

ty would be less likely to occur than with the Court as it is now constituted; and, indeed, if the additional Circuit is created, there would necessarily be in every case a preponderance of judicial authority on one side or the other, taking into consideration the opinion of the Judge below from whose decision an appeal has been taken.

I have the honor to be,
Very respectfully,
Yr. ob't. serv't.,
D. P. HOGUE.

REPORT OF REGISTER OF PUBLIC LANDS.

OFFICE OF REGISTER OF PUBLIC LANDS, }

TALLAHASSEE, Nov. 9TH. 1850. }

To His Excellency, Governor BROWN,

SIR: I have the honor to transmit to you, herewith, my annual report.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,

Your ob't. serv't.,

JOHN BEARD,

Register of Public Lands and State Superintendent of Schools.

Annual Report of Register of Public Lands, and State Superintendent of Schools.

The amount for which I was accountable to the State at the end of the fiscal year, Oct. 31st., 1849, \$21,578 32
Of which, \$16,534 31 belonged to the Seminary fund, and \$5,044 01 to the Common School fund.

The Seminary Fund.

1849.		
Oct. 31.	Balance due the fund,	\$16,534 31
	To receipts since for land,	10,749 46
	To premium on State Certificates,	242 77
		<hr/>
		\$27,526 54
	By disbursements,	430 25
		<hr/>
	Balance in cash and certificates,	\$27,096 29
	Due by bonds of individuals,	6,800 83
	" " Int'l. Impr't. fund,	13,057 32
		<hr/>
	Total,	\$46,954 44

Common School Fund.

Balance on hand 31st Oct. 1849,	\$ 5,044 01
Receipts since " "	27,356 43
	<hr/>
Disbursements,	\$32,400 44
	1,928 39
	<hr/>
Balance in cash and State Certificates,	* \$30,472 05
Due by Notes,	43,890 84
	<hr/>
Total,	\$74,362 89
* Paid into Treasury,	\$29,947 86
Certificates on hand,	524 19
	<hr/>
	\$30,472 05

Internal Improvement Fund.

Hitherto the only sales of land belonging to this fund have been made under the pre-emption law; and as the amount thus received has been insufficient to pay for locating land, and other expenses proper to this fund, advances have been made to it, in pursuance of law, from the *Seminary Fund*.

The receipts during the fiscal year ending 31st Oct., 1850, on account of the Internal Improvement Fund, amount to \$3,550 29

The disbursements, 2,783 59

Balance paid to Seminary Fund, \$766 70

Due to Int. Impr't. Fund by Notes, \$5,487 05

Since my last annual report, 4,439.50 acres of land have been selected and approved for deficient 16th Sections, and eight Sections have been located for "fixing the seat of government."

During the past year a sale of 16th Sections was held at Santa Rosa County, in the West, to Columbia County, in the East, both inclusive.

The quantity of land sold was 32,103 26-100 acres, producing the sum of \$64,821 97, a result very satisfactory. But, unhappily, it cannot be expected that *any future* sale of the same quantity of School land will show a correspondent result. For many of the tracts sold were of a very superior quality, and so situated as to derive a factitious value from their locality. While, on the contrary, a very large portion of the lands unsold are both intrinsically worthless, and so situated as to preclude all hope of their becoming valuable within any reasonable time.

Preparatory to the sales of the School lands last fall, I had them examined and appraised, of course.

When Col. J. J. Pittman was examining the lands in Jackson

County, he found it impossible to ascertain the boundaries of many tracts lying on the North boundary of the State.

In his notes Col. Pittman says:

"The compass will not traverse *Ellicott's Mound line* which must have been established with a Theodolite upon a *sphere*: the compass *will* and *docs* traverse the *Section* lines, which were run upon a *plane*."

The difficulty arises from the fact that the *Mounds* are far apart, and in the intervals there are *no land marks*. It is important, to settlers on this line especially, that it should be speedily and distinctly defined.

During the year ending 31st Oct., 1850, I sold of Seminary land 3,163 acres, and of land selected for Internal Improvements 8,212 acres, yielding in the aggregate \$10,673.

The most of this land was sold under the pre-emption law of the last session, and the comparatively small average per acre, is to be attributed to the operation of the mode of classification prescribed by that law. It arbitrarily assumes that there are but five grades of land, the highest of which it rates at \$3 per acre, and the lowest at fifty cents. While land to be offered at public sale, and afterwards to be subject to entry, must have a minimum price affixed to each tract according to its supposed actual value. It follows, of course, that land appraised *for sale by auction* at \$10, may be taken *by pre-emption* at \$3 per acre. This discrimination is one of, at least, very doubtful policy.

