

POSTMASTER GENERAL'S REPORT.



POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,

November 15th, 1827.

SIR:—The receipts of this Department for the year ending the 1st July last, amounted to - - - \$1,473,551 00
 During the same period, the expenditures were 1,373,239 00

Leaving one hundred thousand, three hundred and twelve dollars, surplus of receipts \$100,312 00

The receipts of the last year exceeded those of the four preceding years, the sums stated—viz:

1826,	- - -	\$85,134 18
1825,	- - -	221,489 68
1824,	- - -	304,352 09
1823,	. . .	<u>359,205 88</u>

If to the above sums there be added the amount of the reduction of expenditure, upon established routes, without lessening the public accommodation, and due allowance be made for increased services, at a rate of compensation below what had usually been paid, the condition of the Department will be found to have been improved, within four years, ending 1st July last, more than a million of dollars; and the last year, in comparison with the year preceding, 1st July, 1823, near half a million.

Within the last year an augmented transportation of the mail has been authorized, of four hundred and fifteen thousand two hundred and fourteen miles annually, in stages, and on horseback or in sulkies, five hundred thousand and thirty-two miles.

Under the contracts recently made, great additional facilities have been given, by accelerating the mail on leading routes, increasing the number of trips, and establishing lines which connect important districts of country. There are few towns or villages in the Union, which are not accommodated with mail stages.

The post offices have been increased to seven thousand.

In the last four years there has been added to the mail operations of the country, in revenue, transportation of the mail, and post offices, more than one-third. The means of the Department are now ample

to meet the reasonable wants of the country, and a vigilant administration of its affairs, for a few years to come, will place at the disposition of the Government, an annual surplus of more than half a million of dollars. This sum will be augmented, as facilities of mail intercourse are multiplied, and can be most advantageously applied, if deemed within the constitutional powers of Congress, in the establishment and repairs of mail roads.

By the last annual statement there was shown to be in deposit, and due from postmasters, including judgments obtained on old accounts, the sum of - - - - - \$270,321 87

To this sum may be added the surplus of last year, 100,312 00

\$370,633 87

The repairs lately authorized to be made on the mail roads from Columbus to Doaks, in the State of Mississippi, and from Fort Mitchel to Line Creek, in Alabama, are nearly completed, under contracts which require the work to be done in the best manner, and at a price that cannot fail to meet the public approbation.

I have the honor to be,
 With great respect,
 Your ob't. serv't.

JOHN McLEAN.

The PRESIDENT
Of the United States.

REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONER OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.



GENERAL LAND OFFICE,

23d Nov. 1827.

SIR:—In compliance with your request, I have the honor to submit the following statement relative to the laws passed at the last session of Congress: the superintendence of the execution of which has been placed under the immediate charge of this office.

On the 9th of April last, instructions were issued for carrying into effect the act passed on the 29th of January, 1827, relative to the location of two townships of land, for a seminary of learning, in Florida, and to complete the location of the grant to the Deaf and Dumb Asylum of Kentucky. The location of the lands, under this act, are in progress, but have not yet been completed.

On the 26th of February, 1827, instructions were issued from this office to the Surveyor of Public Lands in Florida, to carry into effect the act, passed on the 8th of February last, "to provide for the settlement of private land claims in East Florida, and for other purposes," so far as related to the surveying of the private claims. Under those instructions, some progress has been made, in surveying the private claims in West Florida, and it is expected by Col. Butler, that the survey of the whole of the private claims in West Florida will be completed in the course of the ensuing winter. It is doubtful how far the provisions of the act referred to, will be adequate to the completion of the private claims, in East Florida, within a reasonable period. The survey of the private claims in East Florida, will be necessarily suspended, until the report of the Commissioners, authorized by the act referred to, shall have been made and acted upon by Congress.

The act passed on the 22d of February, for the removal of the Land Office in the Choctaw District, has been carried into effect, by the removal of the office to Mount Salus, in July last.

