

occur. I think it highly probable that it may become necessary to have some person qualified to attend to such claims.

In regard to the swamp and overflowed lands granted to this State by the act of Congress of the 28th September, 1850, the duty of designation in the first instance rests upon the Surveyor General of this State, who is now engaged in the performance of that duty, from the field notes of surveys in his office. When that duty has been performed and reported, it would become my duty to examine into its accuracy; and for that purpose, I have appointed two gentlemen of this State, of practical information in land surveys in this State, who will make personal examination, and report all lands to which the State may be entitled under the grant by Congress, not embraced in the report of the Surveyor General. When the report of the State agents is made, it may become important to have the benefit of experienced counsel on behalf of this State, and I shall be happy to avail the State of the benefit of your services; or if any thing should occur, wherein you could render service to the State in regard to the land claims, I shall be glad to have the benefit of your services on behalf of the State, and to allow you a reasonable compensation proportionate to the services rendered. Having no knowledge of the character of the services which you may be called on to render, I could form no idea of the compensation; but I am willing to say, for all useful and necessary services rendered, the compensation shall be as liberal as is usual in such cases.

With this understanding, I am willing to appoint you, and hereby appoint you land agent for the State of Florida, to attend to and protect her land claims, with full powers to interpose in all matters involving the interests of the said State in her public domain, and shall be glad to receive communications and advice, whenever you may deem it beneficial to the interest of the State.

I am, very respectfully, your most obedient,

THOMAS BROWN.

JOHN Y. BRYANT, Esq.

From John Y. Bryant to Governor Brown.

WASHINGTON CITY, May 10th 1852.

Sir:—Enclosed herewith, I transmit to you a list, exhibiting the result of the examination of the list of lands selected by the Surveyor General, in the Newnansville land district, and approved by him on the 11th December last. I have the honor to be very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,  
JOHN Y. BRYANT.

Governor THOMAS BROWN, Tallahassee, Florida.

From John Y. Bryant to Governor Brown.

WASHINGTON CITY, April 12th, 1852.

Sir:—I have the honor to report the examination of the lists of selections in the St. Augustine and Tallahassee districts of land se-

lected under the act of 28th September, 1850. These are the only two lists which have been posted as yet, and as the posting proceeds you shall in like manner be advised. The person selecting in the Tallahassee district, erroneously embraces the *sixteenth* sections, which are reserved from the operations of all other laws, being devoted to School purposes.

Enclosed are two lists, embracing those tracts selected in the above named land districts, which are rejected from the lists referred to, for the reasons indicated in the column of remarks.

I am very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
JOHN Y. BRYANT.

Governor THOMAS BROWN, Tallahassee, Florida.

John Wilson, Acting Commissioner, to Hon. E. C. Cabell.

GENERAL LAND OFFICE, }  
September 18th, 1852. }

Sir:—In accordance with your request I have the honor to state that the total area of Swamp and Overflowed Lands selected and reported to this office, by the Surveyor General of Florida, as enuring to that State under the Act of 28th September, 1850, is as follows:

In the Tallahassee District,	- - -	195,207 67-100 Acres.
In the Newnansville District,	- - -	146,097 31-100 "
In the St. Augustine District,	- - -	173,178 25-100 "

Total, - - - - - 514,483 23-100 Acres.

The true area may vary slightly from the above quantity, as the footing up was somewhat hastily done—but it is believed that the above statement is very nearly correct.

With great respect, your obedient servant,  
JOHN WILSON, Acting Commissioner.

Hon. E. C. CABELL, House of Representatives.

## REPORT OF THE REGISTER

Of Public Lands and Superintendent of Common Schools.

OFFICE OF THE REGISTER OF PUBLIC LANDS }  
FOR THE STATE OF FLORIDA, Nov. 10, 1852 }

To His Excellency, THOMAS BROWN,  
Governor of the State of Florida.

Sir:—In obedience to law, I have the honor to report to you and through you to the General Assembly, the conditions and transactions of this Office from 23d November, 1850, when I was qualified and entered on the discharge of its duties, to the end of the last fiscal year, to wit: the 31st October, 1852.

Of the five hundred thousand acres of land to which Florida be-

came entitled under the Act of 4th September, 1841, on her admission into the Union, for purposes of Internal Improvements, three hundred and twelve thousand eight hundred and thirty nine acres have been located and approved. Of the remaining one hundred and eighty-seven thousand one hundred and sixty acres, one hundred and eighty thousand two hundred and thirty-seven acres have been located by the State, but not yet approved by the United States; applications for approval being still pending before the proper Department at Washington. If all the applications now pending shall be approved, there will still be left for the State to locate, six thousand nine hundred and twenty-one acres. But it is probable, judging from the past, that so many of our applications will be rejected, that the State will yet have to locate about one hundred thousand acres, in which event, I shall cause the locations to be made in the region now occupied by the Indians, so soon as their removal is effected, as I do not believe that that amount of good vacant land can be found elsewhere in the State.

