
31 west.....	1 and 2 north.....	Tallahassee.....	2	2	2	6	Feb. 1, 1854	Feb. 1, 1854	4
32 west.....	1, 2, and 3 north.....	do.....	3	3	3	9	do.....	do.....	6
33 west.....	2, 3, 4, 5, & 6 north.....	do.....	5	5	5	15	do.....	do.....	10
34 west.....	4, 5, and 6 north.....	do.....	3	3	3	9	do.....	do.....	6
31 west.....	1 south.....	do.....	1	1	1	3	do.....	do.....	2
32 west.....	1 south.....	do.....	1	1	1	3	do.....	do.....	2
20 east.....	17, 18, 19, 20, and 21 south.....	Newnansville....	5	5	5	15	Aug. 2, 1854	Aug. 2, 1854	10
21 east.....	17, 18, 19, & 20 south.....	do.....	4	4	4	12	do.....	do.....	8
22 east.....	19 and 20 south.....	do.....	2	2	2	6	do.....	do.....	4
17 east.....	4 south.....	do.....	1	1	1	3	Aug. 19, 1854	Aug. 19, 1854	2

108 diagrams have been made; 120 township plats are ready for examination.

SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,
St. Augustine, October 31, 1854.

JOHN WESTCOTT,
Surveyor General.

D.

Statement of contracts for surveying the public lands in the State of Florida, made by the former surveyor general, that were not closed at the date of the last annual report, and their present condition.

Name of contractor.	Date of contract.	Contract expires—	Price permile.	Miles returned.	Amount of contract.	Remarks.
H. Wells.....	Nov. 27, 1850	Sept. 30, 1851	\$6 00	<i>Mls. chs. lks.</i> 1,902 71 56	\$11,416 37	Work completed and forwarded to General Land Office.
A. M. Randolph...	Jan. 14, 1853	June 1, 1853	6 00	484 54 77	2,908 11	Part of office work not completed and approved.
M. A. Williams...	Mar. 4, 1853	Sept. 4, 1853	4 00	719 05 23	2,577 11	Work completed and sent to the General Land Office.
W. S. Harris.....	April 1, 1853	July 10, 1853	4 00	239 00 88	957 68	Do do.
C. F. Hopkins	April 27, 1853	Oct. 27, 1853	4 00	444 31 54	1,777 40	Do do.
H. H. Floyd	May 13, 1853	Nov. 15, 1853	4 00	696 46 65	2,786 24	Do do.

JOHN WESTCOTT, *Surveyor General.*

SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,
St. Augustine, October 31, 1854.

E.

Estimate of appropriation required for the office of the surveyor general of Florida, for the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1856.

Salary of surveyor general.....	\$2,000 00
For clerks in the surveyor general's office, as now by law allowed, for the regular and necessary business of the office.....	5,300 00
Contingent expenses.....	500 00
For preparing the unfinished records of land titles; for books, and for binding, &c.; and for collecting and recording in special books, in order to secure their preservation, all the field-notes of each private claim, and their immediate connective lines with the public surveys, to harmonize with the township plats, that the record may show a complete condensed history of each title from its inception with the foreign government to its location and final survey under our own.....	8,100 00
For the survey of the public lands.....	20,000 00
For the correction of erroneous locations of private claims, and their immediate connective lines with the public surveys, and for the location of private land claims under the act 28th June, 1848; and for correcting erroneous, imperfect, and defective lines and corners; for retracing old and obliterated lines; for detached and unfinished surveys; and for the execution of difficult surveys in consequence of swamps, lakes, &c.....	10,000 00

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR GENERAL OF WISCONSIN AND IOWA.

SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Dubuque, October 21, 1851.

SIR: In submitting my report for the year ending this day, I shall endeavor, in as brief and concise a manner as possible, to present for your consideration my action in conducting the affairs of the office placed under my superintendence, with the condition of the surveys as they at present exist in this surveying district. To the accompanying documents, numbered from 1 to 8 inclusive, as well as to a few remarks in connection therewith, your attention is respectfully directed.

No. 1. Map of Wisconsin and the Territory of Minnesota.

No. 2. Map of the State of Iowa.

No. 3. Statement of surveys contracted for out of the appropriations of July 21 and August 21, 1852, that were unfinished at the date of the last report.

No. 4. Statement of surveys contracted for out of the appropriation of 3d March, 1853, that were either unfinished or not contracted for at the date of last report.

No. 5. Estimate for appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1856.

No. 6. Summary of salary accounts for the fourth quarter of 1853, and first, second and third quarters of the year 1854.

No. 7. Summary of disbursements for the same period.

No. 8. Statement of surveys contracted for out of the appropriations of May 31 and August 4, 1854.

SURVEYS IN IOWA.

In conformity with your instructions and an arrangement with the surveyor general at St. Louis, for closing the surveys to the line established by decree of the Supreme Court of the United States as the boundary between Missouri and Iowa, an old and competent deputy was appointed to make the connections on both sides of the said line; and it was hoped that the notes thereof would have been returned in time to form a part of this report. From causes yet unexplained, that portion of the work pertaining to this office has not been received. It is probable, however, that Mr. Loughborough, who was kind enough to take the management of this business, may be able to give satisfactory reasons for the delay. With this exception, and three townships which have just been examined in the field, all that portion of the State south of the first correction line has been returned and forwarded.

I regret to state, that in one or two townships complaints have been made against the surveys.* I am perfectly satisfied, however, that no good cause can be established; but, in order that the work may be thoroughly tested, I have sent the United States inspector to the ground, and I will forward his report as soon as received.