The act passed on the 2d of March last, "supplementary to an act to perfect certain locations and sales of public lands, in Missouri," has been carried into effect, by issuing the patents on the locations therein referred to, so far as returns have been made to this office.

No measures have been taken by this office to carry into effect the several acts passed on the 2d of March last, granting certain lands to the State of Illinois, for the purpose of aiding in making a canal, and to the State of Indiana, for aiding in making a road and canal. The canals and road, therein referred to, not having been, as yet, located by the respective States.

Instructions were issued, on the 12th of April, to Mr. Tiffin, the Surveyor General, to carry into effect the act passed on the 2d of March last, authorizing the President to ascertain and designate the northern boundary line of the State of Indiana; and the return of the plat and survey of this line will probably be received at this office in the course of the ensuing month.

Under the provisions of the act passed on the 2d of March last, authorizing the sale of certain Moravian lands, in the State of Ohio, those lands have been proclaimed for sale.

On the 23d of March instructions were given to the Register and Receiver of the Land Office at St. Stephens, for carrying into effect the act passed on the 3d of that month, "supplementary to the several acts providing for the adjustment of land claims in the State of Alabama." Between one and two hundred claims have been filed under the provisions of this act, and I am advised by the Register and Receiver, that they will meet at Mobile, on the 3d Monday in December, for the purpose of deciding and reporting on those claims.

Under the provisions of "an act to grant a certain quantity of land to the State of Ohio, for the purpose of making a road from Columbus to Sandusky," a certain quantity of the public land has been reserved from sale, on each side of the road, as located by the Sandusky Turnpike Company; but as there is some difficulty, in designating the lands intended to be appropriated by the act, the selections have not yet been actually made.

The several private acts for the relief of individuals, passed at the last session of Congress, the execution of which requires the interposition of this office, have been executed, so far as the individuals interested have, as yet, claimed the benefits of said acts.

The act passed on the 4th of May, 1826, "making further provision for the extinguishment of the debt due to the United States, by the purchasers of public lands," having ceased to be in operation after the 4th of July last, by the limitation therein contained, I now submit the table marked A, which exhibits the results of the several operations of that act; from which it will appear that the amount of debt extinguished by it is \$1,971,068 49, exclusive of forfeitures; and that there remains a debt yet due from individuals to the Government, of \$4,305,365 28, including the amount forfeited on the lands which have been further credited for six years. The whole debt now due is payable on or before the 30th of June, 1829. The expediency of recommending to Congress the renewal of the provisions of the act of the 4th of May, 1826, is, therefore, respectfully submitted.

The paper marked B, is a synopsis of the public lands, brought down to the 31st of December, 1825. That marked C, exhibits the

operations in respect to the sale of, and the receipts on account of, the public lands, for the year 1826, and for the first six months of 1827. The paper marked D, exhibits the period to which the monthly returns of the Registers and Receivers have been made, and that to which the quarterly accounts of the Receivers have been returned to, and adjusted at, this Office, and the balances in the hands of the Receivers, as exhibited in their returns to the 30th of September last.

I have also the satisfaction to state, that the books of this Office, and the business of its various branches, are generally brought up, as nearly to the current period, as the returns and the nature of the business would admit.

The surveying of the public lands, in the several surveying districts, has progressed, during the present year, without any particular embarrassment; and the returns required to be made by the Surveyors to this Office have been generally received, with the exception of the surveying district south of Tennessee, embracing the States of Mississippi and Louisiana. On this subject, I take leave to refer to the report made to you from this Office, on the 1st of December, 1826, and printed with documents accompanying the President's Message to Congress, in December last.

All which is respectfully submitted.

GEO: GRAHAM.

The Hon. RICHARD RUSH,
Secretary of the Treasury.

A.

