

REPORT
OF
THE POSTMASTER GENERAL.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
18th November, 1826.

SIR : I have the honor to submit to you a statement of the operations of this Department, for the year ending the 1st July last.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,
JOHN McLEAN.

The PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
18th November, 1826.

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| Within the year ending on the 1st July, 1825, there was received for postage, the sum of | \$ 1,252,061 32 |
| The expenditures during that year, were | 1,206,584 42 |

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| Leaving a surplus of receipts of forty-five thousand four hundred and seventy-six dollars and ninety cents | 45,476 90 |
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| The receipts for the year ending on the 1st July last, were | \$1,388,416 82 |
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| For the same period, the expenditures amounted to | 1,309,316 21 |
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| Which leaves seventy-nine thousand one hundred dollars and sixty-one cents of receipts above the expenditures | 79,100 61 |
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A comparison of the above receipts, shows an increase of revenue, during the last year, above the preceding one, of one hundred and thirty-six thousand three hundred and fifty-five dollars and fifty cents.

From my report of last year, it appeared that the means of the Department, (including a reduction of

expenditure of forty-seven thousand eight hundred and twenty-one dollars and twelve cents.) for the year ending 1st July, 1826, exceeded those of the year ending 1st July, 1823

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| - | - | - | \$ 185,537 32 |
| To this may be added the receipts of the last year above those of the preceding | - | - | 136,355 50 |

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| Making three hundred and twenty-one thousand eight hundred and ninety-two dollars and eighty-two cents of revenue for the last year, above the receipts of the year ending 1st July, 1823 | - | - | 321,892 82 |
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This amount, it will be observed, includes no part of the old debt.

The increase of the revenue of this Department arises, in no inconsiderable degree, from the facilities which have lately been given on important routes, and the growing confidence of the public, in the safety and regularity of the mail.

Since the last annual statement, contracts have been made for an additional transportation of the mail in stages, two hundred and fifty-nine thousand three hundred and sixty four miles, and, on horseback, sixty-nine thousand one hundred and sixty miles, annually.

This transportation, when added to the increase of the two preceding years, will show an augmented conveyance of the mail, in comparison with the year 1823, of one million eight hundred and fifty-seven thousand three hundred and forty-five miles.

Seven hundred and fourteen Post Offices have been established within the past year; these, when added to those established in the two preceding years, make seventeen hundred and fifty-four.

A comparison of the above augmentation of revenue, transportation, and Post Offices, with former years, will show the rapid extension of the operations of this Department.

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| In 1801, the receipts for postage were | - | - | \$ 320,143 00 |
| The increased revenue of last year, over the year ending 1st July, 1823, as above stated | - | - | 321,892 82 |

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| Leaving fourteen hundred and forty-nine dollars and eighty-two cents more than the total revenue of 1801 | - | - | 1,449 82 |
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The augmented transportation of the mail since 1st July, 1823, is equal to its conveyance throughout the Union in 1800.

In 1806 there were but seventeen hundred and ten Post Offices; there are now six thousand two hundred and eighteen; seventeen hundred and fifty-four of which have been established since 1st July, 1823.

On the contracts which have been lately made for the South and Southwest, some reduction of expense has been effected, though great additional facilities have been given.

On the route by the way of Huntsville, Columbus, Jackson, and Natchez, to New Orleans, under the new contracts, the mail will be carried in covered carriages. Stages have been established to run three trips weekly, between Milledgeville, in Georgia, and Montgo-

mery, in Alabama, and thence to Blakely, when steamboats cannot ply to Montgomery.

From Blakely and Mobile to New Orleans, the mail will be conveyed three trips weekly, in steamboats. On this route the great mail to New Orleans will be transported in four days less time from Washington City, and all places North of it, than on the route by way of Natchez.

A new principle has been incorporated into the late contracts, which, it is believed, will produce great regularity in the conveyance of the mail.

Excuses for delays and total failures have always been heard, and when it appeared that the obstructions were such as could not be overcome, no penalties have been imposed. Under this practice, it has been found that carriers often endeavor to avoid the effects of their own negligence by statements which exempt their employers from fines. This presents a strong inducement for them to magnify difficulties and procure certificates from persons with whom they may have influence, corroborative of their own allegations. To remove this motive and induce the utmost exertion, by the late contracts, a penalty follows every failure, without regard to the cause producing it. As this penalty is increased by the addition of every seven minutes' delay, and as a failure to connect with a depending line, through any want of exertion, may forfeit the contract, no greater inducement can be offered to insure a punctual delivery of the mail.