Between the first and second correction parallels the surveys have been completed and returned, with the exception of four townships in range 36, which remain uncontracted for, and six townships in range

42, which were relinquished by Messrs. Hebard and Garside, and which I afterwards let to Alfred Hebard, esq. North of the second correction parallel, the surveys have been pushed the present season as vigorously as circumstances would admit of.

From the Mississippi river to the line dividing ranges 19 and 20, they are completed, with the exception of two townships on which the deputies are now engaged, and a district of seven townships now undergoing examination. East of the line dividing ranges 23 and 24, a district of seven townships has been let which, in all probability, will be completed the present fall, and will, with those already named above, close the surveys from the river to said line. West of it fifty-eight townships and fractional townships have been surveyed, and the plats made and forwarded to your office and the proper district land offices; the position of which will be shown by reference to the accompanying document No. 2.

In compliance with your request, and in order that the State of Iowa might avail herself of the benefits of the grant for the improvement of the Des Moines river, ninety-two townships in the neighborhood of said river have been let for subdivision; a portion of which have been received, platted and forwarded. A few townships are now in the office undergoing examination, and on the remainder the deputies are now actively engaged in the field.

Towards the west boundary of the State, and west of the line dividing ranges 40 and 41, during the past year sixty-one townships have been let for subdivision; twenty-six of which have been returned, examined and forwarded, whilst the survey of the remainder is now being actively prosecuted, and will, it is believed, be completed before the winter sets in.

Summary.—About twenty-two hundred miles of township lines have been established, examined in the field and office, and submitted. Contracts have been entered into for the subdivision of one hundred and sixty-two townships, of which thirty-six have been examined and platted, and copies of the same have been forwarded to your own and the proper district land offices; eleven are now undergoing examination, and the remainder are now being surveyed.

SURVEYS IN MINNESOTA.

The surveys in this Territory west of the river, notwithstanding the most unfavorable season, have been pushed with all the despatch the accuracy would permit. Indeed, so great have been the immigration and demand in the new Territory, that I was compelled to place in this portion of my district a greater force than was at first intended. Since the date of the last report, the whole of that portion of the Territory east of guide meridian No. 2, (or line between ranges 17 and 18,) has been run into townships, except that part between the second and third correction parallels, which could not be surveyed without conflicting with the Sioux Half-Breed reservation at the foot of Lake Pepin. There have also been subdivided east of guide meridian No. 2, ninety-seven townships; and of twenty-three others contracted for, I am advised that the greater portion of them are nearly ready to be placed in the office for examination.

The third guide meridian (or line dividing ranges 24 and 25) has been extended for twenty-one townships north, to its intersection with the Mississippi river; and the whole district east of said meridian, and west of that already mentioned, has been placed under contract to be run into townships.

Guide meridian No. 4 (or line between ranges 31 and 32) has also been placed under contract, for a distance of twenty-four miles north, as have also the first and second standard parallels, with all the intermediate township lines, the whole of which will be returned here in the course of the next three weeks. West of guide meridian No. 2, one hundred and thirteen townships have been contracted for subdivision, of which eight have been returned, examined, platted, and copies forwarded to their respective destinations. The eight townships situated in the military reserve at Fort Snelling, west of the river, but which count from the Wisconsin base and meridian, have also been received, examined, platted, and copies forwarded. East of the river, in the Stillwater district, I have only been able to have eight townships placed under contract for subdivision. This section, however, demands, and will the next season receive, a greater share of attention. Within the last few days I have been urgently solicited to have a large portion of it subdivided, but the season is so far advanced, and the means at my disposal so limited, that no deputy having any regard for his own interest, or the good of the public service, would at present attempt to survey in the neighborhood just mentioned. It may be proper to state, however, that the receiver has again, this day, brought the subject to my attention, and presented the claims of his district in so strong a manner that they cannot be overlooked. He states that in township No. 32, of range 24, an important manufacturing town has sprung up, near the mouth of Rum river, and that the very best pine lands are situated immediately north of the present surveys. As this is a matter that requires prompt attention, I shall, at the earliest day practicable, endeavor at least to meet the wishes of the lumber-men, whose business might possibly suffer by delay. To sum up what has been done in this Territory, I will add that the whole district of country west of the river, and east of guide meridian No. 3, (or line dividing ranges 24 and 25,) with the exception of the reservation already mentioned, has been contracted for survey into townships, and the greater portion of it completed. Guide meridian No. 4, with the two standard parallels, and two districts of township lines, are now being surveyed, (and are nearly completed,) and two hundred and thirty-three townships have been placed under contract for subdivision, four-fifths of which, at least, will be closed the present year.

You will thus perceive that, notwithstanding the utmost exertions have been used to accommodate the settlers, it has been impossible to gratify the wishes of all. There are several localities on the Blue Earth and Minnesota rivers which require consideration, and which I hope, if the season should continue favorable, to accommodate the present fall.