The act of 1849, providing for the establishment of Common Schools, makes it the duty of the State Superintendent to suggest "plans for the management and improvement of the Common School Fund, and for ameliorating the condition of the Schools."

In regard to the improvement (augmentation?) of the fund, I must confess my inability to suggest any plan besides the one which I have heretofore proposed—namely, the exchange of worthless land for that which is of some value, or obtaining additional grants.

I think, however, that the law respecting the *investment* of the *fund* is *too restrictive*. It limits the power of the Governor and Comptroller to investing in Florida State stocks and United States' stocks.

This State has no stocks, and those of the United States, paying at most only six per cent., range so high that it has been considered inexpedient to purchase them.

The stocks of several of the States pay a better interest, and are quite as safe, as those of the United States. Advantageous investments could also be made, occasionally, to Counties, for public improvements. And well-secured, productive loans might be made to individuals; but to this mode of investment there are some grave objections.

As to plans "for ameliorating the condition of the Schools," it would be manifestly premature and idle to attempt this at present.

There must be something in existence to act on, before anything can be predicated of it by way either of approval or censure.

It is true, we have a theoretical, a paper, system, devised with much care. Successive Assemblies might at every session modify this system according to the prevalent sentiment of the times; but it may be questioned whether any practical good would result from labors which might all be rendered nugatory by improvements subsequently introduced into the science and the art of teaching.

For if, in providing that only the *interest* on the fund should be distributed annually, the Assembly intended to postpone such distribution until it could be done impartially and beneficially, many years must elapse before this can be done.

But, much as this is to be lamented, it were wiser to pursue a course that would ultimately succeed, (a course which most of the old States have adopted), than to dole out the principal of the fund in such pitiful sums that the recipients could hardly perceive the advantage, while the fountain of future exuberance would soon be dried up.

The same remarks are applicable to the Seminary fund, which is accumulating from the sale of about 92,000 acres of land granted to this State for establishing one Seminary in West and one in East Florida.

The Seminaries and Common Schools should be made component parts of a system; and, if judiciously arranged and conducted, they may be made to diffuse among future generations inestimable benefits.

The Seminary fund will have accumulated sufficiently to justify its application to its peculiar purpose long before the Common Schools can be established consistently with what I suppose to be the intention of the Legislature.

So soon, then, as the former (the Seminary fund) shall have accumulated to such an amount that the interest arising will be sufficient to establish and endow two *Normal* Schools, let these be commenced.

I am satisfied that this is the most important step towards the erection of a good system. A prominent object of these should be the rearing of teachers for the *Common* Schools; and, after the latter go into operation they, in their turn, can be made to reciprocate the favors of the "Seminaries," by furnishing the latter with materials, selected from the most distinguished pupils in the Common Schools, to supply the increasing wants of the *system* with competent instructors.

I do not propose, for I do not profess to be competent, to lay down the details that may be proper for the completion of such a system as I have indicated. My sole purpose is, in a feeble attempt to discharge very imperfectly an official duty, to throw out such suggestions as may induce reflection, inquiry and investigation. As has been already remarked, years must elapse before the superstructure for a sys-

tem can be begun; in the mean time, whilst materials for the foundation are being collected, the restless, progressive spirit of the age may devise improvements which may render obsolete all the systems of the present day, as these have superseded others which were once esteemed perfect.

I will, however, make one more suggestion, and venture to recommend for consideration the propriety of deviating, in some measure, in our contemplated plan of education, from that which hitherto prevails in this country.

The tendency of what is called a liberal, or collegiate, education, is to excite in the hearts of the alumni, in too many cases, aspirations which can never be realized. The course of studies—the classics—the general tone of sentiment, and all the associations in these little republics of learning, tend to flatter youths with the delusive hope, that their after-life in the world is to be but a continuation of the same *equality of pursuits*, whilst they too seldom reflect that diversity of talents, or bent of mind, utterly precludes the reasonableness of such anticipations.

The consequence is that thousands, who are incompetent to succeed in the "learned professions," to indulge their early visions, or to gratify an injudicious parent, attempt and fail, and become at best drones in society; while, if prepared by a different mental and moral training, under associations more consistent with the future realities of life, many of these unhappy victims of early and habitual delusion, might, in suitable occupations, become useful men, if not illustrious benefactors.

