

APPENDIX.

No. I.]

DOCUMENTS

Accompanying the Governor's Message.

REPORT OF THE REGISTER

Of Public Lands and Superintendent of Common Schools.

STATE REGISTER'S OFFICE, }
NOVEMBER 1st, 1854. }

To His Excellency, JAMES E. BROOME,

Governor of Florida :

SIR :—As Register of Public Lands and Superintendent of Common Schools and Seminaries for the State, I have the honor to submit to your Excellency the following as my Biennial Report :

SEMINARY FUND.

From the 31st October, 1852, to 1st November, 1854, I have sold of lands belonging to this fund, 7569 81-100 acres at an average price of \$1 41-100 per acre, producing the sum of \$10,687 18-100, in cash and bonds, of which \$10,205 68-100 were received into this office, and \$481 50-100 into the Treasurer's Office. Add this number of acres to the 21,213 58-100 acres stated as having been sold at the date of my last report, and it appears that the whole number of acres sold belonging to this fund since the first establishment of this office, is 28,783 39-100, which, according to the previous reports of my predecessor and myself, have been sold at an average price of \$2 15-100 per acre, producing the sum of \$61,863 80-100 in cash and bonds. The following table shows the receipts and disbursements on account of this fund from October 31st, 1852, to November 1st, 1854 :

RECEIVED IN CASH.

| | |
|--|------------------|
| From Sales of Land, being cash payments..... | \$3,818 42 |
| “ Bonds given since 1st January 1853..... | 1,731 55 |
| “ Bonds given prior to “ “ “ | 1,921 52 |
| | <hr/> \$7,471 49 |

DISBURSED.

| | | |
|---|----------|------------|
| For Appraising..... | \$ 5 00 | |
| " Printing..... | 32 50 | |
| " $\frac{1}{2}$ binding books for office..... | 18 56 | |
| " Stationery..... | 11 57 | |
| " $\frac{1}{2}$ Register's salary..... | 916 62 | |
| " turned over to the Treasurer..... | 6,143 22 | |
| Balance to credit of account..... | 344 02 | |
| | | \$7,471 49 |

RECEIVED IN BONDS.

| | | |
|--|------------|--|
| From sale of lands, sold since January 1, 1853, to November 1, 1854..... | \$6,810 28 | |
| Deduct amount paid on said bonds, as above stated..... | 1,731 55 | |
| Balance of said bonds in hand..... | 5,078 83 | |
| Add amount of bonds given prior to January 1, 1853, still unpaid..... | 568 57 | |

Whole amount of unpaid bonds belonging to this fund, in this office..... \$5,647 30

The statement marked [A.] appended to this Report, shows the items for which the above amount was disbursed.

The whole of this Fund consisted, originally, of the four townships, or 92,160 acres of Land granted by the United States to the State of Florida, for the establishment of two Seminaries of Learning; one East and the other West of the Suwannee River. The Fund now consists of the proceeds of the 28,783 39-100 acres that have been sold as before stated, and the remaining 63,376 61-100 acres that remain to be sold. These have all been judiciously located by the State and approved by the proper Department of the General Government. The unsold Lands belonging to this Fund are generally of good quality, and if not forced too rapidly upon the market, ought to command an average price of at least \$2 00 per acre, free of the expenses incident to their sale. In this event this Fund will be worth in cash, when all its Lands shall have been disposed of, about \$200,000—a sum which will go far, if judiciously expended, towards building up two Institutions of Learning, which, I trust, will prove the pride, as well as the ornaments and blessings of our State.

No site has yet been selected for the location of the Seminary West of the Suwannee River. I am informed that the Commissioners appointed by your Excellency, under an act of the last General Assembly, will shortly convene for the discharge of their duty.

By an act of the last General Assembly, the Seminary to be located East of the Suwannee River, was fixed at the town of Ocala, in the County of Marion.

During the month of May last, I made an official visit to this Institution, and I am much gratified in being able to say that, though in its infancy, I found it in a flourishing condition, and giving promise of great future usefulness. I found about sixty students in attendance, and the Trustees, as well as the learned Faculty, Male and

Female, were united in an ardent desire to promote their education, and the general welfare of the Institution, by all the means at their command. My visit strongly impressed me with the hope, that the time is not far distant when the children of our State will be no longer under the necessity of going abroad in search of educational advantages, but that the period is near at hand when they will have at home, within our own borders, as ample opportunities for intellectual and moral culture as can be found elsewhere.

Appended to this Report, marked [B,] your Excellency will find the Report recently made to me by the Board of Education of the Ocala Seminary, in which will be found the opinions and views of that Board, as to the best means of promoting the welfare of the Institution. These views I commend to the consideration of your Excellency and the General Assembly.

SCHOOL FUND.

From the 31st October, 1852, to the 1st November, 1854, I have sold of Lands belonging to this Fund, 11,344 17-100 acres, at an average price of \$1 60-100 per acre, producing in cash and bonds \$18,112 57-100, of which \$1,631 30-100 were received in the Treasurer's office, and \$16,481 27-100 in this office. Add this number of acres to the 4,199 22-100 stated in my last Report as having been sold by me, and it appears that the whole number of acres sold, belonging to this Fund, since I took charge of this office on the 23d November, 1850, is 15,543 39-100 at an average price of \$1 64 $\frac{1}{2}$ per acre, producing the sum of \$25,534 64-100. The following table shows the receipts and disbursements of this office on account of said Fund from 31st October, 1852, to the 1st November, 1854:

RECEIVED IN CASH.

| | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| From sales of land, being cash payments..... | \$ 5 243 84 | |
| " United States Five per cent. Fund..... | 2,931 11 | |
| " Premium on Drafts for above per cent..... | 30 65 | |
| " Bonds given since January 1, 1853..... | 623 43 | |
| " Bonds given prior to " " "..... | 14,369 67 | |
| | | \$23,198 70 |

DISBURSED.

| | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| For Stationery..... | \$ 11 57 | |
| " $\frac{1}{2}$ cost binding books for office..... | 18 56 | |
| " Printing and Advertising..... | 142 25 | |
| " Locating, Appraising and Diagrams..... | 950 73 | |
| " Rescinded sales..... | 368 51 | |
| " Auctioneering..... | 38 00 | |
| " $\frac{1}{2}$ Register's Salary..... | 916 62 | |
| " Turned over to the Treasurer..... | 21,929 75 | |
| Balance to Dr. account—excess of disbursements above receipts for this fund..... | | 1,177 29 |
| | \$24,375 99 | \$24,375 99 |

RECEIVED IN BONDS.

| | | |
|---|----------|-------------|
| From sales of land between said dates..... | | \$11,237 43 |
| Deduct payments as aforesaid on the said bonds given as aforesaid..... | \$623 43 | |
| Amount of bonds returned on account of rescinded sale..... | 993 09 | 1,616 52 |
| Balance of bonds in this office belonging to this fund.. | | \$9,620 91 |
| Add amount of bonds given prior to January 1, 1853, still unpaid and remaining in this office.... | | 6,293 98 |
| Whole amount of bonds in this office still unpaid, belonging to this fund..... | | \$15,914 89 |

Appended to this Report find statement marked [C,] showing the items on account of which the above amount was disbursed.

In the month of May, last, having had them previously appraised and advertised as the law directs, I offered at public sale all the 16th sections lying in the Counties of Nassau, St. Johns, Duval, and Putnam; and all lying north of the township line No. 21, in the County of Orange. Many of these lands are chiefly valuable only for their timber, and it may be long before all of them will command the minimum of \$1 25-100 at which they were offered. In the month of March last, I offered the 16th Sections in Escambia County. The sales there were dull, but it is hoped that the contemplated Railroad improvements in that section will so increase the value of these lands as to make them command the minimum.

Since the date of my last Report I have caused to be located, and reported to the proper department at Washington for approval, 10,879 87-100 acres, to supply deficiencies in 16th Sections.

Congress has not yet, that I am aware, authorized the State to make selections to supply the deficiencies caused by a very large number of 16th Sections being covered by old grants. It was doubtless originally the intention of the Government to appropriate every 16th Section to School purposes. When this intention is defeated by the intervention of old Spanish or other grants, I presume that Congress, upon a proper application from our Representative and Senators, would allow us to supply such deficiencies by locations elsewhere. Perhaps a Resolution on this subject by the General Assembly would expedite the accomplishment of this desirable object.

COMMON SCHOOLS.

The following statement shows the number of children in each County between the ages of five and eighteen years, and the amount of money I have apportioned to each county, accruing from the interest of the School Fund:

The apportionment of Interest accruing on the School Fund from July 1, 1853, to July 1, 1854, among the several Counties in the State of Florida.

| NO. | COUNTIES. | No. of Children. | Rate. | Dollars. | Cents. | REMARKS. |
|---------------------|----------------|------------------|-------|----------|--------|------------------------|
| 1 | Escambia,.... | 670 | 30.35 | 203 | 34 | |
| 2 | Santa Rosa,... | 686 | 30.35 | 203 | 20 | |
| 3 | Walton,..... | 533 | 30.35 | 161 | 77 | |
| 4 | Washington,... | 478 | 30.35 | 145 | 07 | |
| 5 | Jackson,.... | 962 | 30.35 | 291 | 97 | |
| 6 | Holmes,.... | 414 | 30.35 | 125 | 64 | |
| 7 | Calhoun,.... | 250 | 30.35 | 75 | 87 | |
| 8 | Franklin,..... | 435 | 30.35 | 132 | 08 | |
| 9 | Gadsden,.... | 1802 | 30.35 | 546 | 91 | |
| 10 | Leon,..... | 1042 | 30.35 | 316 | 24 | |
| 11 | Wakulla,.... | 481 | 30.35 | 145 | 98 | |
| 12 | Jefferson,.... | 944 | 30.35 | 286 | 51 | |
| 13 | Madison,.... | 1166 | 30.35 | 353 | 88 | |
| 14 | Hamilton,... | 517 | 30.35 | 156 | 91 | |
| 15 | Columbia,.... | 600 | 30.35 | 182 | 11 | |
| 16 | Nassau,..... | 341 | 30.35 | 103 | 49 | |
| 17 | Duval,..... | 951 | 30.35 | 288 | 62 | |
| 18 | Alachua,.... | 900 | 30.35 | 273 | 15 | |
| 19 | Marion,.... | 646 | 30.35 | 196 | 06 | |
| 20 | Sumpter,.... | 233 | 30.35 | 70 | 71 | |
| 21 | St. Johns,... | 500 | 30.35 | 151 | 75 | |
| 22 | Putnam,.... | 233 | 30.35 | 70 | 72 | |
| 23 | Levy,..... | 131 | 30.35 | 39 | 75 | |
| 24 | Orange,.... | 114 | 30.35 | 34 | 59 | |
| 25 | Hernando,... | 269 | 30.35 | 81 | 64 | |
| 26 | Hillsborough, | 691 | 30.35 | 209 | 71 | |
| 27 | St. Lucie,... | 100 | 30.35 | 30 | 35 | |
| 28 | Dade,..... | | | | | |
| 29 | Monroe,..... | 488 | 30.35 | 148 | 10 | |
| Total No. Children, | | 16577 | | 5031 | 07 | Total School Interest. |

*In the cases of Counties that made "no report this year," the number of Children is taken from their report made to this office last year.

Owing, I suppose, to the small amount allotted to any one county, but few of them have as yet put our school system into practical operation. With the exception of the Counties of Monroe and Franklin, I have heard of none that have contributed anything from the county treasury for the augmentation of the School-money received from the State. I very much regret the apathy which has prevailed in the public mind on this all important subject. I cannot suggest any alteration of our statute which would render it more practical or better adapted to the condition of our people. A careful perusal of our school law, (approved January 1853,) must enable any board of County Commissioners to understand it, and if they have the means

and the will they can easily put it into operation. Hitherto, the Judges of Probate and county Commissioners have not, I fear, given to this subject the consideration it deserves, or else they have concluded that the means at their command are too small to make even a beginning with. Few persons anywhere, seem to have given the subject much attention. But from certain indications of the Newspaper press, that great luminary of a free country, I trust that a new flood of light is about to be shed on this subject, which will awaken the people to a sense of its importance. Certainly, under our free government nothing whatever can be of more vital importance, than the general education of the people, since upon their intelligence and virtue depends the very existence of our institutions.