During the past year fifteen townships have been let for subdivision west of the fourth meridian, and nineteen townships east of it. Owing to causes entirely beyond human foresight and control, the district of township lines west of the meridian, extending to the fourth correction parallel, has not been completed. After enduring great hardships, and the loss of one of his party, the contractor has only been able to make a return of one tier across his district. He is now, however, again in the field, and, if the season should not close uncommonly early, the work will be speedily brought to a close. One cause of the small amount of work let in this portion of the district is the unwillingness of skilful and competent deputies to encounter the difficulties and liability to loss incident to the surveys of this region, at the present rate of compensation. It is very desirable that the fourth correction parallel, east of the fourth meridian, should be extended to the boundary of Michigan, and particularly so that one district of township lines at least, and several of subdivision, west of said meridian, should be surveyed. But, as before remarked, it will be a difficult matter to procure deputies skilled in the use of the solar compass, which alone can be employed in this heavily-timbered region. The country is equally as difficult to be surveyed as the upper part of Michigan, and the rate of compensation should evidently be greater than it is at present; and I think this view of the matter will not materially differ from your own, for it has been but a short time since Congress made an appropriation for extra compensation to Messrs. Stuntz and Norris, the deputies who executed a district each on the lake in 1852. That the necessity for the extension of the surveys in the neighborhood mentioned is apparent, I have not the least doubt. Its character and prospects have heretofore been fully described, and I will only add that a flourishing village has been laid out at the mouth of the St. Louis river, and several valuable mills have been erected within the last few months.

SWAMP LANDS.

It is with much pleasure that I am enabled to state that this business, so far as it depends on this office, has been very nearly brought up. At the date of my last report but little, if anything, had been accomplished, and neither a proper understanding nor concert of action between the State authorities and myself had been agreed upon. After considerable delay, and some correspondence, it was understood that the authorities of the State of Wisconsin were willing to accept the selections made from the plats, field-notes, and other evidence on file in this office; when a re-examination of the lists already made was at once entered into, new lists were constructed, properly authenticated, and furnished yourself and the proper district land offices. As soon as the surveys of the present year are returned, these selections will be brought up with as little delay as practicable.

The State of Iowa having decided to make the selections through her own agent, and the secretary of said State having informed me that he was authorized to take charge of the business, I immediately

prepared the proper instructions and forwarded them to him, in order that his agents might at once be enabled to take the field. The returns of these agents, (in all thirty-eight counties) properly attested, as far as received, have been carefully examined and transcribed, and your own and the proper district land offices have each been furnished with a copy of the same.

OFFICE-WORK.

The original field-notes of thirty-six hundred and seven miles of township lines, and nineteen thousand and sixty-nine miles of subdivisions, have been received and thoroughly examined. This includes a number of miles of the traverse of meandered streams and lakes, which, as you are aware, is a work of great labor, and one which requires time and care in its execution. Three hundred and forty-three township plats have been constructed from the original field-notes, the areas of the fractions adjoining the north and west boundaries calculated, and all the necessary calculations on those traversed by meandered streams and lakes made: in addition, two copies of each have been made, one for your own and the other for the proper district land office, making a total of one thousand and twenty-nine plats. Forty-two diagrams representing the survey of township lines have been made, and numerous diagrams exhibiting the survey of islands, and other detached tracts, of which no account has been kept.

Original lists descriptive of the land and all the corners in two hundred and sixty-one townships have been prepared; also one copy of each, making a total of five hundred and twenty-two lists.

Three hundred and sixty-four diagrams for the guidance of deputy surveyors, and to accompany their instructions, have been constructed.

The original field-notes of three hundred and fifteen townships have been recorded, examined, and placed on file in this office.

Transcripts of the original field-notes of the above three hundred and fifteen townships have been made for preservation at the seat of government. Index diagrams to preface the records and transcripts of six hundred and thirty-two townships have been made. The examination of plats and field-notes, and the construction of lists of swamp land selections in the State of Wisconsin, and the examination and comparison of the lists of selections furnished by the agents of the State of Iowa, together with copies of the same made for your own and the respective district land offices, is a work which has largely engaged the time and attention of a portion of the force of the office.

The correspondence has greatly increased, and, with the accounts, is of itself sufficient to keep two persons constantly employed. The examination and platting of detached tracts, and surveys of islands, made at the expense of applicants, together with the issuing of instructions for the survey thereof, is a large item in the work performed, though at a cursory glance it would appear insignificant. The above, with a vast amount of miscellaneous work incident to an office of this kind, of which no account has or could very well be kept, has been found to keep myself, and the force allowed me, constantly

employed, on an average, at least twelve hours per day. In conclusion, I beg leave to remark that I have, without regard to working hours, endeavored faithfully to keep the office intrusted to my care in the best possible condition, and believe that on examination of its affairs at any moment it will prove satisfactory to the department.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WARNER LEWIS,

Surveyor General.

No. 3.

Statement of surveys out of the appropriation of July 21 and August 31, 1852, that were not closed at the date of the last report.

Date of contract.	Style of work.	Name of contractor.	State or Territory.	Date of account, with plats transmitted to the General Land Office.	Total quantity.	Per-centage reserved for examination in the field.		Net amount of contract.	Remarks.
						Rate.	Amount.		
Mar. 2, 1854	Subdivisions ..	Alfred Hebard.....	Iowa .....	.....	Ms. chs. lks.	.....	.....	.....	Townships relinquished by Hebard and Garside, and afterwards let to Alfred Hebard.
Sept. 20, 1852	do.....	Joseph C. Jennings..	do.....	Oct. 8, 1853	180 17 28	\$3	\$14 86	\$480 73	Two townships not returned.
Oct. 16, 1852	do.....	Street & Warden.....	do.....	Oct. 8, 1853	421 61 00	3	34 79	1,125 05	Full return.
Aug. 4, 1852	do.....	H. C. Fellows.....	do.....	Oct. 27, 1853	136 56 49	5	29 39	587 83	Final.
Sept. 27, 1852	do.....	John S. Shiller.....	do.....	Nov. 2, 1853	542 23 54	3	44 73	1,491 30	Final.
Jan. 10, 1853	do.....	John Ryan.....	do.....	Nov. 5, 1853	447 02 95	5	96 11	1,826 14	Final.
Sept. 27, 1852	do.....	James Harlan.....	do.....	Feb. 25, 1854	119 33 01	3	9 85	318 53	Final.
Jan. 24, 1853	do.....	Hebard & Garside ..	do.....	Mar. 13, 1854	178 65 56	3	14 75	479 00	Balance relinquished.
Oct. 5, 1852	do.....	John W. Ross.....	do.....	May 3, 1854	120 05 08	3	9 90	320 27	Final.

SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE, *Dubuque*, October 21, 1854.

WARNER LEWIS,
Surveyor General.

No. 4.—*Statement of surveys contracted for out of the appropriation of the
of my last*

Date of contract.	Style of work.	Name of contractors.	State or Territory.
May 30, 1853	Town lines	Jesse T. Jarrett	West Minnesota
May 30, 1853	Subdivisions	do	do
June 2, 1853	Standard lines.....	E. S. Norris	do
June 2, 1853	do	do	do
June 2, 1853	do	do	do
June 4, 1853	Town lines	William A. Jones.....	do
June 4, 1853	do	do	do
June 6, 1853	do	John T. Everett	Iowa
June 9, 1853	do	John Ball	West Minnesota
June 11, 1853	Subdivisions	Hiram C. Fellows.....	Wisconsin and East Minnesota.
June 11, 1853	do	do	do
June 11, 1853	do	do	do
June 11, 1853	do	Wm. J. Anderson.....	Iowa
June 14, 1853	Town lines	John W. Ellis	do
June 14, 1853	do	do	do
June 14, 1853	do	do	do
June 15, 1853	Subdivisions	Nelson Fletcher	Wisconsin
June 18, 1853	do	W. T. Bradley	do
June 18, 1853	do	H. & J. T. Nowlin.....	Iowa
June 18, 1853	do	H. M. Shelby	do
June 23, 1853	do	F. S. Ellis	Wisconsin
June 28, 1853	do	Edgar Sears	do
June 28, 1853	do	James Withrow	do
June 28, 1853	do	do	do
July 4, 1853	do	Matthew Cresswell.....	Iowa
July 13, 1853	Town lines	William A. Jones.....	West Minnesota
July 14, 1853	Subdivisions	John Quigley	do
July 18, 1853	Town lines	Charles Lewis	Iowa
July 18, 1853	do	do	do
July 18, 1853	do	do	do
July 19, 1853	Subdivisions	John Parker	West Minnesota
July 25, 1853	do	Chas. McDonald.....	Iowa
July 28, 1853	do	John G. Clark	Wisconsin
July 28, 1853	do	do	do
Aug. 2, 1853	do	Wm. B. Yerby	West Minnesota
Aug. 2, 1853	do	do	do
Aug. 8, 1853	do	Nelson Fletcher	Wisconsin
Aug. 10, 1853	do	John Taylor	West Minnesota
Aug. 12, 1853	Town lines	John Ball	do
Aug. 12, 1853	do	do	do
Aug. 12, 1853	do	do	do
Aug. 15, 1853	Subdivisions	Levi P. Drake	Wisconsin
Aug. 17, 1853	Town lines	John T. Everett	Iowa
Aug. 20, 1853	Subdivisions	William A. Jones.....	West Minnesota
Aug. 22, 1853	do	J. O. Brunius & L. Brock- man.	Iowa
Aug. 27, 1853	do	C. G. & H. K. Rodolf....	Wisconsin
Aug. 31, 1853	do	M. Burke	Iowa

3d of March, 1853, that were either not closed or contracted for at the date report.