EXHIBIT of the operation of the Act of Congress, passed on the 4th May, 1826, entitled "An Act making further provision for the extinguishment of the debt due to the United States by the Purchasers of Public Lands."

b. 358-59

STATES.	LAND RELINQUISHED.		LAND COMPLETELY PAID FOR.							Aggregate amount of debt liquidated under the act.	Aggregate am't of balances due from individuals on account of public lands.
	Quantity.	Purchase Money.	Quantity.	Purchase Money.	Amount due and paid for by relinquishment, cash, and discount.	Am't paid by transfer from lands relinquished.	Amount paid in cash.	Amount of discounts of 3 1/4 per cent. allowed.	Amount paid on forfeited lands redeemed, including discounts.		
	Acres. hds.	Dolls. Cts.	Acres. hds.	Dolls. Cts.	Dolls. Cts.	Dolls. Cts.	Dolls. Cts.	Dolls. Cts.	Dolls. Cts.	Dolls. Cts.	Dolls. Cts.
Ohio - - -	38,465 75	81,596 56	227,706 05	456,219 49	274,129 74	22,623 80	157,159 60	94,346 33	1,629 15	334,731 64	385,443 49
Indiana - - -	98,131 31	198,109 67	105,556 44	218,369 33	142,582 84	55,202 61	54,614 08	32,766 15	- - -	285,489 90	419,385 75
Illinois - - -	65,269 27	131,744 51	31,147 43	64,023 84	35,544 08	29,290 34	3,904 94	2,348 80	- - -	137,998 25	194,849 39
Missouri - - -	29,815 82	71,242 51	37,443 49	88,677 59	58,296 98	20,492 64	23,627 95	14,176 39	3,715 29	112,762 14	109,166 42
Louisiana - - -	240 19	480 39	4,274 04	8,548 09	3,788 64	190 09	3,542 84	2,125 71	1,892 44	8,041 38	38,701 69
Mississippi - - -	11,481 98	22,964 03	67,348 13	134,696 29	85,894 84	21,145 02	40,469 18	24,220 64	607 14	88,320 99	438,781 11
Alabama - - -	209,683 50	914,820 15	146,353 29	480,400 95	318,143 33	243,657 52	46,554 77	27,931 04	2,889 70	992,195 66	2,692,362 63
Michigan Territory - - -	867 50	4,931 76	5,371 38	12,271 98	8,544 44	2,719 70	3,640 46	2,184 28	772 03	11,528 53	26,674 80
Aggregates	453,955 30	1,425,889 58	625,200 25	1,463,207 66	928,924 89	395,251 72	338,513 82	200,159 34	11,505 75	1,971,068 49	4,305,365 28

NOTE. The quantity and purchase money of the land relinquished in July, 1827, at Cahaba, Alabama, and in June and July, 1827, at Washington, Mississippi, not having been yet reported, are therefore not included in the foregoing Statement.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

GENERAL LAND OFFICE, November 23, 1827.

GEO. GRAHAM, Commissioner.

B.

Synopsis of the Public Lands within the present boundaries of the United States.

	Acres.
Quantity of land purchased by the United States,	258,377,667
Quantity of land within the present limits of the States and Territories, not yet ceded by the Indians, - - - - -	55,947,453
	<u>314,325,120</u>
Quantity of public land surveyed to 1st January, 1826, - - - - -	138,988,224
Quantity of public lands sold to 1st January, 1826, -	<u>19,239,412</u>
Amount paid by purchasers of public lands to 1st January, 1826, including interest paid, and forfeitures accrued at the several Land Offices,	\$31,345,928 73
Amount due by individuals to United States, 1st January, 1826, - - - - -	*7,955,831 03
Total amount of sales of public lands, including interest paid and forfeitures accrued - - - - -	\$39,301,799 76
Add sales to Ohio Company, to J. C. Symmes, also sales at New York and Pittsburg, - - - - -	1,050,080 43
	<u>Grand total, \$40,351,880 19</u>
Quantity of land sold at the United States' Land Offices, including lands sold to J. C. Symmes, to Ohio Company, and also sales at New York and Pittsburg, - - - - -	Acres. 19,239,412
Quantity of land appropriated for the support of schools and special donations to Colleges, - - -	7,708,066
Quantity of land appropriated as military bounties, to satisfy private claims, and including special donations, &c. - - - - -	21,156,889
Quantity of land remaining unsold on the 1st January, 1826, - - - - -	<u>210,273,300</u>
Making the total quantity of land purchased by the United States, on the 1st January, 1826, - - -	<u>258,377,667</u>