At this period of the world, particularly, it is important that our children should be educated. Intelligence, like wealth, is a comparative thing. A man who would have passed as intelligent in the dark ages might be considered very stupid now, and when we consider the great attention that is being paid to education at this time throughout Christendom, we must feel that our children will be compelled to blush for our neglect of them, unless we afford them better means of instruction than we have hitherto done. Our posterity cannot reproach us with any more crying sin than that of having neglected their minds. The wealth we may bequeath our children in lands, slaves, or money, will be comparatively but a worthless boon, if it be not accompanied by the far richer legacy of intellectual treasures, and high moral cultivation. In a free country "Knowledge is Power," and I will add, where the child has been properly educated, knowledge is virtue and wealth also.

Remarks might be protracted on this subject to an almost unlimited extent, but doubtless, your Excellency and the General Assembly being, as deeply impressed with its importance as myself, will give it your most serious and anxious consideration.

INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT FUND.

From the 31st October, 1852, to the 1st November 1854, I have sold of lands belonging to this fund 74,908 89-100 acres, at an average price of \$1 72½ per acre, producing in cash and bonds \$130,765 74-100, of which \$4,840 26-100 were received in the Treasurer's Office, and \$125,925 48-100 in this office. Add this number of acres to the 56,610,80 stated as having been sold at the date of my last report, and it appears that 131,519 69-100 acres is the whole number belonging to this fund that have been sold since the first establishment of this office, producing in cash and bonds the sum of \$228,121 52-100, being an average price of \$1 73½ per acre.

The following table shows the receipts and disbursements on account of this fund from the 31st October, 1852, to November 1, 1854 :

RECEIVED IN CASH.

| | | |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| From sale of lands being cash payments..... | \$42,514 94 | |
| " Bonds given since January 1, 1853..... | 8,975 20 | |
| " Bonds given prior to " " "..... | 1,282 98 | \$52,773 12 |

DISBURSED.

| | | |
|---|-----------|-------------|
| For fixing and repairing office furniture..... | 10 00 | |
| " Auctioneering..... | 50 00 | |
| " ¼ cost binding books for office..... | 18 56 | |
| " Rescinded sales..... | 317 84 | |
| " Postage..... | 28 07 | |
| " Locating Lands..... | 1,045 21 | |
| " Appraising Lands..... | 347 50 | |
| " Printing and Advertising..... | 435 31 | |
| " Stationery..... | 63 33 | |
| " ¼ Register's salary..... | 916 76 | |
| " Turned over to Treasurer..... | 45,514 98 | |
| Balance to credit account unexpended on account of this fund..... | 4,025 56 | \$52,773 12 |

RECEIVED IN BONDS.

| | |
|---|-----------|
| From sales of land since January 1, 1854..... | 83,410 54 |
| Deduct amount paid on above bonds as aforesaid... | 8,975 20 |

Whole amount of unpaid bonds in this office belonging to this fund..... \$74,435 34

The statement hereto appended, marked [E,] shows the items on account of which the foregoing amounts were disbursed.

During the spring of 1853, I offered all the Lands belonging to this Fund lying in the counties of Jackson, Calhoun, Holmes, Washington and Walton. The unsold Lands remaining in these counties are generally not so good, but yet I have reason to believe, that the most, if not all of them, will before a great while, command the minimum of \$1 25-100, at which they were offered. I think it would be unwise at present to reduce said minimum either as to these Lands or those belonging to the Seminary Fund. The locating agents for the State, who are without exception men of character and intelligence, of course selected the best they could find, and it is not to be presumed that they located many worth less than this minimum.

My great aim in putting prices on these Lands, has been to strike the medium between such high prices on the one hand as will deter persons from purchasing who want the Lands for actual settlement and cultivation, and such low prices on the other hand as will induce persons to buy on speculation only.

Of the 500,000 acres of Land to which Florida became entitled under the act of Congress, of September 4th, 1841, on her admission into the Union, 312,839 acres have been located and approved. The remaining 187,161 acres have been located by the State, but have not yet been approved by the United States, though applica-

tions have long been pending before the proper department at Washington.

As I have before stated, there have been sold of Lands belonging to this Fund, 131,519 69-100 acres at an average price of \$1 73 $\frac{1}{2}$, producing the sum of \$228,121 52-100. If the remaining 368,480 31 100 acres shall command an average of \$2 00 per acre, which I think they ought to do free of expenses, then the whole cash value of this Fund, when all its Lands shall have been sold, will be \$965,082 14-100.

RECAPITULATION.

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Amount cash received on account Seminary fund..... | \$ 7,471 49 |
| " " " " " School fund..... | 23,198 70 |
| " " " " " Internal Improv. fund..... | 52,773 12 |
| Total amount cash on account all the funds..... | \$83,443 31 |
| DISBURSED. | |
| Cash expended on account Seminary fund..... | 7,127 47 |
| " " " " " School fund..... | 24,375 99 |
| " " " " " Internal Improv. fund..... | 48,747 56 |
| | \$80,251 02 |
| Balance between disbursements and receipts..... | \$3,192 29 |
| Balance to credit of cash account at the date of the last report—See Ledger..... | \$ 931 07 |
| Balance of cash on hand on the 1st November, 1854..... | 2,261 22 |
| | \$3,192 29 |

SWAMP LAND FUND.

The Agents for locating the Swamp Lands have as yet made no Report to this office. I have understood from them, unofficially, that the State will probably received from this source, about 8,000,000 of acres. I presume said agents will report this winter while the Legislature is in session. When the duty of selling these additional 8,000,000 of acres shall also be confided to this office, it will be absolutely essential to increase its operative force by the allowance of a Clerk, as its duties are already greater than can be conveniently discharged by one individual.

I have the honor to be,

Your Excellency's most

Obedient servant,

D. S. WALKER.

Register &c.

A.

Disbursements on account of Seminary Fund from October 31, 1852, to November, 1854.

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----|---|------------|
| 1852. | | | |
| Nov'r. | 9. | To cash paid $\frac{1}{2}$ Wm. Wilson & Co's account, Stationery..... | \$ 9 44 |
| | | | \$9 44 |
| 1853. | | | |
| Jan'y. | 1. | To cash paid $\frac{1}{4}$ 4th qr. Register's Salary, 1852, | 100 00 |
| Feb'y. | 7. | " " " paid over to Chas. H. Austin, Treas'r, | 791 49 |
| March | 7. | " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " | 1,263 17 |
| April | 1. | " " " " $\frac{1}{4}$ 1st qr. Register's Salary, 1853, | 116 66 |
| | 27. | " " " " $\frac{1}{4}$ Wm. Wilson & Co's account for Stationery,..... | 2 13 |
| | 28. | To cash paid, $\frac{1}{4}$ Geo. & J. Meginniss' account, binding books,..... | 18 56 |
| May | 12. | To cash paid Jos. Clisby, printing and adv'g, | 32 50 |
| June | 6. | " " " over to Chas. H. Austin, Treas'r, | 275 00 |
| July | 1. | " " " " $\frac{1}{4}$ 2d qr. Register's Salary, 1853, | 116 66 |
| Oct'r. | 1. | " " " " $\frac{1}{4}$ 3d qr. Register's Salary, 1853, | 116 66 |
| | 3. | " " " over to Chas. H. Austin, Treas'r, | 623 70 |
| Nov'r | 7. | " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " | 360 56 |
| Dec'r. | 5. | " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " | 381 47 |
| | | | \$4,198 56 |
| 1854. | | | |
| Jan'y. | 2. | To cash paid $\frac{1}{4}$ 4th qr. Register's Salary, 1853, | 116 66 |
| Feb'y. | 1. | " " " over to Chas. H. Austin, Treas'r, | 665 30 |
| March | 6. | " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " | 192 00 |
| | 20. | " " " " D. L. White, for appraising,.... | 5 00 |
| April | 1. | " " " " $\frac{1}{4}$ 1st qr. Register's Salary, 1854, | 116 66 |
| | 3. | " " " over to Chas. H. Austin, Treas'r, | 333 00 |
| May | 1. | " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " | 24 94 |
| June | 5. | " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " | 245 05 |
| July | 3. | " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " | 171 50 |
| | | " " " " $\frac{1}{4}$ 2d qr. Register's Salary, 1854, | 116 66 |
| August | 7. | " " " over to Chas. H. Austin, Treas'r, | 224 17 |
| Sept'r | 4. | " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " | 519 12 |
| Oct'r | 3. | " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " | 72 75 |
| | | " " " " $\frac{1}{4}$ 3d qr. Register's Salary, 1854, | 116 66 |
| | | | \$2,919 47 |
| Total amount Disbursements..... | | | \$7,127 47 |

C.

Disbursements on account of School Fund from October 31, 1852, to November 1, 1854.

| | | | |
|--------|-----|---|------------|
| 1852. | | | |
| Nov'r. | 9. | To cash paid $\frac{1}{4}$ Wm. Wilson & Co's account, Stationery..... | \$ 9 44 |
| Dec'r. | 20. | " " " over to Chas. H. Austin, Treas'r, | 1,700 00 |
| | | | \$1,709 44 |
| 1853. | | | |
| Jan'y. | 1. | To cash paid $\frac{1}{4}$ 4th qr. Register's Salary, 1852, | 100 00 |
| Feb'y. | 7. | " " " over to Chas. H. Austin, Treas'r, | 4,500 00 |

| | | | | |
|-------|-----|--------------|---------------------------------------|----------|
| " | 8. | To cash paid | Commercial Advertiser, adv'ing, | 22 00 |
| " | 18. | " " " | M. Nash, postage in full, | 3 70 |
| " | 26. | " " " | Pensacola Gazette for advert'ing, | 17 00 |
| Aug. | 1. | " " " | over to Chas. H. Austin, Treas'r, | 1,261 51 |
| Sept. | 5. | " " " | " " " " " " " " | 3,776 06 |
| Oct. | 1. | " " " | 1/4 3rd qr. Register's salary, 1853, | 116 68 |
| " | 3. | " " " | over to Chas. H. Austin, | 4,729 98 |
| " | 8. | " " " | M. Nash, postage acc't to 1st inst., | 6 83 |
| " | " | " " " | J. McDougal, acc't as per rec't., | 2 50 |
| " | 31. | " " " | H. Wells, balance acc't for locati'g, | 484 46 |
| Nov. | 7. | " " " | over to Chas. H. Austin, Treas'r, | 8,541 05 |
| Dec. | 5. | " " " | " " " " " " " " | 3,238 06 |

—\$33,657 31

| | | | | | |
|-------|-------|-----|--------------|---|----------|
| 1854. | Jan'y | 2. | To cash paid | 1/4 4th qr. Register's salary, 1853, \$ | 116 68 |
| | | 3. | " " " | over to Chas. H. Austin, Treas'r, | 1,118 98 |
| | | 9. | " " " | Jos. Clisby, printing, advertising, and binding, | 108 50 |
| | | 17. | " " " | M. Nash, postage account to date, | 4 81 |
| | | 20. | " " " | J. B. Allen, on account of rescind- ed purchase, May 26, 1852, Act Legislature, Dec. 29, 1852, | 48 12 |
| | Feb'y | 1. | " " " | over to Chas. H. Austin, Treas'r, | 1,230 00 |
| | | 6. | " " " | M. Nash, for postage stamps, | 1 00 |
| | | 7. | " " " | Jno. McDougal, account of 1853 and 1854 to this date, | 37 12 |
| | March | 1. | " " " | S. B. Todd, on account rescinded sale, | 33 16 |
| | | 6. | " " " | over to Chas. H. Austin, Treas'r, | 2,130 12 |
| | | 15. | " " " | W. H. Horton, on account rescind- ed sale, | 65 40 |
| | | 18. | " " " | N. A. Long, on account rescinded sale, | 95 94 |
| | April | 1. | " " " | 1/4 1st qr. Register's salary, 1854, | 116 68 |
| | | 3. | " " " | over to Chas. H. Austin, Treas'r, | 1,103 44 |
| | | 6. | " " " | M. Nash, postage acc't to date, | 2 55 |
| | | 22. | " " " | A. M. Randolph, for selecting land, S. B. Todd, balance due him on account of cancelled sale, see re- ceipt of date, | 300 00 |
| | | 26. | " " " | Woodruff & McNeil, acc't for ink, | 17 47 |
| | May | 1. | " " " | over to Chas. H. Austin, Treas'r, | 3 50 |
| | June | 5. | " " " | " " " " " " " " | 1,153 48 |
| | | 8. | " " " | " " " " " " " " | 2,001 37 |
| | | 17. | " " " | M. Nash, postage stamps, | 1 00 |
| | | 17. | " " " | G. T. Townsend, for chairs, | 4 50 |
| | July | 3. | " " " | 1/4 2nd qr. Register's salary, 1854, | 116 68 |
| | | 5. | " " " | over to Chas. H. Austin, Treas'r, | 919 94 |
| | | 5. | " " " | M. Nash, postage acc't to 3d inst., | 3 11 |
| | Aug. | 7. | " " " | over to Chas. H. Austin, Treas'r, | 1,065 83 |
| | Sept. | 4. | " " " | " " " " " " " " | 1,341 21 |
| | | 5. | " " " | Henry Cook, making curtains for office, | 75 |
| | Oct. | 3. | " " " | 1/4 3rd qr. Register's salary, 1854, | 116 68 |
| | | | " " " | over to Chas. H. Austin, Treas'r, | 1,421 40 |

—\$14,679 42

Total disbursements, 46,747 56

B.