Date of account, with plats trans- mitted to the General Land Office.	Total quan- tity.	Reserved per- centage for examination in the field.		Net amount of contract.	Remarks.
		Rate.	Amount.		
	<i>Mls. chs. lks.</i>				
Feb. 27, 1854	109 46 44	\$5	\$27 39	\$520 51	Full return.
Feb. 27, 1854	444 23 90	5	111 07	2,110 42	Do.
Sept. 30, 1853	226 52 01	7	133 23	1,770 09	First return.
Jan. 18, 1854	70 28 65	7	96 00	1,275 55	Second return.
Feb. 17, 1854	109 43 64	7	69 63	925 22	Third return.
Sept. 30, 1853	243 53 75	6	87 72	1,374 31	First return.
Aug. 7, 1854	11 06 83	6	3 99	62 52	Final return.
Aug. 18, 1853	381 35 05	4	61 03	1,146 72	Full return.
Sept. 30, 1853	270 11 29	6	97 25	1,523 59	Do.
Nov. 2, 1853	119 49 43	5	26 31	500 00	First return.
Jan. 17, 1854	550 24 17	5	126 34	2,400 86	Second return.
June 29, 1854	69 72 54	5	15 37	292 21	Final return.
Nov. 19, 1853	355 60 30	3	29 34	948 98	Full return.
Nov. 3, 1853	127 72 64	4	20 46	491 17	First return.
Jan. 18, 1854	329 25 97	4	52 69	1,264 60	Second return.
Aug. 10, 1854	144 58 11	4	23 15	555 75	Final return.
Feb. 20, 1854	349 16 87	5	78 57	1,492 87	Full return: two townships re- linquished.
Feb. 28, 1854	360 07 26	5	81 02	1,539 38	Full return.
Dec. 9, 1853	595 68 20	3	49 15	1,589 44	Do.
Mar. 11, 1854	360 17 86	3	29 71	960 89	Do.
Feb. 15, 1854	512 63 76	5	115 37	2,192 21	Do.
Jan. 17, 1854	493 23 31	5	98 65	1,874 51	Do.
Mar. 13, 1854	240 77 69	5	54 21	1,030 16	Advance return.
Oct. 11, 1854	180 39 19	5	40 61	771 59	Final return.
June 26, 1854	358 48 36	3	29 58	956 58	Full return.
Jan. 18, 1854	158 13 05	6	56 93	892 04	First return.
Dec. 24, 1853	359 48 52	5	71 92	1,366 50	Full return.
Oct. 4, 1853	289 48 57	4	46 33	1,158 42	Advance return.
Nov. 7, 1853	290 43 21	4	46 68	1,115 68	Second return.
Mar. 3, 1854	177 37 01	4	28 39	681 46	Last return; deputy dead.
Feb. 20, 1854	360 22 12	3	72 05	1,369 05	Full return.
Mar. 10, 1854	181 29 48	3	14 96	483 80	Advance return; three town- ships remaining.
Nov. 19, 1854	300 03 39	5	63 75	1,211 43	Advance return.
Feb. 28, 1854	179 56 40	5	38 18	725 56	Final return.
April 4, 1854	360 07 65	5	72 01	1,368 37	Advance return.
Aug. 3, 1854	240 25 94	5	48 06	913 23	Final return.
Dec. 9, 1853	133 33 84	5	29 75	565 42	Full return.
Feb. 25, 1854	179 79 58	5	35 99	683 98	First return; one township be- ing surveyed, and two relin- quished.
Nov. 25, 1853	215 66 64	6	77 69	1,217 30	Final return made.
Jan. 18, 1854	36 03 32	6	12 97	203 27	Do.
Feb. 17, 1854	18 67 85	6	6 78	106 30	Do.
Mar. 23, 1854	471 78 74	5	106 19	2,017 73	Full return.
Nov. 4, 1853	271 06 95	4	43 37	1,040 97	Do.
Mar. 30, 1854	419 48 43	5	83 92	1,594 50	Do.
Feb. 20, 1854	380 28 74	3	31 37	1,014 61	First return; one township now being surveyed.
Mar. 11, 1854	240 10 17	5	51 02	969 52	Full return; balance relin- quished.
					Undergoing examination.

Date of contract.	Style of work.	Names of contractors.	State or Territory.
Sept. 7, 1853	Subdivisions	H. K. Avervill, jr.	Iowa
Sept. 14, 1853	do.	Oscar J. Wright.	Wisconsin
Sept. 21, 1853	do.	Samuel W. Durham.	Iowa
Sept. 26, 1853	do.	George A. Shannon.	do.
Sept. 27, 1853	Town lines	Henry Maddin.	Wisconsin
Oct. 3, 1853	Subdivisions	L. W. Carter.	West Minnesota
Oct. 3, 1853	do.	M. M. Hayden.	do.
Oct. 3, 1853	do.	do.	do.
Oct. 3, 1853	do.	do.	do.
Oct. 3, 1853	do.	Phipps & Fitzpatrick.	do.
Oct. 5, 1853	do.	John Fitzpatrick.	do.
Oct. 14, 1853	do.	David Ferguson.	Iowa
Oct. 19, 1853	do.	Henry Allen.	do.
Oct. 19, 1853	do.	do.	do.
Oct. 20, 1853	do.	William B. Yerby.	West Minnesota
Oct. 22, 1853	do.	J. L. Sharp.	Iowa
Oct. 23, 1853	Standard parallel	William A. Jones.	West Minnesota
Oct. 24, 1853	Subdivisions	Samuel W. Durham.	Iowa
Nov. 1, 1853	Town lines & standard parallel.	E. S. Norris.	West Minnesota
Nov. 8, 1853	Subdivisions	T. Simpson.	do.
Feb. 8, 1854	Island & town lines.	John Ryan.	Wisconsin
Feb. 27, 1854	Subdivisions	G. E. Stuntz.	do.
Mar. 8, 1854	do.	Joel Bailey.	West Minnesota
Mar. 17, 1854	do.	John K. Cook.	Iowa
Mar. 23, 1854	do.	S. L. Peck.	West Minnesota
April 5, 1854	do.	John W. Clark.	Iowa
April 12, 1854	Town lines	John W. Ellis.	do.
April 12, 1854	Subdivisions	Leech & Bell.	do.
April 17, 1854	do.	Wm. E. Dougherty.	Wisconsin
April 22, 1854	do.	Thos. McCulloch.	Iowa
April 27, 1854	do.	George Berry.	do.
April 28, 1854	do.	J. M. Cushing.	West Minnesota
May 3, 1854	do.	M. G. Karrick.	do.
May 5, 1854	Town lines	J. B. Reyman.	do.

SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Dubuque, October 21, 1854.

Continued.