* The accounts from which this balance is formed, were rendered from the office at St. Louis only to the 31st December, 1824; from that at St. Stephens to 27th May, 1824; and from that at Cahaba to 31st December, 1821.

Table of Expenditures on account of the Public Lands of the United States:

Purchase of Louisiana, - - - -	\$15,000,000
Paid State of Georgia and Yazoo scrip, - - - -	6,800,000
Paid on account of Indian cessions, to 1st January, 1836, - - - -	3,392,494
Paid for surveying 138,988,224 acres of public lands, - - - -	2,164,368
Expenses incidental to the sale of 19,239,412 acres of public lands, - - - -	1,154,951
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Total actually paid, - - - -	27,911,813
Due on account of the Florida Loan, - - - -	5,000,000
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Grand total, including expenses of surveying and sale, - - - -	<u>\$32,911,813</u>
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Amount of duties received at the Custom House at New Orleans, to September, 1826, - - - -	\$15,568,734

The expense of selling 19,239,412 acres of public lands, including the expense of surveying the same, amounts to 3 6-10th per cent. on the total amount of sales.

Quantity of unceded lands lying north and west of the States and Territories within the limits of the United States, 750,000,000 acres.

C.

STATEMENT of Public Land sold, and of Moneys received in payment therefor, during the year 1826, and the first and second quarters of the year 1827—Showing also the Incidental Expenses of the Land Offices during the said periods, and the amount of payments made by Receivers into the Treasury.

2. 360-61

PERIODS.	Land sold.	Purchase money.	Amount received under the credit system.	Aggregate receipts.	Incidental expenses.	Payments made by Receivers into the Treasury.
	ACRES.	DOLLARS.	DOLLARS.	DOLLARS.	DOLLARS.	DOLLARS.
During the year 1826,	847,996 76	1,127,500 41	36,397 82	1,163,898 23	111,212 65	1,393,785 09
From 1st January to 30th June, 1827,	426,687 55	685,320 13	236,836 77	922,156 90	62,829 62	765,380 13
Total,	1,274,684 31	1,812,820 54	273,234 59	2,086,055 13	174,042 27	2,159,165 22

NOTE.—The column of “*incidental expenses*” in the foregoing Statement, is greatly increased in consequence of the operation of the act of 23d May, 1826, providing for the allowance to Registers and Receivers of the amount of clerk hire incurred in the execution of the laws for the relief of the purchasers of public lands, passed in the years 1821, '22 and '23, and allowing the one-half of one per cent. on the payments made by relinquishment and discounts, and also in consequence of allowances made to Receivers for depositing public moneys since the 20th April, 1818, in pursuance of the provisions of an act to that effect, passed on the 22d May, 1826.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
General Land Office. 23d Nov. 1827.

GEO. GRAHAM.

D.