REPORT OF BOARD OF EDUCATION E. F. S. S.

I herewith enclose, and transmit to you by mail, an Account Current with the East Florida State Seminary for the years 1853 and 1854, accompanied by an Address from the Board of Education, also my own Report. (I take occasion here to state that the Board of Visitors who were appointed and invited did not visit the Institution, consequently it loses the advantage of their reports.)

All of which is most respectfully submitted.
JOHN M. McINTOSH,
Judge of Probate, M. C. & ex-Officio Sec. B. E. E. F. S. S.

ADDRESS.

Ocala Fla., Nov. 6th, 1854.

Honorable Sir :—The board of Education for the East Florida State Seminary, in submitting their report to you, feel it a privilege, as well as a duty, to accompany that report with such opinions and suggestions as to them seem pertinent and legitimate, as coming from those whose duty it has been made to act as guardians over the beginning, the progress thus far, and the well being of this magnificent scheme of Education, in East Florida, by a wise and far seeing legislation, hoping if any stray thoughts worthy of treasuring up and presenting to the present Legislature, should occur in this address, you will take pleasure in clothing it in your own happy language, and made thus captivating, embody it in your own address to that august body.

As a supporter, a supervisor, and a dear lover of Education, in its inception, its progress, and its perfection, in all its efforts, however humble, or however magnificent and well matured, we can look to you confidently for sympathy, encouragement and support. You can appreciate the many difficulties and draw-backs any scheme of Education must encounter in a country just merging from a State of wilderness, where the people have met together to form society, and have come from various States, mostly strangers to each other, and having but little in common; where, too, other and more serious difficulties rise up in the path of all, where their means are necessarily exhausted in procuring homes, habitations, and the necessities of life—when a deep desire in many to Educate their children is almost crushed out, by the want of ability—where the population on which a school depends is scattered over a large extent of Territory, and but few are prepared to accommodate the willing and able with board; and you, with your practical good

sense, can see how such adverse circumstances must necessarily retard the progress of a State Seminary, if the trustees, imbued with a worthy state pride, should deem it proper to assemble, as a faculty, the best talent and practical ability, by the only possible means, the offering salaries that will command such talent and practical ability. And last of all, you can appreciate the embarrassments of this board in administering the affairs of this institution, under all these trials, and with no previous experience. The scheme as laid out by the act establishing this Seminary, and a similar one, west of the Suwannee, is a grand one—a scheme of which any State in the Union might be proud—a model for the world; and were the means commensurate with the plan, might be readily reduced to practice, and one that this board would feel forever honored in being the first entrusted with its execution.

The General Government has exhibited a parental care and praiseworthy munificence in bestowing upon the State so large a bounty for seminary purposes, and the State, taking into consideration its peculiar shape, has exercised a sound judgment and a wise policy in dividing that fund and creating two seminaries in place of one; and the programme of these Seminaries are the certain foot prints of a master mind. But the available means are inadequate to the proper beginning, and laying out of its practical application in a region so sparsely settled and so fettered with hardships, and scarcity of money. And yet the few that are here need this means of education, and the children of our State must not be allowed to grow up in even partial ignorance, nor be forced to seek the completion of their education in other latitudes until the accumulated fund shall have proved sufficient to begin the plan and carry it out in all its beneficial details. Better have only established one Seminary and that on a less costly plan. But who, being a Floridian, upon studying the geography of our State and reviewing the plan of our Seminaries, would consolidate or abate one jot or tittle of the mighty scheme?

There is a means in the power of the Legislature to remedy the defect, and to set the whole machinery to work in due time. A proper State pride, and a little nerve would speak the means into existence. Could ever a people be taxed for a holier purpose than for the education of their children? Even this is not indispensable.—The State is entitled, by donation, to a large amount of valuable land, partially submerged, capable of being cheaply reclaimed. A portion of this could not be more sensibly appropriated than by setting apart a sufficiency of it to endow these Seminaries liberally, and to supply the present need, a loan might be granted to the respective boards of education of sums sufficient to supply all the usual appendages of high Seminaries of learning; such as Philosophical, Chemical and Astronomical apparatus, Library, Globes, &c. These paraphernalia of colleges are indispensable as among the means of in-

ving such students as were in the main, contemplated to be educated in these Colleges or Seminaries.

As the State appropriations became funded and money realized, the principal might be restored, or if the State should not feel that liberality and pride which would prompt a donation, the loan might be granted, and a sufficiency of the interest withheld annually, to re-establish the principal in four or five years. When the Seminaries were once provided with all the faculties of imparting a liberal education, and the country had settled up and been relieved in a great measure of its embarrassments, then the Seminaries would not only be able to pay their own way, but be able to add something to the means necessary to carry out the entire plan of the wise originators of the scheme. Without some such timely aid, the Seminary in East Florida must retrograde in character, or suspend operations until the sum due it becomes adequate to its necessities. With these few suggestions, we trust our cause into your care and honorable keeping, and subscribe ourselves

Friends and obedient servants,
LEWIS C. GAINES, President,
WM. ROYALL, } Board of
W. S. HARRIS, } Education.
J. M. McINTOSH, }

To Honorable D. S. WALKER, State Superintendent of Common Schools, Tallahassee, Florida.

The Board of Education for the East Florida Seminary, employed for the year 1853,

As Principal, S. S. BURTON,
Male Assistant, Dr. J. F. MOWE.
Female Assistant, Miss LAURA CHAMBERLAIN.
Teacher of Music, Miss P. L. A. UNDERWOOD.

And considering it rather an experiment, thought it advisable to allow as salaries for said Teachers, the interest of the State Fund for one year together, with the tuition.

The Principal, Mr. S. S. Burton, failed to report in accordance with the instructions of the Board, the number of scholars attending the school, the amount of tuition, and the studies pursued in the Institution. It is consequently not in the power of the Board to state certainly and have to rely upon a verbal report of the Principal, that the number of scholars in attendance during the year was varying from sixty to ninety. This tuition amounted to \$1,400. The studies pursued were Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Natural Philosophy, English Grammar, Geography, Drawing, and Music, and a small class of beginners in Latin.

The school commenced well, but the Principal becoming unpopu-

which I hope will meet with your and its approval. The maps to accompany this report are not quite completed, but will be in readiness, and handed to you in person by me, by the 4th proximo.

I have no report to make on the Florida, Atlantic and Gulf Rail Road route, as I was informed by the President of said Company, (when I reported to him for duty,) that the company were not yet prepared to act on the matter, and requested that I would postpone making the reconnoissance for the present.

On the subject of the Geology of the State, I have made no report, from the fact that the General Assembly failed to specify any duties or make any appropriations to defray any expenses incurred in reference to the matter. Consequently nothing has been done by me, except to obtain specimens of soils and minerals from the various localities, (where marked changes were perceptible,) visited by me in the performance of the duties of Engineer.

I remain very respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,
F. L. DANCY, *State Engineer, &c.*

GENERAL REPORT.

OFFICE OF STATE ENGINEER, }
PALATKA, FLORIDA, November 1st, 1854. }

To His Excellency, JAMES E. BROOME,
Governor of Florida :

SIR:—In compliance with the Act of the General Assembly defining the duties of State Engineer, I have now the honor to Report my proceedings since my acceptance of said office on the 2d day of February, 1853.

Immediately on the receipt of my Commission and qualifying, I addressed a communication to the late Governor Brown, who then occupied the Gubernatorial chair, asking for instructions and for the means necessary to procure instruments to enable me to perform the duties assigned me by the General Assembly. In his reply, dated February 15th, 1853, he informed me, "That there had been no appropriation made by the General Assembly for the purchase of Instruments, and that he had no fund at his disposal that could be applied to said purpose; and moreover, that he had nothing to do with the State Engineer, other than to approve of certain acts." Under this state of the case, I determined to call together the Board of Internal Improvement, to consult with them in regard to the duties appertaining to the office; which was done by letter to each member of the Board on the 12th day of May, 1853, requiring them to meet at the town of Palatka on the 7th day of July, 1853. When the time arrived but one member, Mr. Paul McCormick, appeared, and after waiting for two days and finding no others were likely to attend, I adjourned over the meeting till further notice. As a very im-

portant portion of the duties assigned by the General Assembly to the State Engineer was, "that of examining and surveying the swamp and overflowed lands belonging to the State," I turned my attention to them, and with that view, addressed the Register of State Lands on the subject, who replied under date 16th April, 1853, "That he had neither lists nor diagrams of the swamp or overflowed lands, and that no return in any way had been made to his office." Having finally ascertained from the Comptroller that my draft on him for the purchase of Instruments would be accepted, and having procured them by the last of September, 1853, I determined on visiting the members of the Board of Internal Improvement in their respective districts; they with the State Engineer being a competent board to determine upon and recommend plans for the reclamation of swamp and overflowed lands, and plans for local works of Internal Improvement for their respective districts. In pursuance of this resolve, I held a conference individually with the members for the Eastern district, and appointed a day to meet them together, one of whom failed to attend on account of sickness. I then proceeded to the Middle district, and after consulting with the member from said district, the conclusion arrived at was—"that there was nothing on which they could act under the laws as then existing, and in the then situation of the swamp and overflowed lands." I then deemed it useless to proceed any further west and returned home. In the meantime, I had taken steps to procure the field notes from the Surveyor General's office at St. Augustine of such Swamp and overflowed lands as have been selected and approved by him, to enable the Internal Improvement Board and myself to act knowingly in relation to them, so far at least as those notes were to be relied on.

On the 10th January, 1854, the instructions from your office were received, requiring me to proceed to Tallahassee to consult with yourself and the President of the Pensacola and Georgia Railroad Company, with the view of making a reconnoissance of the country through which said Road was contemplated; more particularly with a view to its Eastern terminus. The result of said reconnoissance from the Apalachicola River to the waters emptying into the Atlantic is herewith communicated, marked [A.] In reference to the Eastern terminus, my views were communicated under date 31st March, ultimo.

Your instructions dated November 29th, 1853, "requiring me to examine and report on the practicability of connecting the St. Johns with Indian River by a navigable canal," were entered on as soon as my arrangements could be made, after completing the reconnoissance of the Pensacola and Georgia Railroad. Deeming it advisable to connect with this examination another ordered by Resolution of the last General Assembly, to-wit: "The examination and survey of the practicability of draining the St. Lucie Savannah," and the distance to the extreme point of these examinations being near two hundred

miles from the head of navigation on the St. Johns River, required more labor and expense in travelling the distance than in the actual work to be done. After reaching the scene of operations, owing to the unsettled state of the country, and the uncertainty of obtaining either hands or subsistence, it became necessary to take them from the settlements—there being over 100 miles, without roads or settlements. My Report on the Canal is herewith communicated, marked [B.] That on the drainage of the St. Lucie Savannah was transmitted on the first day of August, 1854.