On the 1st July, 1825, balances were due from contractors, Postmasters, and late Postmasters, amounting to - \$ 391,994 59

There was due to contractors, for services rendered prior to that time, which should be deducted, the sum of - - - - \$ 26,548 64

Amount of debts since ascertained to be had - - - - 27,814 24

Suits pending and judgments, amounting to - - - - 149,500 00

Estimated amount of balances composing a part of the debt above stated, which have been adjusted by credits 30,000 00

253,862 88

\$ 158,131 71

From this sum deduct the amount of the expenditures over the receipts for the year ending 1st July, 1824 - - - - -

12,587 35

\$ 145,744 36

Amount of receipts above the expenditures for the year ending 1st July, 1825 - - - -

45,476 90

Excess of receipts over expenditures for last year -

79,100 61

\$ 270,321 87

This sum is subject to the order of the Department.

As the means of the Department are ample to meet all its engagements, and any reasonable amount of additional expenditure which Congress may think proper to authorize, by the establishment of new routes, it is desirable that its contingent expenses and the salaries of its officers should be paid out of its own funds, and the Treasury be released from the usual appropriations for that purpose.

Fifty thousand dollars might be saved annually by the discontinuance of unproductive post routes.

Under the law passed at the last session of Congress, requiring the mail routes from Columbus, in Mississippi, to Doake's, and from Chatahoucha, in Georgia, to Line Creek, in Alabama, to be repaired, contracts have been made and the work commenced.

REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONER OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

GENERAL LAND OFFICE, 1st December, 1926.

Sir: Referring to the report made by me on the 15th of December, 1925, and then submitted to you, I have now the honor to state that the whole of the very heavy arrearages of the business of the office has been brought up; and that the current business of the office, in all its branches, has been brought up to the present time, so far as the returns have rendered it practicable; and I feel great satisfaction in adding, that, with few exceptions, the returns of the Registers and Receivers have been promptly and regularly made, and that in most of the cases where there has been delay in making their returns, satisfactory reasons have been assigned for such delay. The paper No. 1 exhibits the periods to which the quarterly accounts of the Receivers have been returned, the periods to which they have been adjusted; and the amounts in the hands of the Receivers at the dates of the accounts respectively. The paper No. 2 is a statement showing the cases where the returns of the Registers have been delayed, and the causes of such delay, so far as they are known to this office.

In respect to the Surveying Department, so far as it is connected with this office, I have the honor to state, that the returns of the Surveyor General, whose surveying district embraces the States of Ohio and Indiana, and the Territory of Michigan, are regularly and promptly made, and that there are no existing embarrassments in relation to the business of that office.

In the surveying district embracing the States of Illinois and Missouri, and the Territory of Arkansas, every possible exertion is made by the very able officer at the head of that Department, to bring up the very heavy arrearages which existed in that office previous to his appointment, and to execute the current business.

In the district embracing the States of Mississippi and Louisiana, great embarrassments exist in the Surveying Department, and particularly in relation to the surveying and preparing for patenting, the private claims in the State of Louisiana. Some of the causes of embarrassment can only be removed by the interposition of legislative regulations. On this subject I made a communication to the Chair-

man of the Land Committee of the House of Representatives during the last session of Congress: and without some further legal provisions, I have great doubts whether the present incumbent will be able to surmount the existing difficulties attending the execution of the surveys in that district.

In the surveying district which embraces the State of Alabama, the surveying has generally been executed with the exception of the surveying of the lands lying South of the 31st degree of latitude in that State. This particular tract of country formed a part of the surveying district embracing the States of Mississippi and Louisiana, but, by the Act of the 28th of February, 1824, it was attached to the surveying district of the State of Alabama. As, however, by the existing laws, the surveying of the private claims in this tract of country, which include a large portion of the best land in it, is subject to the direction of one of the principal Deputy Surveyors for the State of Louisiana, it has been deemed expedient to suspend the surveying generally, until the surveying of the private, as well as the public lands, shall be placed by legislative enactment under the entire control of the Surveyor for Alabama. A communication embracing this subject has been made to the Chairman of the Land Committee of the House of Representatives.