Date of account, with plats trans- mitted to the General Land Office.	Total quan- tity.	Reserved per- centage, for examination in the field.		Net amount of contract.	Remarks.
		Rate.	Amount.		
	<i>Mts. chs. lks.</i>				
Feb. 15, 1854	321 24 38	\$3	\$26 50	\$357 08	One township remaining to be surveyed.
Feb. 25, 1854	357 10 61	5	80 35	1,526 74	Two townships relinquished.
Feb. 27, 1854	361 34 90	3	29 81	964 13	Full return.
Jan. 23, 1854	359 55 78	3	29 67	959 49	One township relinquished.
April 25, 1854	90 13 07	7	47 33	628 89	Advance return of one tier.
Mar. —, 1854	479 64 14	5	95 96	1,823 24	Full return.
Jan. 23, 1854	119 74 05	5	23 98	455 72	First return.
July 20, 1854	373 44 43	5	74 71	1,419 51	Second return.
Aug. 7, 1854	60 03 08	5	12 00	228 15	Final return.
Mar. 10, 1854	359 43 63	5	71 90	1,366 28	Advance return; two townships now being surveyed.
April 4, 1854	362 65 29	5	72 56	1,378 70	Full return.
Oct. 13, 1854	360 49 08	3	29 75	961 93	Do.
Mar. 13, 1854	120 49 24	3	9 94	321 75	First return.
Sept. 20, 1854	240 47 92	3	19 84	641 80	Final return.
Aug. 5, 1854	419 15 88	5	83 83	1,592 96	Full return.
Sept. 6, 1854	308 24 57	3	25 43	822 41	Do.
Mar. 3, 1854	41 79 00	7	20 57	273 34	Do.
Mar. 16, 1854	361 64 81	3	29 84	965 13	Do.
Mar. 3, 1854	131 66 01	7 & 6	52 90	780 07	Do.
April 18, 1854	649 47 10	5	129 91	2,468 44	Do.
July 10, 1854	145 14 69	5	43 55	827 55	Do.
July 17, 1854	62 01 80	5	13 95	265 15	Advance return; deputy now in the field.
Aug. 7, 1854	359 51 29	5	71 92	1,366 64	Full return.
Sept. 20, 1854	358 45 99	3	29 58	956 50	Do.
—, 1854	-----	-----	-----	-----	Deputy now in the field.
Oct. 13, 1854	403 02 46	3	33 24	1,075 09	Advance return; two townships being platted.
—, 1854	-----	-----	-----	-----	Work returned; will be forwarded in three days.
—, 1854	-----	-----	-----	-----	Full return; these are the townships relinquished by Rodolf.
Aug. 7, 1854	241 47 56	5	51 33	975 45	Returned to the office and now being platted.
—, 1854	-----	-----	-----	-----	In the field.
—, 1854	-----	-----	-----	-----	Work compl'd but not returned.
July 21, 1854	479 03 86	5	95 80	1,820 39	Full return.
Aug. 24, 1854	533 55 90	5	192 13	3,010 06	Do.

WARNER LEWIS,
Surveyor General.

No. 5.

Estimate of appropriations requisite for continuing the public surveys in the States of Wisconsin and Iowa, and the Territory of Minnesota, for the year ending June 30, 1856.

For surveys in the State of Iowa.....	\$8,000 00
For surveys in the State of Wisconsin.....	25,000 00
For surveys in the Territory of Minnesota.....	45,000 00
	78,000 00
For incidental expenses of the office.....	3,500 00
	81,500 00

WARNER LEWIS,
Surveyor General.

SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Dubuque, October 21, 1854.

Estimate of salary for surveyor general and regular clerks, and for compensation of piece-clerks, for the year ending June 30, 1856.

For salary of surveyor general and regular clerks, as per account of 10th of August, 1846.....	\$8,300 00
For compensation to piece-clerks.....	10,000 00
	18,300 00

WARNER LEWIS,
Surveyor General.

SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Dubuque, October 21, 1854.

No. 6.

The United States in account current with Warner Lewis, surveyor general of the United States for Wisconsin and Iowa.

SALARY ACCOUNT.

		DR.	
1853.			
Dec.	31	To amount paid surveyor general and clerks for the 4th quarter of 1853	\$4,626 82
		To this amount due the United States, carried to 1st quarter of 1854	21 86
			4,648 68
1854.			
March	31	To amount paid surveyor general and clerks for 1st quarter of 1854	5,216 36
June	30	To this amount due surveyor general from 1st quarter of 1854.....	619 50
		To amount paid surveyor general and clerks for 2d quarter of 1854..	4,319 22
		To amount due United States, and carried to 3d quarter of 1854..	316 28
			5,255 00
Sept.	30	To amount paid surveyor general and clerks for 3d quarter of 1854..	4,370 87
		To amount due United States, and carried to 4th quarter of 1854..	145 41
			4,516 28
		CR.	
1853.			
Oct.	1	By this amount due the United States from 3d quarter of 1853 ...	\$73 68
Dec.	29	By treasury draft No. 7018 on treasury warrant No. 6721	4,575 00
			4,648 68
1854.			
Jan.	1	By this amount due United States from 4th quarter of 1853.....	21 86
Mar.	27	By treasury draft No. 7484 on treasury Interior warrant No. 7187..	4,575 00
	31	By this amount due surveyor general, and charged to 2d quarter of 1854	619 50
			5,216 36
July	31	By treasury draft No. 7922 on treasury Interior warrant No. 7626..	5,255 00
July	1	By this amount due United States from 2d quarter of 1854	316 28
Sept.	13	By treasury draft No. 8385 on treasury Interior warrant No. 8086..	4,200 00
			4,516 28

WARNER LEWIS,
Surveyor General.

SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Dubuque, October 21, 1854.

*The United States in account current with Warner Lewis, surveyor general
of the United States for Wisconsin and Iowa.*

DISBURSEMENT ACCOUNT.