Instead, then, of limiting instruction to the classics, and other customary studies, let it be extended to the rudiments of all the useful pursuits, and *these, too*, be associated in the minds of the young with future respectability, prosperity and distinction.

Such a system would do much to prevent individual suffering and crime, and consequently would tend to advance the welfare of communities.

The subject is, in my own opinion, pre-eminently worthy of the grave consideration of legislative bodies. The importance of diversified early instruction has long been understood and appreciated in older countries, especially in some of the German States, and has begun to be attended to in portions of our own country where the utility of subdividing mental as well as corporeal labor has been suggested by the necessities arising from a dense population.

Respectfully submitted,
JOHN BEARD,

Register of Public Lands and State Superintendent of Schools.
November 8th, 1850.

JOHN BEARD, Register, in Account with the *Seminary Fund.*

1849.		DR.	
	To balance as per report of 31st Oct.,	\$16,534	31
	To cash rec'd for land sold since "	1,942	72
	To " " " previously,	8,806	74
	To " " premium on Certificates	242	77
		\$27,526	54
1850.			
Oct. 31.	To balance,	\$19,003	67
1850.		CR.	
	By cash refunded to W. J. Faircloth in pursuance of a resolution of Assembly,	\$	4 53
	By cash paid for Stationery		11 50
	" " Postage,		14 22
	By 1d annual salary,		400 00
	By State Certificates on hand,		8,082 62
	Balance,	19,003	67
		\$27,526	54

JOHN BEARD, Register, in Account with the *Common School Fund.*

1849.		DR.	
	To amt. due 31st Oct., 1849, as per report,	\$ 5,044	01
Nov. 14.	To cash rec'd for rents in Leon,	398	10
1850.			
Jan'y. 3.	To cash " " "	60	00
	To " " " Jefferson,	111	15
July 19.	To " rec'd from U. S. Treasurer, being 5 per cent. fund for 1849,	603	91
	To " premium on Certificates,	140	31
	To " for land during the year,	26,042	96
		\$32,400	44
1849.		CR.	
	By cash paid appraisers,	\$	806 25
	" " auctioneers,		42 85
	" " for advertising,		221 25
	" " for blanks,		11 00
1850.	" " for postage,		12 25
	" my travelling expenses, attending land sales in Dec. 1849, and Jan. 1850,		176 75
	" cash paid for desk, &c.,		12 00
	" " " Stationery,		21 28
	" " " Blocker for surveying,		21 00
		\$1,324	03

	Amount brought forward,	\$ 1,324 53
1850.	By cash paid H. Barnard for books,	6 00
	“ “ for locating land,	197 76
	“ 3d annual salary,	400 00
	“ cash paid State Treasurer,	29,947 86
	“ State Certificates on hand,	534 19
		<hr/>
		\$32,400 44

JOHN BEARD, Register, in Acct. with Internal Improvement Fund.
DR.

1850.		
Oct. 31.	To cash received for land sold during the fiscal year just ended,	\$2,844 77
	“ “ “ during the same period	
	in payment for land sold previously,	705 52
		<hr/>
		\$3,559 29

1850.		
Oct. 31.	To balance,	\$ 766 70

1849.		CR.
	By cash paid locating agents,	\$ 2,158 55
	“ “ “ appraisers,	140 00
1850.	“ “ “ for stationery,	11 50
April.	“ “ “ travelling expenses,	45 00
	“ “ “ postage,	28 54
	“ “ Register of Public Lands, } of	
	annual salary,	400 00
1850.		766 70
Oct. 31.	“ balance,	<hr/>
		\$3,550 29

REPORT OF THE QUARTER-MASTER GENERAL.

QUARTER-MASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE, }

TALLAHASSEE, Nov., 1850. }

SIR: I have the honor to submit to you my report as Quarter-Master General of the State, showing the number and kinds of arms, &c., under my charge and belonging to the State.

There is now on hand at the Armory Room 4 sets of 4-horse Artillery harness complete.

270 muskets with the requisite number of bayonets, belts, plates, cartridge-boxes, picks and brushes, screw-drivers, wipers, moulds, balls, screws, flints, caps, &c., complete.

74 Hall's Patent Rifles, with bayonets and appendages complete.

133 pair of pistols with holsters and all other appendages complete.