The above comprises a brief summary of the service performed by me since entering on the duties of State Engineer.

Before closing this report, I feel it due to myself to state, that owing to the insufficiency of the laws passed by the last General Assembly, and to the further fact, that the office of State Engineer was created at least two years before there was any actual necessity for it, so far as the examination and survey of the swamp and overflowed lands of the State were concerned, as even up to the present time they are not in a situation such as to enable the Engineer and Board of Internal Improvement to act in reference to them. The time however, is now at hand when these lands will be fully under the State's control; when the duties of State Engineer will be very arduous, and his services all important, to protect the State from the artful schemes of interested parties, and from engaging in expensive and ultimately ruinous expenditures for works called improvements; which, when made, after incurring heavy expenses, will prove of little or no value. I doubt not, with judicious management, the fund ultimately to be derived from the swamp and overflowed lands that will enure to the State, will be a large one, but by no means what many enthusiasts may suppose, from the number of acres that will probably revert to the State. There will be portions, and large ones, of the overflowed lands, such for instance as the Bottoms or Prairies of the upper St. Johns, that will be immensely valuable at no distant day, as I am fully convinced that large portions of them may be reclaimed with a moderate outlay, by the enterprise and energy of private capitalists, should such a policy be adopted by the State, as to encourage capital to seek investments in that line. When once reclaimed for sugar, rice or corn, they will compare favorably with the best Mississippi bottoms. They are generally from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 feet above the ordinary level of the water in the river, covered with the maiden cane grass, from 5 to 10 feet in height, and sufficiently firm for stock to travel over them—of a dark vegetable loam, mixed with shell of various kinds, principally muscles and periwinkle, and in many places thousands of acres might be diked in by simply running three dams, one on the bank of the river, and two others back to high land—these dams are not required to be high, as the river seldom rises more than 3 to 5 feet.

There are doubtless similar Lands in other portions of the State that might be reclaimed with equal facility, and it will be the duty

of the members of the Internal Improvement Board to bring all such in their respective Districts to the notice of the Board, and then through the Engineer to that of the General Assembly, if of sufficient importance for its action.

I also feel it incumbent on me to say a few words in reference to a general or State system of Internal Improvements. In this connection, I deem it not only necessary that we should look to our own immediate convenience, but if compatible, that we should combine with it the accommodation of neighboring States, and the commerce and travel of the whole country, in order to render such a system profitable to the State, as also individual Stockholders. It is certain that there is no settled portion of this great republic so little known and so much abused and misunderstood, as our own State of Florida. And why is it? The answer is plain and simple. It is for the want of good roads, affording safe, certain and speedy means for the traveller to visit its various sections, which embrace every climate known to the Middle and Southern States of this Union, as also that of Cuba and the West Indies. Its productions are as various as its climate, from the most hardy plants to those confined peculiarly to a tropical climate. It is my opinion that these objects may be accomplished, and all portions of our State placed within a reasonable distance of Railroad or Steam Boat transportation, for a sum small in comparison to that of any State in the Union.

To accomplish this end, the first inquiry is, has the State of Florida any sea port or tributary of the Atlantic, to and from which foreign commerce can be carried on? To this, I answer in the affirmative. It has one, and but one. This is to be found on the east side of the Amelia River, and on the west side of Amelia Island. The outlet to the sea from which has, at low water, 18 feet on the Bar, and an average rise of tide of six feet, with thirty feet water up to the Bay in front of the Island, with a harbor completely land locked. I would therefore recommend a system of Railroads for the State to commence or have their termini at this point. 1st. A Road from this point, to terminate at one of the Cedar Keys. This would be mainly for the through travel from the North to California, and from the Gulf for the North, as also much of the Gulf commerce. Some forty-five miles of this Road can, without any loss of distance, be made common to two other Roads. The one to the west, to terminate at Pensacola, and the other to the South to terminate at Tampa Bay or Charlotte Harbor. These two Roads, as the necessities of the State required it, could be connected either by short branch railroads to the right and left of their respective routes, with all the important settlements and towns, both inland and on the Gulf, within distances varying from 5 to 20 miles. The western route would nearly equally divide the middle and western districts, and the southern route would divide nearly equally the peninsula between the Gulf and St. Johns river, placing almost every settler in any portion of these districts, within 20 miles of either railroad or steamboat

navigation. The country south and east on the peninsula, even as far south as Cape Florida, require but twelve miles of Canal to give them water communication for some 400 miles inland. Where, let me ask, is the country that would be so blessed with facilities for intercourse with the world as we would be, and at an outlay so inconsiderable, when compared with the outlay of other States and communities. These works might all be accomplished in a few years, by the aid of the State Internal Improvement Fund, and the swamp and overflowed lands, and by the aid of private subscriptions. I hope to see some action of the General Assembly at its present session, in regard to these measures, and that it will not allow the funds of the State to be frittered away on mere neighborhood and strictly local projects. Hoping sir, the above-views may meet with your approval, and those of the General Assembly,

I remain respectfully, sir,

Your obedient servant,

F. L. DANCY,

State Engineer and Geologist.

[A.]

Reconnoissance of Pensacola and Georgia Rail Road.

OFFICE OF STATE ENGINEER, }
PILATKA, FLORIDA, August 20th, 1854. }

To His Excellency, JAMES E. BROOME,

Governor of Florida :

SIR:—Your instructions dated "Executive Office, Tallahassee, January 2nd, 1854," requiring me to "proceed to Tallahassee for the purpose of conferring with you fully in regard to the Reconnoissance of a Railroad route from Tallahassee or the Apalachicola River to the mouth of the St. Mary's River, and also the St. John's, under the charter of the Pensacola and Georgia Railroad," were received by me on the 12th January, 1854. My arrangements were soon made and on the 20th I started for the seat of Government, where I arrived on the 31st January, and after a full conference with yourself and Col. Whitner, the President of the Pensacola and Georgia Railroad Company, and receiving instructions from the latter in regard to the wishes of the Company, I proceeded at once with my examination: and as my instructions required the city of Tallahassee should be a point in the route, it became necessary from the broken and hilly nature of the country in its vicinity, to ascertain the most advantageous route for the road in its approach and departure from the city.

After a critical examination and full inquiry of those best acquainted with the country in the vicinity of the city, I became satisfied

that the least expensive and most feasible approach from the East, would be up a valley leading from the western end of Lake Lafayette to a depression in the Ridge east of the city. This depression lies between Miller's plantation and Shine's Brick-yard, and leads into the valley of the St. Augustine Branch. From thence there are two routes that suggest themselves, one following the side slope of the valley of St. Augustine branch to the southward, with gentle curvatures to the vicinity of the St. Mark's Depot, and thence up said valley to the Quincy Road, thence to a depression in the St. Louis Ridge some 300 yards south of the Quincy Road; or 2dly. From the depression in the ridge east of Tallahassee, directly across the valley of St. Augustine creek, and through the street leading east and west by the Jail, to a valley west of the present settled portion of the city, and a very suitable place for a depot; thence to the western limits of the city, thence through the first ridge west of the city, with slight cutting for $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile, and striking the Quincy Road at the corner of Mr. Fisher's plantation, thence to the same depression in the St. Louis Ridge as the first route, thence to the Jackson Bluff Road in the neighborhood of Dabney's. This last route would be nearly direct, but would require a heavy embankment and Bridge across the St. Augustine branch valley, and a cut of some 30 feet in depth through the Ridge on which the city is mainly built. But, upon the whole, I should give it the preference in consequence of the saving of distance and the avoidance of curves. From the Jackson Bluff Road near Dabney's, following near the Road over a level and favorable country around the south end of Gum Swamp, and near the base line thence up the valley of Poly branch to the table land near Mr. J. Hale's residence, thence over a flat country, leaving Mr. Rawl's to north, (12 miles from Tallahassee,) the route being a nearly dead level until you reach Pork creek near Fort Braden. This valley is about 400 yards wide, and would require an embankment or trestle-work 30 feet high in the highest part, and a bridge or culvert of forty feet span, thence the country continues nearly level to near Cashe's Landing, on the Ochlocknee River, where there is a favorable crossing—having a high bluff on the east side, with a bridge 150 feet long, and thence by trestle-work 12 feet high for 300 yards, and thence an embankment eight feet high for 600 yards to the high pine woods on the west side of the River. This crossing is about $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile south of the base line, thence the route continues over a slightly undulating country near J. Bradwell's & Bradshaw's dwelling's, keeping on the Black Jack Ridge separating Bear Creek and Ochlawahaw creek, the general course being about North 50 deg. west, until we strike the 3 Notch Road from Tallahassee; at 41 miles from Tallahassee on said Road, the route passes through the gap between Cany, Rocky Comfort, Bear Creek, Tolugee and Ocklawahaw creeks, thence the route follows down the Tolugee valley and crosses below its junction with Mule

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creek, (and distant about ten miles from Rock Bluff on Apalachicola River), thence over a rolling Black Jack and sandy country to the Apalachicola river, where it is two hundred yards wide between its banks, with high Rock bluff on the east side and a low swamp on the west, $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile wide and covered at high water to the depth of 8 feet. There is plenty of lime-stone rock at this point suitable for building purposes; the depth of water in the channel is ordinarily 30 feet, the water rising in the highest freshets about 20 feet. This point may be approached from the Table Land to the east by a valley descending towards the river for $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile, thence a cut thro' a narrow ridge 150 yards long by 30 feet deep, to another valley leading quite to the River. This point is some eight miles north of the Base Line, and in a good position for continuing the route westward through the fertile and populous portion of Jackson county. This is a very favorable route the whole distance from Tallahassee, say 45 miles, with few natural obstacles to contend with, and but little horizontal curvatures. It however passes through generally a poor and sparsely settled country. At Ochesee, $1\frac{1}{2}$ above Rock Bluff, the lowlands on the east side are some 800 yards wide, and on the west about 600 yards wide, and subject to the same depth of overflow as those at Rock Bluff on the west side. This being the limit of my instructions westward, I retraced my steps following the 3 Notch Road to Mule Creek, and thence diverged more northwardly with a view to find a more central route through the rich and populous portion of Gadsden County. The first obstacle on this route is Mule creek, where a dam or embankment 400 yards long and 10 feet high, with a bridge of 40 feet span, will be required; thence leaving the road and passing over a favorable country to the Tolugee, which is crossed below the junction with the Tallahassee branch and Yon Creek near Edenfield's, requiring trestle-work for $\frac{1}{2}$ mile and a bridge with 40 feet span and twenty feet high, will take us to the Table Land leading to Rocky Comfort Creek, leaving the Bethel Church west of Tolugee $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile south, as also Smith's, Thomas', Picketts' and Worthington's, to the south, and following down a valley leading into Rocky Comfort Creek, a little north of Lipford and McCall's, and descending into the valley of Rocky Comfort Creek, crossing several deep ravines to the bottom lands, requiring an embankment some 600 yards long, with a bridge 60 feet span; thence up a valley leading South-East at an ascent of 60 feet per mile for $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, passing between Mr. Meacham's and Dr. White's to the top of the ridge, thence leaving Mrs. Lines' mill $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to the south, winding around the slope of the hill at a grade of 40 feet per mile to the table land between Lynes' mill creek and Little River, crossing the Road from Quincy to Jackson Bluff five miles from the former place—thence a cut through a ridge 200 yards, twenty feet deep to the head of a valley leading East, to Little River, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile above the lower bridge, and in descending at 40 feet per mile, passing through Alston's plantation to the valley, requiring an embank-

ment $\frac{3}{4}$ mile long and 20 feet high, and a bridge 150 feet long—thence an ascent 40 feet per mile for $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, to top of Ridge between Little River and Munroe's Mill Creek with $\frac{1}{2}$ mile cutting, twenty feet deep; thence near the Quincy road to the valley of Munroe's Mill Creek, with a descending grade of 40 feet per mile, and requiring trestle-work 300 yards long and twenty feet high, and bridge 100 span; thence by a valley running East, at an ascending grade of 40 feet per mile, for $\frac{1}{2}$ of a mile, to a ridge (4 miles from the Ocklocknee River, at the Bridge,) thence following a valley on the north side of the Road, to the River, or leaving the 3 Notch Road 4 miles west of the Bridge, and pursuing a course about east to the Ocklockney, at Munson's Mill; thence following up a valley, and striking the Base Line about one mile east of Joe Hales' residence, and not far from the head of Poly branch; thence on to Tallahassee, as described above. In reference to the portion of country lying west of Tallahassee to the Apalachicola River, I must remark that the route examined following in the immediate vicinity of the base line to the Tolugee, and thence diverging to Rock Bluff, is unquestionably the most direct route, and requiring fewer horizontal curves, and less deep cutting and embankment, as also less bridging and culverts, than any other through that section of country, passing generally through rather a level country, and on the dividing ridge between the streams emptying to the north into the Ochlocknee and those which fall in lower down. On the upper route examined by me through Gadsden county, from the numerous creeks and rivers through that section, rising west and north near the Georgia Line, and running generally a South or South-East course, with no leading valley or ridge of any extent in a direction eastwardly, there would be much heavy cutting and filling, with a great deal of horizontal curvatures, as well as much bridging. The valleys of all the streams to be crossed between the Apalachicola and Ocklocknee on this route, are very deep, such as Mule Creek, Tolugee, Rocky Comfort, Line's Mill Creek, Little River, Munroe's Mill Creek, and a number of deep ravines, would render the construction of a road through that immediate section very expensive, and would require a very careful and minute Instrumental survey before the route could be definitely located. It would certainly be much more beneficial, however, to the planting interests of that county, to have the road through that portion of it. At the same time I am free to say, that for a general highway for travel, as also for commercial purposes, the most direct route between the extreme points, should as a general rule be adopted.