		Dr.	
1853.			
Dec.	31	To amount disbursed during 4th quarter of 1853.....	\$356 06
		To amount due United States, and carried to credit of 1st quarter of 1854.....	162 05
			518 11
1854.			
Mar.	31	To amount disbursed during 1st quarter of 1854.....	224 31
		To amount due United States, and carried to 2d quarter of 1854..	760 04
			984 35
June	30	To amount disbursed during 2d quarter of 1854.....	812 47
		To balance due United States, and carried to 3d quarter of 1854..	447 57
			1,260 04
Sept.	30	To amount disbursed during 3d quarter of 1854.....	620 97
		To this amount due United States, and carried to 4th quarter of 1854.....	8 97
			629 94
		Cr.	
1853.			
Oct.	1	By this amount due United States from 3d quarter of 1853.....	\$18 11
Dec.	10	By treasury draft No. 6021 on treasury Interior warrant No. 6626.	500 00
			518 11
1854.			
Jan.	1	By balance due United States from 4th quarter of 1853.....	162 05
Feb.	8	By amount received from Theodore Conkey, late deputy surveyor.	497 30
Mar.	27	By part of treasury draft No 7484 on treasury Interior warrant No. 7187.....	325 00
			984 35
Mar.	31	By this amount due United States from 1st quarter of 1854.....	760 04
June	10	By treasury draft No. 138, drawn by Moses Kelly, disbursing agent, in favor of Thos. S. Nairn, for	500 00
			1,260 04
July	1	By amount due United States from 2d quarter of 1854.....	447 57
Sept.	30	By Toppan, Carpenter & Co., (bill paid by General Land Office)..	182 37
			629 94

WARNER LEWIS, *Surveyor General.*

SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Dubuque, October 21, 1854.

No. 8.—Statement of surveys contracted for out of the appropriation of May 31 and August 4, 1854.

Date of contract.	Style of work.	Name of contractor.	State or Territory.	Date of account, with plats transmitted to the General Land Office.	Total.	Reserved per-centage for examination in the field.		Net amount of contract.
						Rate.	Amount.	
1854.					<i>Ms. cls. lks.</i>			
June 20	Town lines.....	John T. Everett.....	West Minnesota.....					
20	do.....	John Ball.....	do.....					
26	Base and town lines.....	E. S. Norris.....	do.....	Oct. 4, 1854	179 51 62	\$5	\$70 90	*\$1,048 73
26	Subdivisions.....	John D. Pennybacker.....	Iowa.....					
July 1	do.....	Edward Fitzpatrick.....	West Minnesota.....					
1	do.....	Wm. J. Anderson.....	do.....					
3	do.....	Hardin Nowlin.....	do.....					
6	do.....	Thomas Simpson.....	do.....	Oct. 11, 1854	479 26 77	5	95 86	†1,821 47
12	Town lines.....	John Ryan.....	do.....					
28	Subdivisions.....	D. Corbin.....	do.....					
Aug. 2	do.....	L. W. Carter.....	do.....					
10	do.....	E. S. Norris.....	do.....					
19	do.....	Theophilus Crawford.....	do.....					
23	do.....	Jesse T. Jarrett.....	Iowa.....					
23	do.....	James W. Woods.....	do.....					
23	do.....	R. O. C. Anderson.....	do.....					
26	do.....	John Haggard.....	do.....					
28	do.....	Wm. E. Daugherty.....	Wisconsin.....					
28	do.....	Joel Higgins.....	Iowa.....					
29	do.....	James McBride.....	Wisconsin.....					
30	do.....	Horatio Waldo.....	Iowa.....					
30	do.....	James Hanks.....	do.....					

* Advance. † Advance of eight towns.

Date of contract.	Style of work.	Name of contractor.	State or Territory.	Date of account, with plats transmitted to the General Land Office.	Total.	Reserved per-cent- age for examina- tion in the field.		Net amount of contract.
						Rate.	Amount.	
1854.					<i>Ms. chs. lks.</i>			
Sept. 1	Subdivisions.....	George Temple.....	Iowa.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
2	do.....	Henry Allen.....	do.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
4	do.....	James Withrow.....	Wisconsin.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
6	do.....	Waitman Trippett.....	Iowa.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
9	do.....	John O. Brunius.....	West Minnesota.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
11	do.....	Delos M. White.....	Wisconsin.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
12	do.....	Orson Lyon.....	Iowa.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
15	do.....	J. L. Prentice.....	Wisconsin.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
16	do.....	Joel Bailey.....	West Minnesota.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
16	do.....	H. Taylor.....	East Minnesota.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
19	do.....	W. W. Smith.....	Iowa.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE, Dubuque, October 21, 1854.

WARNER LEWIS, Surveyor General.

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR GENERAL OF CALIFORNIA.

U. S. SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,
San Francisco, Cal., September 28, 1854.

SIR: During the past season the surveys have been extended with as much rapidity as the public interest seemed to justify under the existing circumstances. The operations of the office, however, have been very considerably retarded, so far as a subdivision of townships into sections is concerned, owing to the unsettled condition of the private claims. This has been more particularly the case in the most desirable portions of the State, and where the lands are valuable.

As my views in relation to the survey of private claims have heretofore been fully expressed, it is not deemed necessary to repeat them at this time. I would, however, merely remark, that the experience of another year only serves to confirm my opinion as to the great importance of being enabled, at the earliest possible period, to separate the unclaimed public lands from those claimed under foreign titles.

The accompanying map will show the present condition of the surveys in this State, and also the work which, as at present advised, it is contemplated to have performed during the fiscal year.

Since the date of my last annual report, the following work has been done in the field, to wit:

Humboldt meridian.