EXHIBIT of the periods to which the Monthly Returns of the Registers and Receivers have been made, and the periods to which the Quarterly Accounts of the Receivers have been returned and adjusted at the General Land Office, and showing the balances in the hands of the Receivers, as exhibited in the returns to the 30th September, 1827, or by their last returns, previous thereto.

b. 362-63

LAND OFFICES.	Monthly returns of Registers; period to which rendered.	Monthly returns of Receivers; period to which rendered.	Quarterly returns of Receivers; period to which rendered.	Quarterly returns of Receivers; period to which adjusted.	Balance of cash in the hands of Receivers, as shown by their last accounts.	REMARKS.
Marietta	30th September, 1827,	30th September, 1827,	30th September, 1827,	30th September, 1827.	\$ 898 79	
Zanesville	do	do	30th June,	30th June.	None.	
Steubenville	do	do	30th September,	30th September.	1,863 85	
Chillicothe	do	do	do	do	597 13	
Cincinnati	do	do	do	do	None.	
Wooster	do	do	do	do	2,467 87	
Piqua	do	do	do	do	359 09	
Delaware	do	do	do	30th June,	3,213 84	
Jeffersonville	do	do	do	do	2,795 35	
Vincennes	do	do	30th June,	31st March,	14,852 52	
Indianapolis	do	do	30th September,	30th June,	1,145 89	
Crawfordsville	do	do	do	30th September.	7,491 74	
Fort Wayne	do	do	do	do	1,181 12	
Shawneetown	do	do	do	do	3,846 47	
Kaskaskia	do	do	do	do	2,096 29	
Edwardsville	do	do	30th June.*	30th June,	2,511 35	* The return from the Receiver, under the credit system, for the third quarter, 1827, is delayed, for causes fully explained by him. His return, under the cash system, for the same quarter, has been received.
Vandalia	do	do	30th September,	30th September.	395 30	
Palestine	do	do	do	do	1,302 42	
Springfield	do	do	do	do	3,793 95	
St. Louis	do	do	30th June,	30th June,	24,059 17	
Franklin	31st August,	do	30th September,	do	60,988 85	
Cape Girardeau	30th September,	do	do	30th September.	5,451 06	
Palmyra	do	do	do	do	15,069 74	
Lexington	do	do	do	do	1,391 01	
Little Rock	31st August,	31st August,	30th June,	30th June,	2,006 79	
Batesville	do	30th September,	30th September,	30th September,	5,528 09	
Osage	30th September,	do	do	do	465 09	
Opelousas	do	do	do	do	3,260 80	
New Orleans	do	do	do	30th June,	30,495 39	No sales during third quarter, 1827.
St. Helena C. H.	No sales.		16th February,			
Cahaba	30th September.	31st May,		16th February,	8,943 10	(See Note A.)
St. Stephen's	do	30th September,	30th September,	30th September,	259 54	(See Note B.)
Huntsville	do	do	do	do	526 46	
Tuscaloosa	do	do	do	do	None.	
Sparta	30th June,	do	do	30th June,	29,844 89	Register's returns for third quarter, 1827, not received
Washington	30th September,	do	31st March,	31st March,	278 29	(See note C.)
Augusta	do	do	30th September,	30th September,	54 48	
Choctaw District	do	do	do	do	2,486 51	
Detroit	do	do	do	do	7,438 74	
Monroe	do	do	do	do	1,091 70	
Tallahassee	do	do	do	do	219 26	
St. Augustine	No sales.		do			
					\$ 250,672 83	

CAHABA—Note A.—This is the balance in the hands of the present Receiver, on the 31st May, 1827. His quarterly accounts have not been rendered in consequence of the books of his predecessors not having been fully posted. The balance of cash ascertained to be due, by the late Receiver, on the 16th February, 1827, is \$35,205 14, of which \$27,445 64, were paid into the Treasury, during the 1st quarter, 1827. The Register's returns, under the credit system, for the month of July, 1827, have not yet been received.

ST. STEPHEN'S—Note B.—This is the balance in the hands of the present Receiver, on the 30th September, 1827. The quarterly accounts of his predecessor have not been yet received to a later period than the 31st March, 1827, when he acknowledges a balance of \$1,241 55.

WASHINGTON—Note C.—The late Receiver resigned on the 31st March, 1827. The present Receiver has rendered no quarterly accounts. The Register's returns of lands relinquished during June and July, 1827, under the credit system, have not yet been received.