From Tallahassee Eastwardly, the route would pass through a depression in the ridge East of Tallahassee, and a little South of Shines, Brick-Yard, with a gentle grade to the Western end of the valley of Lake Lafayette, thence along said valley to its Eastern limit $\frac{1}{4}$ mile North of the Cross Roads from Tallahassee to St. Marks, at 10 miles from the former place; thence over a favorable

country near St. Augustine road, to Roache's X Roads, 13 miles from Tallahassee, keeping near the base line to the vicinity of Geo. W. Jones' Mill; thence a little South of the base line, crossing the sinking branch of St. Marks River, to the valley of a branch of St. Marks coming from the North-East with a gentle slope; thence into another valley running East, and passing a little North of Col. Gadsden's and Octavius Gadsden's residences, to the base line on a ridge near Gales, thence following the base line through Cuba Swamp, ($\frac{1}{2}$ mile, depth of water 5 feet,) to the Pinhook Road, (one mile North of Wakeena or Marion X Roads,) thence through a valley leaving Mrs. Houston's to the South, down to Gorman's Old Mill Site; thence over a rolling country with gentle grades and moderate curves to Long's Branch; thence along the base line through a swamp $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the flat woods of the Ocilla, thence through several swamps from $\frac{1}{4}$ to half mile in width, and crossing two creeks, one 100 feet, the other 400 feet wide, to Walker's Bridge on the Ocilla River—or by passing North of base line, after leaving Long's branch, over a rolling country and striking the Ocilla at Harrison's bridge, where there is a favorable crossing—requiring a Bridge 100 feet long and trestle work 10 feet high and 200 yards long, to high pine land on the West side—on the East side is a bluff 20 feet high up to the River; thence through a favorable valley passing through Harrison's plantation and a little South of the base line, and crossing the Hickstown slough, with a bridge 200 feet long, near the Road to Madison Court House, through a rolling country and requiring considerable horizontal curvature, and some short but deep cuts, until we strike a valley running just South of Madison Court House; thence along a ravine leaving the factory to the North and up a gentle slope to the table land; thence keeping on the table land with gentle curves to near Peirson's;—thence over a favorable country to the Withlacoochee at the Big Spring, one mile above the Indian ford, high pine woods on each side, the banks of the river nearly perpendicular and composed of secondary lime stone rock, the banks being from 25 to 30 feet high; thence over a beautiful, gently rolling pine country 3 miles to the Okohatchie drain, 300 yards wide; thence North East to the Alapahaw at Jenney's Bluff, $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles below the Georgia line, Bluff 30 feet high, requiring a bridge 200 feet long and trestle work $\frac{1}{4}$ mile long on the East side; thence through a rolling country to the Georgia line, 8 miles East of the Alapahaw. From Madison Court House this is the proposed connexion West with Georgia. From the Georgia line I examined a route running South, near Jasper, and crossing the Suwannee near the Lower Springs, (requiring a Bridge 600 feet long and trestle work 200 yards over the river flats,) to intersect the route from Madison Court House running East, in range 14, Township 2, South. This route from the Georgia line,

passes over a very favorable country, and would afford a connexion between the Eastern district and Georgia.

To return near to Madison Court House and take up the route from the West, in that vicinity: the route should follow out the valley leading South of the factory, and thence keep the table land near the stage road to Columbus, over a gently rolling country, to a valley (a little South of the stage road,) leading to the river about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile South of the bridge at Columbus, where there is a favorable crossing—the river being 130 yards wide with high bluffs on each side, with a back slough on the East side 30 feet above ordinary stage, but through which the waters flow at extreme high water, which would require an embankment 200 yards long, and 5 feet high.—The substrata of both of the banks and bottom of the river at this point are of lime stone rock, suitable for building purposes. This crossing is about 2 miles South of the base line. Thence a course about South East, near the road from Columbus to Alligator in Columbia County, the first portion of the route being over a gently rolling country admitting of easy grades, with little horizontal curvatures for some three miles, then over a flat level country for five miles; then over a gently rolling country to Johnson's some 18 miles from Columbus; thence over a flat country with occasional sinks to the vicinity of McClellan's on Little River, 27 miles from Columbus; thence 12 miles to the vicinity of the town of Alligator. From Alligator, for the purpose of avoiding the heavy Swamps and deep ravines of the streams flowing into the South Prong of the St. Marys river, and keeping on the dividing ridge between the waters of St. Marys and those of the San Taffee River, the route should pursue a course of about 70° East, running in the vicinity of the Black Creek Road, passing over a favorable country with easy grades and a few small creeks, requiring culverts to the Olustee creek, 12 miles from Alligator where a bridge of 100 feet span would be required; thence the route passes through a low level country interspersed with small ponds and cypress slashes to the head of New River, in the neighborhood of Weston's, 38 miles from Alligator. This portion of the route from Alligator will require but little more than clearing the Roadway, and ditches, on each side to raise the Roadbed above high water, with frequent culverts to pass off the collected water. In the vicinity of this place, say in Township 5 South, Range 21 or 22 East, this route would intersect the Air Line Road from Amelia Island to Cedar Keys; thence a course about North East to Amelia Island, the route passes on the dividing ridge between the waters emptying into the St. Marys River to the North, and those of Black Creek and St. Johns to the South and East, the country being flat and intersected with cypress ponds and slashes, but no streams requiring extensive bridging, and passing the head of Trout Creek and several small branches, over a flat level country to a marsh on the South side of Thomas Swamp, and crossing

said marsh ($\frac{1}{2}$ mile) and a creek requiring a Bridge 30 feet span, a little North of Boat Swamp, to high pine land, thence across a flat slough, dry at low water, to another neck of Land; thence to a marsh $\frac{1}{2}$ mile wide, to Halfmoon Island, to the marsh of Nassau River, ($\frac{1}{2}$ miles wide,) the river requiring a Bridge of 200 feet span, with draw for the passage of vessels, there being 20 feet water in the channel; thence across a neck of high land one mile, to Loftin's Creek, requiring a Bridge 200 feet long and trestle-work one mile, to high level land with small wet slough, requiring several culverts, to the head of a dry marsh north of Harrison's Plantation, "called Orange Grove," to the Isle of Pines; thence across the marsh of Amelia River $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles, and Bridge 200 feet span, (across the cut made by the United States Grant) with a draw, to Amelia Island; thence north, on said Island, 3 miles to Yellow Bluff, about one mile south of the site of old town of Fernandina, within 3 miles of the St. Mary's Bar, admitting vessels drawing 18 feet of water, with an ample harbor, completely land-locked, for any amount of commerce, with 25 feet of water immediately along side of the Bluff, with a high elevated table land within one mile of the sea-beach, with abundance of pure fresh water, insuring health throughout the year. This terminus is wholly within the State of Florida, and should this Railroad project be consummated, would enable the State to boast, in a few years, of having as advantageous an Atlantic city and harbor for commercial purposes as any State south of Virginia, and I would ask if this is not an object worthy of the co-operation of all true-hearted and patriotic Floridians? Let us then all unite, West, Middle, South and East, to concentrate the energies of the State, in building up a great Florida sea-port on the Atlantic, corresponding as near as possible, with that unrivaled harbor, Pensacola, on the Gulf, thus securing to our State two commercial points, one on the extreme South-West and the other on the North-East, that will compare favorably with those of any other State in the Union.

The route, as described above, will pass within 12 miles of the Town of Jacksonville, on St. John's River, this distance being over a flat level country, intersected with small sluices or drains, and cypress ponds, over which a Road might be located without any difficulty, requiring nothing but good ditches on each side, and open culverts at intervals of half a mile, to take off the waters which collect in heavy falls of rain.

In regard to the St. John's being looked to, as the main terminus of so great an enterprise, I regret sincerely it is not in my power to recommend it, from the fact of there not being sufficient depth of water on the Bar at its mouth to admit the larger class of sea steamers or sail vessels, there being at low water not over nine feet, and often less; and the prospect of improving it, so as to give a greater draft, is so distant as to forbid any calculations being made on it.

The measured distances on the map, by an air line from the Apalachicola River eastward, are as follows:

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| From Rock Bluff, on the Apalachicola River, to Tallahassee, | 40 miles. |
| Add 15 per cent. for variation from air line, | 6 " |
| From Tallahassee to the Suwannee River | 65 " |
| Add 15 per cent. for variation from air line | 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ " |
| From the Suwannee at Columbus to intersect with the Peninsula Road in Township 5, South, Ranges 21 and 22 East | 60 " |
| Add for variation from air line 3 per cent. | 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ " |
| From intersection in Township 5 South, Ranges 21 22 East to Amelia Island, | 55 " |
| Add for variation from air line 4 per cent. | 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ " |
| Making the distance from Rock Bluff to Amelia Island | 239 $\frac{1}{4}$ " |
| Or the distance through the Middle District 120 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles, and the Length of Road through the Eastern District, 119 miles. | |
| Or from the Apalachicola River to the intersection with the Peninsula Road, | 182 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles. |
| Thence to Jacksonville on St. John's River, | 36 " |
| Length of Road from Apalachicola River to St. Johns, | 218 $\frac{1}{2}$ " |
| Or the distance from the Apalachicola River to Madison Court House, | 107 miles. |
| Thence to the Georgia line east of the Alapahaw, | 35 " |
| Making the distance from the Apalachicola to the Georgia Line, | 142 miles. |
| From the Georgia Line east of the Alapahaw to intersect the route to the East of the Suwannee, | 25 " |

I present no detailed account of the cost of this Road from the fact that nothing more than a reconnoissance was required. But I can say with confidence, however, that there is no doubt, but that it can be constructed for as small an amount per mile, as the same number of miles of Road in any part of the United States.

Thus, Sir, I have given you as succinct and minute a statement of the difficulties to be overcome by a Railroad from the Apalachicola River through Tallahassee to the St. John's River, Amelia Island, and the Georgia Line east of the Alapahaw, as the nature of the examination will admit, and when it is remembered that over portions of the route I was compelled to proceed with a guide, it may be possible that I may not in the whole distance have followed that

route that may be found best when the instruments come to be applied to the ground.

With much respect, I have the honor to submit the above Report,
And remain your obedient servant,
F. L. DANCY,
State Engineer, &c.

[B.]

Canal Report.

OFFICE OF STATE ENGINEER, }
PALATKA, FLORIDA, November 10th, 1854. }

To His Excellency, JAMES E. BROOME,
Governor of Florida :

SIR:—In obedience to your instructions, dated November 29th, 1853, after repeated interruptions and delays from various causes, I started on the 20th day of May, ultimo, to examine the upper St. Johns River, "with the view of ascertaining the practicability of connecting its waters with those of Indian River, by a navigable Canal," "to be laid before the next General Assembly."