In my last annual communication to your department, you were informed that a report was soon expected from the deputy surveyor, to whom had been confided the duty of selecting the initial point, near Humboldt bay, for the meridian and base lines, which were to govern the surveys in the northwest section of the State. That duty was performed, and those lines were in part run, and a copy of his report, with the field-notes and plat of the survey executed by him, were duly forwarded to your office.

These lines form the basis of the work which has been done in the region adjacent to Humboldt bay.

Surveying in this section of the State is rendered extremely difficult by the steep and rugged mountain-ranges, and the deep and precipitous ravines and gulches, covered, as they usually are, by a dense growth of redwood and pine timber.

I have been unable, even at the apparent high prices allowed by law, to let contracts in this region since Col. Washington returned his work, except in two instances, and these where the settlers more particularly interested agreed with the deputies to render them such assistance, over and above their contract price, as would equal an adequate compensation. These lands are, for the most part, very valuable on account of the forests of timber which is being manufactured into lumber for market.

Under these contracts the meridian line has been extended 30 miles

north of the initial point, the base line west, in part, to the Pacific ocean, and the exterior lines of some fifteen townships have been surveyed.

Mount Diablo meridian.

Township lines have been run through the following tracts, viz:

North of the base line, between the 3d and 4th standards, and extending from the meridian to the coast range; and also between the 4th and 5th standards, and extending from the coast range to the Sierra Nevada mountains.

South of the base and east of the meridian, and between the 1st and 3d standards, and extending to the coast range.

The 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th standards have been extended across the San Joaquin and Tulare Lake valleys, and the tract of country lying between the 3d and 8th standards has also been surveyed into townships, with a few exceptions.

San Bernardino meridian.

This meridian has been extended to the south line of the State.

The 2d, 3d, and 4th standards have been run from the meridian west to the Pacific ocean; the 3d standard has also been extended from the meridian east 90 miles, and a portion of the 4th standard established.

The exterior boundaries of townships have been run through a portion of the tract lying between the said 3d and 4th standards, and on the eastern extremity; and also through the tract lying west of the meridian, and between the 1st standard and the south line of the State, and extending to the ocean.

A connexion has been formed between the San Bernardino base line and the 8th standard south (Mount Diablo meridian) by direct and off-set lines through the mountain passes, and a small portion of the country intervening has been subdivided into townships.

Subdivision of townships into sections.

Thirty-seven townships have been subdivided into sections in the Sacramento valley, one hundred and eighty-two in the San Joaquin and Tulare Lake valleys, and four south of the San Bernardino base line and west of the meridian.

Contracts have been entered into, and the parties are now in the field, for the extension of the Mount Diablo meridian line north to the State line, provided it can be extended with accuracy. Also, for the extension of such portion of the standard and township lines bordering thereon as the nature of the country will permit. Also, for extending the 7th and 8th standard south, as far east as to intersect the San Bernardino meridian line extended, and the running of such township lines as may be found practicable between them. Also, for surveying into townships such portions of the tract of country lying between the 8th standard line south and the San Bernardino base line

as the face of the country will admit of being done with the requisite accuracy. Also, for subdividing into townships and sections such portions of the Tulare Lake valley lying between the 5th and 8th standards as have not yet been surveyed.

From the commencement of the field-operations in this State to the present time, surveys have been made, and the field-notes have been returned to this office, of the following work, a portion of which, from its recent return, has not been finally passed upon:

Base and meridian lines.....	601 miles.
Standard lines	2,136 "
Traverse lines	206 "
Township lines.....	6,431 "
Section lines.....	10,720 "
Making an aggregate of.....	20,094 "

Private land claims.

Upon the application of the parties interested, and at their expense for the field-work, preliminary or initiatory surveys have been made of forty-eight ranchos; and the requisite office-work has been performed. These surveys, although preliminary in their character, will, in most instances, answer the purpose of final ones when the claims shall have been adjudicated, and in every instance will afford material aid in passing upon and determining the questions of disputed boundaries.

On the 14th of July last I was compelled to call your attention to the fact that the field operations of one of my deputies had been forcibly obstructed by certain settlers, who conceived that their interests might be affected by his labor; and upon the trial in the United States district court here, it was decided that there was no existing law which punished such interference.

In this connexion it is deemed important to advise your department, that I have been recently informed that in some portions of the State other settlers have been engaged in destroying and obliterating posts and mounds erected as corners by the deputy surveyor.

By these means they effectually prevent any other person from acquiring a knowledge of the sectional designations of the lands in the neighborhood, thus rendering it indispensable to make resurveys before the requisite knowledge is attainable to those desirous of entering such lands.

The present and future effects of these two great evils are apparent; and in calling your attention to them, I do it with the hope and belief that if existing laws do not furnish the proper means to punish the offenders, you will recommend such further legislation as the importance of the cases demands.

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

JOHN C. HAYS,
U. S. Surveyor General, California.

Hon. JOHN WILSON,
Commissioner General Land Office, Washington, D. C.
Ex. Doc. 1—14

Estimate of the expenses incident to the survey of the public lands and private land claims in the State of California, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1856.

Salary of the surveyor general.....	\$4,500
Salary of draughtsmen and clerks in the office of the surveyor general.....	40,000
Rent of office, wages of messenger, purchase of instruments, fuel, &c., &c.....	18,000
For extra aid in transcribing field-notes of surveys for the purpose of preserving them at the seat of government....	10,000
For surveying public lands and private land claims, including office expenses incident to the survey of the claims, to be disbursed at the rates prescribed by law....	150,000

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN C. HAYS,

U. S. Surveyor General, California.

U. S. SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,
San Francisco, California, September 29, 1854.