In the surveying district for the Territory of Florida, the surveying of the public lands has progressed with as much rapidity as was desirable. It is, however, indispensably necessary for the further due execution of the surveying business in that Territory, that legislative provision be made for the surveying of the private land claims in Florida. Had the bill in relation to this subject, which was reported to the House of Representatives at the last session of Congress, been acted upon, and passed, it would have enabled the Surveyor to have closed the surveys of the private and public lands in that Territory within a very short period of time.

The arrearages of the business of this office having been brought up, and all that portion of the business relating to military land claims of every description being very much diminished, it becomes my duty to state that the number of the Clerks in this office, may, with a due regard to the public interest, be diminished. Previous to the Act of the 20th of April 1818, the number of Clerks in this office had been increased, with a view to expedite the issuing of the military land patents to the soldiers of the late war. The Act referred to authorized the employment of twenty-three Clerks in this office, and fixed the compensation, which amounted to twenty-two thousand five hundred and fifty dollars, and regulated their salaries agreeably to the annexed schedule marked No. 3. But, as the duties assigned to, and required of the respective Clerks in this office, in no manner corresponded with the amount of the salaries which they respectively received, and as the Act of 1818 had fixed the salaries of the Clerks in this office in a ratio very disproportionate to the salaries of the Clerks in all the other Departments of the Government, its provisions have operated unequally and injuriously in relation to this office.

It is believed that seventeen competent Clerks, seven of those being good and efficient Book Keepers, would be adequate to execute the business assigned to this office. I therefore submit the paper marked No. 4. exhibiting a statement of the number of Clerks required in this office, the nature of their duties and their salaries, respectively, having reference to the salaries generally allowed in other offices, and would respectfully recommend that, from and after the 4th of March next, that part of the Act of the 20th of April 1818, which regulates the number and fixes the compensation of the Clerks in this office, be so amended as to regulate the number and fix the compensation of the same, in conformity to the statement exhibited in the paper now submitted.

I have the honor to be, with very great respect, your obedient servant.

GEO. GRAHAM.

HON. RICHARD RUSH,
Secretary of the Treasury.

EXHIBIT of the state of the Accounts of the Receivers of Public Moneys; showing the last Quarterly Return received and adjusted at the General Land Office; and showing, also, the balance exhibited by each Receiver in the last account rendered.