To do this it first became necessary to ascertain up to what point the St. Johns is at present navigable, (or may be rendered so at a moderate outlay,) and then to ascertain the nature of the intervening country, and the distance from the point so found, to a point on Indian River at which the same, or even a greater draft of water may be carried through its length. In proceeding to ascertain these facts, there being no settlements on the St. Johns or regular intercourse on its waters higher up than Lake Monroe, and being unable to obtain any reliable information how high up the River it might be necessary to examine, I took passage, (with my party and the necessary outfit, for both land and water transportation, from Palatka on the St. Johns River, some ninety miles from its mouth,) on board the steamer Darlington, bound for Enterprise on Lake Monroe, some 120 miles above Palatka, on the 21st day of May, 1854. Up to this point, the steamer Darlington, measuring 298 tons and drawing 4 feet of water, plies regularly once a week from Jacksonville, touching at all the intermediate landings on the river, thus making the distance now navigated by steamboats on the St. Johns, over two hundred miles.

At Lake Monroe I was informed that the Lake and River were then at about the ordinary stage. From thence I proceeded in a four oared boat, with a portion of my hands and baggage up the river, (sending my teams and the balance of my party by land to meet me at the Salt Lake some 60 miles distant.) The Bar or inlet at the south end of Lake Monroe, had on it at that time 5 feet of water, which

depth continues over a space of some 100 yards into the lake; thence the river is from eighty to 100 yards wide, and meanders with gentle curves through an extensive prairie or marsh, occasionally coming quite up to the high land on either side of the river bottom. It continues thus, without any very great variation, up to the inlet from Lake Jessup. This Lake lies to the southwest, and empties into the St. Johns, some 15 miles above Lake Monroe; the route up the St. Johns passes within sight of the Lake, but does not enter it; thence the St. Johns continues with little change in its general features up to Lake Harney, some 40 miles above Lake Monroe. The river rather more frequently, in this latter distance, approaches the high land on either side—the water deep and the curves very gentle, presenting no obstacles to navigation, and in fact, but for its windings, resembles an artificial canal very much, as there is on either bank, (except at intervals where creeks or drains make in from the prairies,) an elevated bank from 3 to 4 and 5 feet above the level of the water in the river, and from 10 to 30 and 40 feet wide, with a beautiful growth of live oak, hickory and various other forest trees and vines in the greatest profusion and luxuriance, extending their foliage for a considerable distance over the waters of the River. The trees have in many places as much regularity as if they had been planted by the hand of man. The whole distance from Lake Monroe to Lake Harney, the river and the adjacent country, presents a most beautiful and variegated landscape. The marshes or prairies in this portion of the river are in places from two to four miles in width, and would average 2½ miles; they are occasionally interspersed with small mounds or islands covered with timber. The prairies are sufficiently firm for cattle to walk over them, and are covered with maiden cane grass from 4 to 10 feet high and exceedingly thick, affording luxuriant pasturage the whole year round for stock. Lake Harney is some five miles in length from North to South, and from 1½ to 2 miles wide. From this Lake the entrance from the South is very shoal for several hundred yards into the Lake, there being at this time not more than thirty inches on the bar, thence South the river becomes quite narrow, from 30 to 60 yards wide and very winding for some two miles, when it opens out into a small lake or basin a mile wide east and west, and ½ mile north and south. At its south end the river enters by several small slues or channels, the widest not more than 30 feet wide and 24 inches on the bar at the entrance into the Lake; thence the river winds in every direction for twenty miles, (the distance ascended by me,) through extensive prairies from 5 to 10 miles in width, and the channel frequently so narrow that the oars of my boat were often in the marsh on both sides at the same time, with frequent shoals with not more than two feet of water over them. After finding such to be the nature of the river, and so different from what I had been led to expect, as steam boats had ascended even as high as Lake Poinsett during the Indian war,

which must evidently have been during a very high stage of water, I at once came to the conclusion that it would cost as much or more to render that portion of the river at all times navigable as to cut a few additional miles of canal through high land, and moreover, there was no place in that distance, (20 miles,) where the river approached nearer than one mile to high land on either side, so extensive are the prairies in this portion of the river. Again, Indian river is a broad open sheet of water, nearly strait from north to south, from St. Lucie Sound to as far north as the Haulover, in township 20 S., R. 33 E., the same as the south end of Lake Harney.

I therefore determined to return to Lake Harney, and examine its eastern shore, to ascertain if a suitable place could be found there for the commencement of a canal. I found near the south-east end a point of high land where there was sufficient water within 100 yards of the beach, suitable for such a purpose. I therefore determined to survey the route from that point, starting at the $\frac{1}{2}$ mile station, between sections 20 and 29, T. 20 S., R. 33 east of the public surveys, and intended running a due east line to Indian River. After proceeding some 4 miles through a flat level country, my guide urged me to change my course, that I would otherwise encounter an extensive cypress swamp. I did so, and after several slight variations from a due east course, I reached Indian River somewhat above the Haulover on the east side leading to New Smyrna, whereas the true line should strike about one mile south of said Haulover, where there is plenty of water near the shore. The distance across I found to be 12 miles 901 feet.— The greatest elevation between the two rivers I found to be 27 $\frac{1}{2}$ feet, and this for a very short distance. There is but one water course in the whole distance; that is a cypress swamp which generally holds water. It lies at the distance of 72-3 miles from Lake Harney and near the summit level. The country is open pine and saw-palmetto, interspersed with numerous cypress ponds, mostly holding water, but shallow, none being more than 3 or 4 feet deep. The first 3 or 4 feet from the surface of the earth is a compact white and black sand, and is mostly underlaid with marl or a mixture of clay, shell and sand.

As the present draft of water in each river, from their points of junction with the canal, is from 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 feet, I propose a canal 30 feet wide at bottom, to start from four feet water in Lake Harney, and to descend to the same depth below the water level in Indian River, and as there is a difference between the water level of Lake Harney and that of Indian River of 3 feet 6 inches, it will give to the bottom of the canal a slope towards the latter of 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches per mile, not sufficient to cause any difficulty in navigating the canal by sails or oars. I propose also, a lock at each end, one of six feet lift and the other of eight feet. Likewise a basin or side bay for the passage of boats about midway the length of the canal. The locks are to prevent the flow of the current through the canal, which if per-

mitted, would form a shoal or shoals at either end of the canal. That there will always be a full supply of water in the canal as proposed for navigation, I have no question, as the natural filtration alone would afford it, from the fact that the shallow ponds not more than 4 feet deep are scarcely ever dry, and then the canal could always be kept full, should there be any deficiency from that source, by allowing the water from the Lake to flow into the canal through the lock. The locks should be of wood or stone, there being an abundance of the latter material on Indian River of an excellent quality for such a work, and I am of the opinion that the expense of building with stone would be but a fraction more than of wood, and the locks would be much more durable.

The excavation for said canal, the distance being twelve miles and nine hundred feet, would require the removal of 3,115,433 cubic yards of earth, which from its nature would cost not more than six cents per cubic yard, equal to \$186,925 98
The Locks would cost an average of \$5,000 each, 10,000 00
Add ten per cent for contingencies, 1,869 25

Making the entire cost \$198,795 23

For further information in reference to the Canal, see the accompanying map.

Now we will enquire, what are the inducements for the State to expend such an amount for this purpose. In the first place, I have been informed by the State Agent for the selection of swamp lands, that he has taken the whole country South of Township 20, South, Range 33 East, with the exception of the private grants and a few fractional Townships, so far as the Public Surveys have yet extended. This would give the State in the district lying contiguous to the St. Johns and Indian River, to the mouth of the St. Lucie River, something over 1,300,000 acres of land; which, under the present circumstances, is literally worthless, from the fact that it is almost inaccessible either by land or water, there being as good as no bar seaward from Indian River, that which is known as the bar, constantly shifting, and has at best, only from three to five feet of water, and no roads, if we except the Military Road from Fort Capron on Indian River across the Peninsula to Charlotte Harbor, on the Gulf Coast. This is the only wagon road in that part of the country, the routes travelled at this time in all other directions being by blind trails or horse paths; causing that whole region to be a Terra Incognita to all except a few hardy and enterprising adventurers, who have located in defiance of all obstacles, on the Western bank of Indian River, from 80 to 100 miles South of the point where the proposed Canal will enter said River. As to the value of these lands, I am satisfied, from my own observation, that there is scarcely a single mile in the whole length of Indian River on the Western bank, (which is in general from 10 to 30 feet high, with miles of a

bold, rocky shore,) where small bodies of excellent land suitable for 5 to 10 working hands could be obtained, and where from the delicious and genial climate, most, if not all the Tropical fruits and vegetables, as well as Sugar Cane may be raised in perfection.—The lands back from the River are, in places, high, rolling spruce pine, and scrub oak ridges, with frequent ponds and savannahs, with occasional small, rich hammocks, and many beautiful pine ridges convenient for stock raising, with excellent range, both on the St. John's prairies and in the low lands and ponds intervening between it and Indian River. These lands, if furnished with a suitable outlet, would in a very few years command, much of them, from \$2 to \$10 per acre; and their enhanced value would double, aye, treble the outlay necessary to open this Canal. Beside which, Indian River could be made to supply the whole of Florida, and in fact, the whole Southern Atlantic market with Fish and Oysters of the finest quality. It would open an outlet to the markets of the whole country of the finest tropical fruit region in the United States. Moreover, no healthier region can be found in America, than the West bank of Indian River and between it and the ocean. In a military point of view, it would be of incalculable benefit, as it would enable the Government to send troops, supplies, &c., inland by water from Charleston, S. C., to within a few miles of Cape Florida, without the least danger, either from storms or hostile fleets. It would add to the commerce of Florida, through the St. Johns River, an amount which at this day cannot even be approximated. This link of twelve miles would give to East and South Florida, an improvement that will vastly facilitate their intercourse and commerce with the rest of the world, and which, from the peculiar features of the country, would do for it what the system of Railroads proposed in another communication would do for the other portions of the State. This improvement would not only benefit the lands immediately bordering the two rivers, but would extend its influence even to the Everglades, from which, if ever settled, (of which I have no question whenever the Indians are removed,) the principal outlet will be through this canal to the North and Charlotte Harbor to the West, for all productions raised in that region.

I therefore, feel myself fully justifiable, in most earnestly recommending that this be one of the first works authorized by the General Assembly, as by inducing emigration to that portion of the State, would doubtless have a most beneficial influence on the few remaining Indians now inhabiting that section, and would in a few years, (unless they should sooner be removed,) completely cut them off from the Atlantic sea-board.

Which is respectfully submitted,

By your obedient servant,

F. L. DANCY,

State Engineer and Geologist.

[C]

ENGINEER'S OFFICE,
PALATKA, Fla., August, 5th, 1854. }

To His Excellency, JAMES E. BROOME,
Governor of Florida :

SIR:—In obedience to "Resolution No. 3 of the General Assembly of this State, Approved 14th of January, 1853," I have examined and have now the honor to report "upon the practicability of draining the submerged lands, in rear of St. Lucie Sound, commonly known as the main Savannah in said County of St. Lucie." The delay in making this examination, has arisen partly from the want of the necessary instruments, and after their receipt, in September last, by the necessity of finishing certain other duties in which I was then engaged.

The St. Lucie savannah, or "main savannah in St. Lucie County," is a long, narrow pond or savannah, lying nearly parallel to St. Lucie sound, and separated from it by a ridge of sand, which is underlaid at intervals by a shell or coquina rock. The horizontal distance from the eastern margin of the savannah to the margin of St. Lucie Sound, at a place known as Capt. Davis's, is 550 (five hundred and fifty) feet, with an elevation at the highest point of the intervening ridge of 33 feet and 4 inches. At this point, a cut twelve (12) feet wide at bottom and side slopes $1\frac{1}{2}$ horizontal to 1 vertical, will require an excavation of 11,000 (eleven thousand) cubic yards of earth, and as the bed of the savannah is 15 feet 3 inches (fifteen three) higher than the water-level of St. Lucie Sound, there can be no doubt of the practicability of draining off the water from the savannah, whose greatest depth does not exceed (5) five feet. The rock spoken of as underlying the sand will be no obstacle, as it lies too deep to interfere to any extent with the excavation. The dimensions of the cut proposed is deemed ample, as the flow of water at first will be so great as to cause it to wash out, and continue to enlarge.