Between the 23d November, 1850, and the 31st October, 1852, I sold of lands belonging to the Internal Improvement Fund, forty-five thousand one hundred and seventy-one acres, for the sum of \$85,375 19-100. Eighteen thousand three hundred and seventy-eight acres of these were sold by pre-emption at an average of one dollar and fifty-one and a half cents per acre. The remaining twenty-six thousand seven hundred and ninety-three acres were sold at public auction, or at private entry after having been publicly offered, at an average price of two dollars and fourteen and two thirds cents per acre.

The general average of the whole sales is one dollar and eighty-nine cents per acre. Adding the 11,439 20 acres of this fund sold by my predecessor to the 45,171 60 sold by myself, makes the whole sales of lands belonging to this fund up to 31st October, 1852, amount to 56,610 80 acres.

During the months of April, May and June last, having previously given the notice required by law, I offered for sale at public auction, all the lands belonging to this fund, to which the title had been approved, lying in the Counties of Jefferson, Madison, Hamilton, Columbia, Alachua, Levy, Marion, Hernando and Hillsborough. The number of acres thus offered was about two hundred and twenty-six thousand five hundred and sixty. All these lands, except those which have been sold, now remain subject to private entry at the appraised prices. Under instructions from your Excellency, I offered none at a less price than the United States minimum, to wit: One dollar and twenty-five cents per acre, which seems to be contemplated by the Act of Congress granting these lands to the State. The same policy, under similar instructions, has been pursued in regard to the price of the Seminary and School Lands. Many of these lands will not, at present, command this price, and some of them perhaps never will; but as the country becomes settled and after the good lands have been generally entered and the resources of the country developed, many lands now regarded as valueless will come into market and

command the minimum without difficulty. Experience teaches this, and I have already, in several instances, sold large tracts of land at one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre which the appraising agents had reported to this office as utterly worthless. In regard to the Internal Improvement and Seminary lands, it is not to be presumed that faithful locating agents would have selected many not worth the United States minimum, when they had the whole State to select from; and in regard to the 16th sections, when they are not worth the price the United States puts on all its lands, I suggest that it would be a wiser policy, instead of selling them at a mere nominal value, to offer to surrender them to the United States and ask that good lands be substituted in their stead. And besides, if these lands should be offered at a mere nominal value, there is danger that they will be monopolized by speculators, who will afterwards hold them at exorbitant prices and thus retard the settlement of the country. The policy which I have endeavored to pursue in regard to all the State's lands has been that of offering them at such reasonable prices as to throw no obstacles in the way of persons wishing to buy them for purposes of settlement or cultivation, but at the same time, not to offer them at rates so reduced as to hold out very strong temptations to those wishing to buy for purposes of speculation merely.

On the 6th January, 1851, the General Assembly passed a law making the Treasurer the Receiver of all monies arising from sales thereafter to be made. This law has operated with precision and accuracy and has prevented almost even the possibility of fraud or mistake. But the General Assembly omitted to make provision for the appointment, by the Treasurer, of a deputy to attend the auction sales which are required by law to be holden in the several counties where the lands lie. In consequence of this omission, the Treasurer, under the sanction of the Executive, found it necessary for the public service, to assume the responsibility of appointing a deputy to attend the recent sales above mentioned. I respectfully suggest that this should be remedied. I have no suggestions to make in regard to the mode of selling lands. The present system operates as well perhaps as any that can be adopted. As yet, no mode has been prescribed by the General Assembly as to the authentication of deeds made by the Register. I suggest whether it would not be well to authorize that officer to keep a seal with the name of the State and office or some other suitable inscription upon it, and make that seal entitle the Register's deeds to record in any county in the State. This would in many instances save trouble and inconvenience to purchasers residing at a distance from the Capitol, to whom deeds are remitted by mail.

In consequence of the law making the Treasurer the Receiver, the Register has received no monies for lands sold since its date.— The only money the Register has received belonging to this fund has been on account of bonds executed to my predecessor remaining in this office at the time of my qualification.