| LAND OFFICES. | Accounts received for quarter ending | Accounts adjusted for quarter ending | Amount subject to Treasury drafts as exhibited by the Receivers. | EXPLANATORY REMARKS. |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| Marietta | September 30, 1826 | September 30, 1826 | \$1,118 24 | |
| Zanesville | ditto | ditto | 1,001 64 | |
| Steubenville | ditto | ditto | 4,271 24 | |
| Chillicothe | ditto | ditto | 1,469 22 | |
| Cincinnati | ditto | ditto | | |
| Wooster | ditto | ditto | 662 84 | |
| Piqua | ditto | ditto | 859 74 | |
| Delaware | ditto | ditto | 269 21 | |
| Jeffersonville | ditto | ditto | 2,278 35 | |
| Vincennes | ditto | ditto | 14,632 19 | |
| Indianapolis | ditto | ditto | 1,105 82 | |
| Crawfordsville | ditto | ditto | 27,618 61 | \$ 11,000 of this sum were received in the month of September last. |
| Fort Wayne | ditto | ditto | 1,428 22 | |
| Kaskaskia | ditto | ditto | 2,119 66 | |
| Shawneetown | ditto | ditto | 2,019 46 | |
| Edwardsville | ditto | ditto | 1,015 04 | |
| Vandalia | ditto | ditto | 75 48 | |
| Palestine | ditto | ditto | 532 04 | |
| Springfield | ditto | ditto | 32,632 82 | This sum received at the public sale in September last. |
| Detroit | June 30, 1826 | June 30, 1826 | 51,491 82 | The Receiver's quarterly accounts for September last have been delayed in consequence of his absence for the purpose of settling his accounts at the Treasury, and depositing the money into Bank. It appears, from his monthly accounts for September, that there was then in hand \$ 3,527 35. |
| Monroe | September 30, 1826 | September 30, 1826 | 2,640 72 | |
| St. Louis | ditto | ditto | 1,736 56 | |
| Franklin | ditto | ditto | 32,358 39 | |
| Cape Girardeau | ditto | ditto | 3,075 57 | |
| Palmyra | ditto | ditto | 2,930 37 | |
| Lexington | September 30, 1825 | September 30, 1825 | 9,416 78 | No sales since that period; the gentleman appointed to the office of Receiver, having declined to act. |
| Bateville | September 30, 1826 | September 30, 1826 | 4,032 64 | |
| Little Rock | June 30, 1826 | June 30, 1826 | 1,274 55 | |
| Ouachita | September 30, 1826 | September 30, 1826 | 15,267 23 | Received principally in September last |
| Opelousas | June 30, 1826 | June 30, 1826 | 85 63 | |
| New Orleans | March 31, 1825 | March 31, 1825 | 1,600 82 | Receiver removed. No lands in market. |
| St. Helena Court House | | | | |
| Washington | September 30, 1826 | September 30, 1826 | 1,701 85 | |
| Augusta | ditto | ditto | 16 52 | |
| Choctaw District | ditto | ditto | 2,378 84 | |
| St. Stephen's | December 31, 1825 | December 31, 1825 | | From the monthly returns of the Receiver, for September last, it appears that there were then in his hands \$ 8,533 13. It is presumed that the quarterly accounts have been delayed in consequence of the absence of the Receiver. |
| Huntsville | September 30, 1826 | September 30, 1826 | 1,291 11 | The absence of the Receiver, and his indisposition, have delayed the rendering of his quarterly accounts. |
| Tuscaloosa | March 31, 1826 | March 31, 1826 | 2,623 37 | Balance due by the present Receiver, on the 31st March last, was \$ 13,427. The quarterly accounts have been delayed from the necessity of bringing up the books of his predecessor. In consequence of the absence of the Receiver, and indisposition of the Register, very little business has been done in this office since March last. |
| Cababa | December 31, 1824 | December 31, 1824 | | This is the balance found to be due on adjustment of the accounts of this office. The Receiver is dead |
| Sparta | June 30, 1826 | June 30, 1826 | 7,392 89 | |
| Tallahassee | September 30, 1826 | September 30, 1826 | 11,934 55 | |

No. 2.

A Statement exhibiting the Returns of the Registers of the Land Offices, which have been delayed, and the cause of such delay.

Lexington, Missouri.—Returns made to November, 1825. No Receiver has been in commission since that period, which circumstance has stopped the sales.

New Orleans, Louis.—Returns made to 31st March, 1826. The Receiver removed in consequence of absence.

Cahawba, Alabama.—Returns to June, 1826. The Register absent on account of his health.

Tuskaloosa, " Returns to June, 1826. Sickness of the officer has caused the delay.

No. 3.

Schedule of the number of Clerks in the General Land Office, and their salaries, respectively, as fixed by the act of the 20th April, 1818.

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| 1 Chief Clerk, | at | \$1,700 00 | per annum, | is | \$1,700 00 |
| 2 Clerks, | " | 1,400 00 | " " | " | 2,800 00 |
| 3 Clerks, | " | 1,150 00 | " " | " | 3,450 00 |
| 5 Clerks, | " | 1,000 00 | " " | " | 5,000 00 |
| 12 Clerks, | " | 800 00 | " " | " | 9 600 00 |
| | | | | | <hr/> |
| 23 | | | | | \$22,550 00 |
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No. 4.

Schedule of the number of Clerks and their salaries, respectively, as proposed by the Commissioner of the General Land Office, to be substituted in lieu of those authorised by the second section of the act of the 20th of April, 1818.

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| 1 Chief Clerk, | - | - | - | at \$1,700 | is \$1,700 |
| 7 Good and efficient Accountants and Book-keepers, | - | - | - | 1,150 | 8,050 |
| 1 Draughtsman, | - | - | - | 1,150 | 1,150 |
| 1 Clerk to superintend the private claims and keep the contingent account, | - | - | - | 1,150 | 1,150 |
| 1 Clerk to attend to Military Land Claims, | - | - | - | 1,150 | 1,150 |
| 6 Clerks for making out patents, recording, copying, and making indexes, | - | - | - | 1,000 | 6,000 |
| Additional allowance to the Clerk who keeps the account of the 3 per cent. fund, | - | - | - | | 250 |
| | | | | | <hr/> <hr/> |