This savannah is the receptacle of much of the water from the savannahs and swamps lying to the westward, which in wet seasons overflow the slight elevations between them, and run into this, where the waters continue to accumulate until they obtain a sufficient height for it to overflow in its turn, and then the waters are discharged into the head of St. Lucie to the South, and the St. Sebastian river to the North. This Savannah is about (18) eighteen miles long, by an average width of ($\frac{1}{2}$) one-half mile. It is believed that from $\frac{1}{2}$ to 2-3ds of the land now covered by water, as also that occasionally submerged, would be very productive if properly drained, and that the whole of it would, from the genial climate in which it lies, yield sugar cane and all the Tropical fruits in perfection. Another great advantage of draining this savannah, in my opinion, is, the effect a new outlet would have in taking off the waters which fall in the

back country, which are now dammed up and prevented from flowing into the Sound by a ridge of sand, extending from the St. Sebastian to the St. Lucie river, a distance of some (50) fifty miles, just back of or to the westward of Indian river and St. Lucie Sound, without a single break in the whole of this distance of any consequence, where the accumulated waters can flow into either the river or sound. The waters consequently, in wet seasons, continue to accumulate until nearly the whole back country becomes submerged, and as they gradually subside by evaporation and filtration, leave the country covered to a great extent with ponds, savannahs and swamps. Now by making this new outlet, and gradually connecting the various savannahs and ponds in a direction East and West, the effect it will have in drying that whole country will be immense. It is only in this way it can ever be drained with any advantage, and at a reasonable expense. The country is so nearly level North and South, with a slight descent to the Eastward, with the exception of the sand ridge above mentioned, that any cut East and West would draw to itself the waters from both North and South, and would in a short time form a considerable stream, and it is not improbable that throwing such a volume of water into the St. Lucie Sound, may cause such a flow of water seaward as may have a beneficial effect on the bar at the outlet to the ocean.

Believing in the practicability of draining this savannah, and deeming it both necessary and proper for the development of the capabilities of the country, and that it can be accomplished for the amount appropriated by the General Assembly, deducting the expenses of the preliminary survey and examination, I have the honor to request that the amount appropriated for this improvement may be transmitted to me, or placed at my disposal without unnecessary delay, that I may have the work executed at the earliest practicable moment. There were other points examined by me, but their cost so far exceeded the cost of the above named point, without any advantages to counterbalance the extra cost, that I have had no hesitation in adopting the above as the most suitable. This report, sir, has been delayed in consequence of indisposition since my return from the south.

I remain very respectfully, sir,
Your obedient servant,
F. L. DANCY,
State Engineer and Geologist.

No. III.]

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S REPORT.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE,
TALLAHASSEE, November 18, 1854. }

To His Excellency, JAMES E. BROOME,
Governor of Florida :

SIR:—In compliance with the act of July 23d, 1845, I have the honor to submit to your Excellency, to be laid before the Legislature, a report touching such matters as I am by law required to bring to the attention of the General Assembly.

The law referred to makes it the duty of the Attorney General to report "as to the effect and operation of the acts of the last previous session, the decisions of the Courts thereon, referring to the previous legislation on the subject, with such suggestions as (in my opinion) the public interest may demand."

The last Legislature, desiring to afford the people of this State such Banking facilities as the necessities of the Country might require, and at the same time wishing to protect the public against the consequences of a circulation not based upon substantial capital, passed into a law the act entitled "An act to authorize the business of Banking."

It was doubtless supposed that the provisions of this law were sufficiently liberal to induce capitalists to embark in the business it authorizes, whilst the checks and restrictions embraced in it, would protect the public from imposition, and give confidence in the circulation throughout the State. No effort, however, has been made to establish the business of Banking in this State as authorized by the act, and it has been suggested as one of the reasons, that any association or individual Banker would, in order to avoid the consequences which might result under the provisions of the sixth section, be required to keep on hand a large amount of unproductive capital, to meet the demands which might be made for the redemption of the circulating notes. The stock required to be deposited with the Comptroller being equal in amount with the bills put in circulation, may be regarded as a sufficient security to the public; but if in addition to this, the association or individual Banker finds it necessary to have on hand a large amount of gold and silver, yielding no dividends or interest, it is manifest that the inducements to engage in the business must be considerably lessened. An amendment of the sixth section, with such other amendments of the law as the wisdom of the Legislature may suggest, may perhaps result beneficially.

I would further suggest that this act be so amended and restricted as to prevent the abuse of the privileges it grants, by persons who

may literally comply with the pre-requisites of the law, and then resort to some State or Country remote from our's for the purpose of issuing the notes countersigned by the Comptroller, and transacting all other business authorized by the act, making Florida but nominally the location of the office or place of business. As the act now stands, it is contended by some, that there is nothing to compel those who seek the benefit of its provisions, to make Florida in reality the place of business.

It will be seen by reference to the act entitled "An act to regulate quarantine laws in this State," passed at the last session; that the Port Physician is only authorized to order a vessel into quarantine, in case any malignant, pestilential or infectious diseases have occurred, or are prevailing on board. A most important omission, it occurs to me, has been made, in not granting the same authority in cases of vessels arriving from Ports where malignant or pestilential diseases exist or are prevailing, and I respectfully suggest the propriety of so amending the law, as to include the case referred to.

By the second section of the "act to repeal an act in relation to Pilotage for the Port of Key West," approved January 8, 1853, all laws and parts of laws in relation to pilotage at that port are repealed. The effect of this provision, as has been decided by the District Court of the United States for the Southern District, has been to repeal all laws authorizing the appointment of the very commissioners who, by the third section, it was intended should have the power to make all necessary by-laws, &c., governing the subject. This consequence, I am assured, never was designed by the Legislature, and I call attention to it with the view that the necessary amendment may be made. But a reference to this act is also made for the more important purpose of suggesting, that the right of the Legislature to delegate to commissioners the power to make by-laws, rules and regulations, prescribing the duties of, and imposing penalties upon pilots and masters of vessels, is very questionable. Indeed, I am of opinion that under the constitution no such right exists. The Legislature is charged with the duty of making laws, and it cannot shift from itself the responsibility of their enactment, nor delegate to any other body the power which the Constitution has alone confided to the representatives of the people. Hence all laws declaring the duties of pilots and masters of vessels, and imposing penalties for their violation, must be enacted by the Legislature; but the mode and details of their execution may be confided to the commissioners, together with authority to grant licenses, and to establish such rules and regulations as may be necessary for the due fulfilment of the purposes of the law. By reference to the act mentioned, it will be found that the whole power over the subject is conferred upon the Commissioners.

By authority of the General Assembly, a suit was instituted by my predecessor in the Supreme Court of the United States to deter-

mine the question of boundary between this State and the State of Georgia. On my assuming the duties of this office, I made inquiries as to the posture of the case, and was informed that it had been set for a hearing on the second Monday of December last. The duty of conducting the prosecution of this cause having been imposed on the Attorney General, in conjunction with such additional counsel as should be engaged, I attended the last term of the Supreme Court at Washington, for the purpose of presenting the case, but found, on my arriving there, that it was not in a condition for argument on the day fixed for the hearing. Application was made by the counsel for Florida for a postponement for a fortnight, in the expectation that in that time the case could be placed in a condition to be heard. The Supreme Court, however, owing to the large number of cases pending, felt it to be its duty to deny the application, and to continue the case generally until the next term. The second Monday in December next having been appointed for the hearing, it is expected that the case will then be presented for the consideration of the Court. It may not be improper for me to remark that no blame can attach to my predecessor for the condition in which the case was found.

By desire of the counsel for Georgia, a decretal order was entered, by consent, at the last term, for the appointment of commissioners, whose duty it should be, first, to run and mark a line from the confluence of Flint and Chattahoochee rivers, to the point designated by Ellicott and Minor, under the Treaty of 1795, between the United States and Spain, as the head of St. Marys river; and secondly, should they find such point not to be at the head of St. Marys river, then to run another line, from the confluence of Flint and Chattahoochee rivers to such point as they should determine to have been the head of St. Marys river at the date of said Treaty. Neither party, however, was to be concluded by the action of the commissioners. It was supposed that the execution of this order would materially expedite the cause, whilst, on the part of the counsel for Florida, it was hoped that the examinations by the Commissioners would throw such light upon the subject, as to show satisfactorily that the claim which Florida asserts is as well founded in fact, as it is in law.

Subsequently, it being ascertained that time did not admit of the running of two lines within the period limited by the Court, by agreement of parties the decretal order referred to was modified so as to authorize the Commissioners to make the necessary examinations to determine the head of St. Marys river, before running and marking the line, the purpose being, if the Commissioners could agree on a point as the head of the river, to have but one line run.— It was further agreed to waive all departures from the terms of the original decretal order, as should be consistent with the said modification. The action of the Commissioners, under the order, and its

modification, and the transactions connected therewith, are best known to your Excellency, and if necessary can better be communicated to the General Assembly, by your Excellency, than by myself.

I am very Respectfully,
Your Obedient Serv't.,
M. D. PAPY.

No. IV.]

QUARTER-MASTER'S REPORT.

QUARTER MASTER'S DEPARTMENT, }
April 13th, 1854. }

His Excellency, JAMES E. BROOME,
Governor of Florida :

SIR:—Yours of the 12th inst., calling for “a Report of the number and description of State Arms, now on hand at this department,” is received, and in response thereto I have the honor to submit the following Report:

Three pieces of Brass Ordnance, 6 pounders, with Carriages, Artillery, Harness and other Equipments complete.

Two hundred and fifty-nine Muskets and all Equipments, including Picks and Brushes.

One hundred and twenty one Rifles, with Equipments complete.

Three hundred and forty-eight Pistols, and Equipments complete.

Sixty one Muskets, Three Rifles, and eleven Pistols in a broken and otherwise damaged condition.

Very Respectfully,
Your Obedient Serv't.
J. P. K. SAVAGE, Q. M. G.

Communication from Ordnance Department.

ORDNANCE OFFICE, }
WASHINGTON, August 8, 1854. }

His Excellency JAMES E. BROOME,
Governor of Florida :

SIR:—Your letter of the 1st inst., to the Secretary of War, was referred to this office. In answer I have to state that the account with Florida shows on the books of this office, that it has over-drawn

arms to an extent which will require from fourteen to fifteen year's quotas, according to its present Militia return, to cover.

The advances exceed the dues, including the quota for 1854, by 996 2-13 muskets, and the apportionment, according to the latest return, amounts to 68 muskets.

There is a regulation established by the President, in conformity with the law for drawing the Militia, which prohibits issues to any State or Territory, to which no arms are due; so that no issues can be made to Florida at present.

The within mentioned balance of 996 2-13 muskets arises wholly from advances made to the State of Florida in August, 1846, as per accompanying account current upon the application therefor, of Hon. the J. D. Wescott, and the approval thereof of the Secretary of War, with the understanding that they were to be charged to the State under the law of 1808.

The balance of 252 10-13 muskets charged in the account current, arises from issues made in 1840 and 1843, and were legitimately debited to the Territory of Florida under the law of 1808.

Respectfully, Your Ob't. Servant,
A. K. CRAIG,
Col. Ord.