The following statistical report shows all the items of Receipt and Expenditure of the Internal Improvement Fund between the 23rd November, 1850, and the 31st October, 1852 :

RECEIVED.	
From Bonds, - - - - -	\$4,423 58
From Comptroller, - - - - -	13,017 68
Making total received from all sources,	<u>\$17,441 26</u>
EXPENDED.	
For one third cost of Letter Press, - - - - -	\$5 34
For Locating Land, - - - - -	1,372 52
For Stationery, - - - - -	31 87
For appraising Land, - - - - -	1,934 38
For Postages, - - - - -	19 71
*For Furniture for Office, and repairing same, - - - - -	14 50
For travelling expenses, including transportation of Register and Auctioneer, while engaged in selling Lands, - - - - -	480 00
For Printing and Advertising, - - - - -	715 50
For one-third Register's salary, - - - - -	744 44
For services of Auctioneer, - - - - -	100 00
Refunded to purchasers whose lands were rejected by the Commissioner of the General Land Office, after having been purchased from the State, - - - - -	157 35
Transferred to Seminary Fund, in part payment of loans made in compliance with Sec. 9, of the Act approved 6th January, 1847, - - - - -	13,017 68
Total expended and transferred, - - - - -	<u>\$18,593 29</u>
Making balance - - - - -	\$1,152 03
Bonds yet on hand for collection, amount to, - - - - -	\$1,285 33
The whole number of acres of land sold under Act of 6th January, 1851, is 45,171 60-100, for which there are Treasurer's receipts on file in this Office for \$48,883 15 in Bonds, and \$36,492 04-100 in cash—making in Bonds and cash, - - - - -	\$85,375 19

#### SEMINARY FUND.

The whole number of acres which I have sold between the dates aforesaid, is 3,083 95 for the sum of \$5,311 14, being an average price per acre of \$1 72. It appears from the reports of my predecessor, that 18,129 63 were sold by him, which, added to the above makes the whole number of acres sold, belonging to this Fund, up to the date aforesaid, 21,213 58.

The following statement shows the receipts and disbursements of said fund between said dates :

RECEIVED.	
From John Beard, late Register, - - - - -	\$28,167 04
From State of Florida, six per cent. interest on \$33,084 88, loaned her on 15th May, 1851, and paid as follows, to-wit: November 24, 1851, \$28,154 75; June 4, 1852, \$2,105 36, and June 28, 1852, \$4,075 15, - - - - -	1,250 38

\* Since the 31st October, 1852, the amount of this item has been refunded at the Treasury, (see Comptroller's warrant, No. 422,) and the Register, of course, charged with it on his books, in his accounts for the next fiscal year.

From Internal Improvement Fund, on loans made in 1849, - - - - -	13,017 68
From Lands sold between the date of 23d November, 1850, and 6th January, 1851, - - - - -	360 22
From Bonds made between the dates above, - - - - -	308 22
From Bonds made prior to November 23, 1850, - - - - -	5,963 25
Making total received from all sources,	<u>\$49,066 79</u>

#### EXPENDED.

For Postages, - - - - -	\$ 2 94
For one-third cost of Letter Press, - - - - -	5 33
For Furniture for office and repairing same, - - - - -	6 65
For appraising Land, - - - - -	111 90
For Stationery, - - - - -	34 74
For one-third Register's Salary, - - - - -	744 44
Turned over to Comptroller for investment, - - - - -	48,592 94
Total Expended and Turned over, - - - - -	<u>\$49,498 94</u>

Making Balance, - - - - -	\$432 15
Bonds yet on hand for collection amount to, - - - - -	\$3,648 92
For 559 75-100 Acres of Land sold between the dates of 23d November, 1850, and 6th January, 1851, amount received was \$360 22 in cash and \$970 78 in Bonds, making in Cash and Bonds, - - - - -	\$1,331 00
The whole number of acres of land sold under Act of 6th January, 1851, is 1,001 94 by pre-emption, and 1,522 26 at private sale, making 2,524 20, for which there are Treasurer's Receipts on file in this Office for \$1,218 20 in cash and \$2,761 94 in Bonds - - - - -	\$3,980 14

#### SCHOOL FUND.

The whole number of acres sold belonging to this fund between the dates aforesaid is 4,199 22, at an average price of \$1,76 $\frac{1}{2}$  cents, producing \$7,422 07. By adding the number of acres sold for this fund to the number of those sold for the Internal Improvement and Seminary Funds, it appears that the whole number of acres sold belonging to all the funds is 52,454 77, and by adding together the sums total for which they sold, it appears that the grand total is \$98,108 40.

The following statement shows the receipts and expenditures of the School Fund during the period aforesaid.

#### RECEIVED.

From Bonds made prior to 23d November, 1850, - - - - -	\$26,136 56
From Lands sold prior to passage of Act, of 6th Jan., 1851, and subsequent to 23d November, 1850, being cash payments, - - - - -	319 80
From Bonds made between 23d Nov., 1850, and 6th January, 1851, - - - - -	304 66
From U. S., being 5 per cent on government Lands sold within the State in 1850, - - - - -	1,215 77
From Premium on the U. S. draft, for \$1215 77 1 per cent., - - - - -	12 16
Making total received from all sources,	<u>\$27,988 95</u>