The State of Florida in account current with the United States.

| | | DR. | Muskets. |
|-------|---|---|------------|
| | To balance due the United States to end of 1844,..... | | 252 10-13 |
| 1846. | August. | “ 4 6-pounder bronze guns, mounted complete,..... | |
| | | “ 300 muskets and accoutrements,..... | |
| | | “ 300 Hall's rifles and do. | |
| | | “ 600 pistols,..... | |
| | | “ 300 sets of Cavalry accoutrements,..... | |
| | | The whole being equivalent to,..... | 1,579 5-13 |
| | | | 1,832 2-13 |

| | | CR. | |
|----------------|---|-----|------------|
| 1845, Dec. 31. | By apportionment of arms for 1845,..... | | 94 |
| 1846, “ 31. | “ “ “ “ “ 1846,..... | | 93 |
| 1847, “ 31. | “ “ “ “ “ 1847,..... | | 92 |
| 1848, “ 31. | “ “ “ “ “ 1848,..... | | 90 |
| 1849, “ 31. | “ “ “ “ “ 1849,..... | | 88 |
| 1850, “ 31. | “ “ “ “ “ 1850,..... | | 86 |
| 1851, “ 31. | “ “ “ “ “ 1851,..... | | 80 |
| 1852, “ 31. | “ “ “ “ “ 1852,..... | | 77 |
| 1853, “ 31. | “ “ “ “ “ 1853,..... | | 68 |
| 1854, “ “ | “ “ “ “ “ 1854,..... | | 68 |
| | Balance due the United States to end of 1854, as per contra,..... | | 996 2-13 |
| | | | 1,832 2-13 |

Balance due the United States, as per contra,..... 996 2-13

A. K. CRAIG, Col. Ord.

ORDNANCE OFFICE, Washington, Aug. 8, 1853.

A Summary of the Receipts and Payments at the Treasury during the Fiscal Year 1853.

RECEIPTS.

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| On account of the State of Florida,..... | \$100,947 69 |
| " " " Internal Improvement Fund,..... | 76,780 55 |
| " " " School Fund,..... | 24,128 07 |
| " " " Seminary Fund,..... | 8,327 31 |
| | <u>\$210,183 62</u> |

PAYMENTS.

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| On account of the State of Florida,..... | \$109,876 81 |
| " " " Internal Improvem't Fund,..... | 29,035 30 |
| " " " School Fund,..... | 14,060 00 |
| " " " Seminary Fund,..... | 5,015 00 |
| Balance, Bonds,..... | \$37,108 69 |
| Cash,..... | 15,088 32— |
| | <u>\$52,197 01</u> |
| | <u>\$210,183 62</u> |

The Treasurer in account with the State of Florida, from November 1, 1853, to November 1, 1854.

| | | |
|----------|---|--------------------|
| 1854. | DR. | |
| Nov'r 1. | To amount received from auction tax,..... | \$ 2,317 84 |
| " " " | " " " Fines,..... | 1,626 60 |
| " " " | " " " Licenses,..... | 6,063 06 |
| " " " | " " " Revenue 1852,... | 1,408 82 |
| " " " | " " " " 1853, .. | 49,349 41 |
| " " " | " " " " 1854,... | 2,035 78 |
| | | <u>\$62,801 51</u> |
| | CR. | |
| Nov'r 1. | By balance per last report,..... | \$ 8,928 62 |
| " " | amount Comptroller's warrants paid,.... | 48,372 60 |
| " " | " " paid on account of Ind. hostilit's, | 4,582 21 |
| " " | " " Treasury certificates redeemed, | 10 46 |
| " " | " " lands bought in for taxes,..... | 339 62 |
| " " | " balance,..... | 568 00 |
| | | <u>\$62,801 51</u> |

The Treasurer in account with the Internal Improvement Fund.

| | | |
|---------|---|--------------------|
| 1854. | DR. | |
| Nov. 1. | To amount brought from former account, due by Swamp Land Fund,..... | \$ 1,870 30 |
| " " | " " due by U. States, advanced on account Indian hostilities, | 25,000 00 |
| " " | " " " Calhoun County, for loan, | 650 00 |
| " " | " " " Gadsden " " " | 1,150 00 |
| " " | " " " on sundry bonds for land sales, | 32,076 09 |
| " " | " " cash on hand from former account, | 15,669 16 |
| | | <u>\$76,415 55</u> |
| " " | received from J. Beard, late Comptroller, as uninvested balance,..... | 256 19 |

| | | |
|-----------|---|---------------------|
| Nov. 1. | To amount received from State Register from Nov. 7, 1853, to Oct. 2, 1854, from sales of land,..... | 25,264 88 |
| " " " " " | " " " " " Interest account,.... | 1,366 43 |
| | | <u>\$103,303 05</u> |

| | | |
|---------------|---|---------------------|
| 1853. | CR. | |
| Dec. 31. | By loan to Swamp Land Fund, as follows: Warrant 118, favor F.L. Dancy, Eng. and Sur, for salary,..... | 500 00 |
| 1854. | | |
| Feb. 14. | " 191 and 263, same, expense Survey Railroad route,..... | 212 00 |
| April 22. | " 250, same, Eng. &c, salary,..... | 500 00 |
| July 10. | " 395, same, " " " " | 500 00 |
| Aug and Sept. | " 363, 475, 476, and 453 to 463, favor Benet & Teasdale. R. R. Reed, and others, for expenses of survey of St. Johns and Indian River,..... | 862 68 |
| | " 464 to 474, favor Benet & Teasdale, Huford, Russell and others, expenses survey of St. Lucie Savannah,..... | 469 14 |
| | | <u>\$3,043 82</u> |
| | By amount transferred to Jno. Beard, Comptroller, for investment,..... | 22,000 00 |
| " " " | " " due by Swamp Land Fund, bro't down to be carried forward,.... | 1,870 30 |
| " " " | " " due by U. States, for advances on count of Indian hostilities, bro't down to be carried forward,..... | 25,000 00 |
| " " " | " " from Calhoun County, bro't down and carried forward,..... | 650 00 |
| " " " | " " from Gadsden County, same,.... | 1,150 00 |
| " " " | " " Bonds from former account,.... | \$32,076 09 |
| " " " | Less amount collected,..... | 16,211 00 |
| " " " | " " Cash on hand Nov. 1, 1854,..... | 15,865 09 |
| | | <u>23,723 84</u> |
| | | <u>\$103,303 05</u> |

| | | |
|---------------|---|---------------------|
| 1854, Nov. 1. | To United States amount loan to State on account of Indian hostilities,..... | \$25,000 00 |
| " " " " " " " | " " " " " " " " former account, | \$3,043 82 |
| | | <u>1,870 30</u> |
| | transferred to J. Beard, Comp., for investm't, due by Gadsden County, bro't down,.... | \$4,914 12 |
| " " " " " " " | " " " " " " " " " | 32,000 00 |
| " " " " " " " | " " " " " " " " " | 1,150 00 |
| " " " " " " " | " " " " " " " " " | 650 00 |
| " " " " " " " | " " Bonds due from land sales,..... | 15,865 09 |
| " " " " " " " | " " Cash on hand,..... | 23,723 84 |
| | | <u>\$103,303 05</u> |
| | Add United States for amount loaned to State (See Treasurer's Report 1852) on acct of Ind. hostilities, | 5,000 00 |
| | | <u>\$108,303 05</u> |

NOTE.—Amount of State Bonds received from John Beard, late
Comptroller for this "Fund,".....\$45,000 00

The Treasurer in account with the School Fund.

| | | DR. | |
|---|--|-------------------------|-------------|
| 1854. | | | |
| Nov'r 1. | To amounts brought from former account, United States for loan to State for Indian hostilities..... | \$10,000 00 | |
| | Amount transferred to Compt'r for investm't, " bonds for land sales..... | 4,000 00 2,668 53 | |
| | " cash on hand..... | 7,339 54 | |
| | | | \$24,068 07 |
| April 13. | " received from John Beard, Comp- troller, uninvested balance..... | \$ 1,061 45 | |
| 26. | " received from lands redeemed.... | 37 50 | |
| | " " from State Register, from November 7, 1853, to Oc- tober 2, 1854, from proceeds land sales..... | 7,237 23 888 76 | |
| | " received on interest account..... | | \$33,293 01 |
| CR. | | | |
| Nov'r 1. | By amounts brought down to be carried for- ward, United States for loan to State for Indian hostilities..... | \$10,000 00 | |
| | " " transferred to John Beard, Comp- troller, for investment..... | 4,000 00 | |
| | " bonds from land sales..... | \$ 2,668 53 | |
| | Less amount collected..... | 1,249 64 | |
| | | | \$1,418 89 |
| March 20. | " amount transferred to Comptroller for investment..... | 9,000 00 | |
| June 17. | " " Warrant 354, for D. S. Walker, Register, expenses land sales..... | 144 00 | |
| | " " Warrant 372, for W. P. Cun- ningham, teacher..... | 60 00 8,670 12 | |
| | " " cash on hand..... | | \$33,293 01 |
| To amount brought down, United States, for loan to State for Indian hostilities..... | | | |
| | " " transferred to J. Beard, Comptroller, for in- vestment..... | 10,000 00 3,1000 00 | |
| | " " bonds for land sales..... | 1,418 89 | |
| | " " cash on hand..... | 8,670 12 | |
| | | | \$33,089 01 |
| Add amount loaned State, to pay expenses of General Assembly, January 24, 1851..... | | | |
| | " balance (of principal) on bond for loan to Gadsden County..... | \$25,000 00 5,763 38 | |
| | | | \$30,763 38 |
| | | | \$63,852 39 |

NOTE.—Amount of State bonds received from John Beard, late
Comptroller, for this fund.....\$41,500 00

The Treasurer, in account with the Seminary Fund.

| | | DR. | |
|---|--|------------------------|-------------|
| 1854. | | | |
| Nov. 1. | To amounts from former accounts: | | |
| | " amount transferred to Compt'r, for investm't, | \$5,000 00 | |
| | " " Bonds unpaid..... | 2,364 09 | |
| | " " Cash on hand..... | 948 24 | |
| | | | \$8,312 31 |
| April 13. | " " received from J. Beard, Comptroller, as unexpended balance..... | | 888 46 |
| | " " " " State Register, from Nov. 7, 1853, to Oct. 2, 1854, from land sales..... | | 3,189 86 |
| | " " on interest account..... | | 826 92 |
| | | | \$13,167 55 |
| 1854. CR. | | | |
| Nov. 1. | By amounts brought down to be carried forward: | | |
| | " amount transferred to Comptroller, for in- vestment..... | \$5,000 00 | |
| | " " Bonds for land sales..... | \$2,364 07 | |
| | Less amount collected..... | 885 49 | |
| | | | 1,528 58 |
| March 20. | " " transferred to Comp. for investm't, | | 2,000 00 |
| | " " Cash on hand..... | | 4,638 97 |
| | | | \$13,167 55 |
| To amount brought down, viz: | | | |
| | " amount transferred to Comptroller, for investment... .. | | 7,000 00 |
| | " " Bonds uncollected..... | | 1,528 58 |
| | " " Cash on hand..... | | 4,638 97 |
| | | | \$13,167 55 |
| Add United States for this amount loaned to State to pay Indian hostilities..... | | | |
| | Loan to Duval County, April 20, 1853..... | \$4,500 00 1,000 00 | |
| | | | \$5,500 00 |
| | | | \$18,667 55 |

NOTE.—Amount received from John Beard, late Comptroller, in
State Bonds for this "Fund,".....\$48,500 00

*A Summary of the Receipts and Payments at the Treasury from
November 1, 1853 to November 1, 1854.*

RECEIVED.

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| On account of State of Florida..... | \$62,801 61 |
| " " " Internal Improvement Fund..... | 74,632 75 |
| " " " School Fund..... | 19,293 01 |
| " " " Seminary Fund..... | 8,167 55 |
| | \$164,894 92 |

PAYMENTS.

| | | |
|--|-------------|--------------|
| On account of State of Florida,..... | \$62,233 51 | |
| " " " Internal Improvement Fund,..... | 35 043 82 | |
| " " " School Fund,..... | 9,204 00 | |
| " " " Seminary Fund,..... | 2,000 00 | |
| Balance, (cash \$37,600.93, bonds \$13,812.56,)..... | 56,413 49 | \$164,894 82 |

TALLAHASSEE FUND.

TREASURER'S OFFICE, }
TALLAHASSEE, November 1, 1854. }

His Excellency JAMES E. BROOME,
Governor of Florida :

SIR:—The Tallahassee Fund has 1,300 acres of land unsold, and a cash balance of fifty-two 44-100 dollars on hand, and owes the sum of 2843 12-100 dollars (principal) as far as information can be obtained. Some additional value has been given to the land by the emigration to that part of the State, I have made the effort to close the remainder of the Fund; its present creditors are unwilling so far to purchase land for their claims (as has been done previously,) nor has application been made for its purchase by others.

Very Respectfully,

C. H. AUSTIN,

Treasurer and Ex-Officio Commissioner Tallahassee Fund.

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