

REPORT OF TRUSTEES  
OF THE  
INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT FUND.

TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA, November 6, 1866.

*To the Senate and House of Representatives  
of the State of Florida in General Assembly convened:*

The Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund have the honor to submit this their annual report:

The Board of Trustees was reorganized on the 17th day of November, 1865. On that day they adopted a resolution restoring to market all the lands belonging to the Internal Improvement Fund, which had been previously offered for sale, at the following prices, viz: Internal Improvement lands at twenty-five per cent. above the original appraised valuation; Swamp Lands, within six miles of a railroad route, \$2.50 per acre; beyond that distance from a railroad, \$1.25 per acre.

On the 9th January, 1866, coupons due upon guaranteed bonds of the Florida Railroad Company were presented for payment, but were not paid for want of funds.

On the 20th March, in pursuance of the provisions of the act approved January 16, 1866, entitled "an act to grant alternate sections of Swamp and Overflowed Lands to the Pensacola and Mobile Railroad and Manufacturing Company," the Trustees granted to said company the Swamp and Overflowed Lands in the even-numbered sections lying within six miles of said road, on the terms and conditions prescribed in said act.

On the 6th April, a resolution was adopted authorizing William H. Gleason to enter upon and ditch and drain any of the Swamp and Overflowed Lands lying South of township 37, East of Lake Okechobee and South and East of the Everglades, and one tier of sections on the South side of the Caloosahatchie river; and providing that, whenever said Gleason shall dig any ditch or drain containing 50,000 cubic feet, he shall be allowed to purchase 640 acres of the Swamp and Overflowed Lands lying within three miles of said ditch or drain at the price of \$40 for each 640 acres so purchased.

On the 1st June, all the Internal Improvement lands in Middle Florida which had not been subject to entry previously, were offered for sale.

On the 23d June, the Trustees adopted a resolution consenting to receive from the Pensacola & Georgia Railroad Company

preferred guaranteed stock of said company, bearing seven per cent. interest in payment of the coupons on the bonds of said company, owned by the Trustees, due up to and inclusive of the 1st January, 1867. This arrangement has not yet been perfected.

On the 30th August, permission was granted to the International Ocean Telegraph Company to construct and maintain their telegraphic lines over the Internal Improvement and Swamp Lands without charge.

On the 6th September, a petition was presented to the Board on behalf of the citizens of Franklin county, asking aid from the Internal Improvement Fund for the purpose of removing obstructions to the navigation of the Apalachicola river. The Trustees entertained and expressed the opinion that they have not the legal right to appropriate any portion of the Fund for that purpose, but recommend this subject to the consideration of the General Assembly.

On the 6th October, the Trustees adopted the following resolution:

*Resolved,* That the Florida Railroad Company, having failed to provide the sinking fund of one per cent. per annum on their bonds, as provided by "an act to provide for and encourage a liberal system of Internal Improvements in this State," the Board will, according to the provisions of the third section of the said act, proceed to take possession of the said road; that the same shall be advertised for sale at auction, at the office of said company at Gainesville, to be had on Thursday, the first day of November, A. D. 1866; and that the President of this Board do attend to the necessary measures in order to carry out the objects of this resolution.

In pursuance of said resolution the Florida Railroad was advertised for sale, with all its property of every kind, and was sold at Gainesville on the 1st November, upon the following conditions and stipulations, viz:

"The purchasers shall be bound to continue the payment of one-half of one per cent. semi-annually to the sinking fund until all the outstanding bonds are discharged, under the penalty of an amendment of the contract of purchase and the forfeiture of the purchase money paid in."

"The iron and locomotives now upon and belonging to said road shall remain upon the same and not be removed therefrom; and the purchasers will, within a reasonable time, repair and complete said road in a proper condition to be run and operated according to the original intention and design of said road."

The road was purchased by Edward N. Dickerson and his associates for three hundred and twenty-three thousand four hundred dollars, (\$223,400.) This sum is twenty per cent. upon the whole amount of guaranteed bonds issued by the Florida

Railroad Company, and the moneys received have been or will be applied to the purchase and canceling of said bonds, or placed in the sinking fund to provide for their redemption at maturity. Up to this time, bonds of said company, to the amount of \$1,128,000, have been purchased, the sum paid therefor being \$225,600, leaving on hand \$97,800, to be applied to the purchase or redemption of the remaining \$489,000 of bonds.

The reports of the Salesman and Treasurer will show the quantity of lands sold during the year, the amount received therefor, and the financial condition of the Fund.

By order of the Board of Trustees.

HUGH A. CORLEY,  
Secretary pro tem.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER  
OF THE  
INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT BOARD.

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OFFICE TREASURER BOARD TRUSTEES IN. IM. FUND, }  
TALLAHASSEE, Nov. 9th, 1866. }

To the Board of Trustees of the  
Internal Improvement Fund:

SIRS:—In compliance with the law, I herewith submit the Report from this Office, for the General Assembly, showing the transactions from the period of Nov. 1, 1865, to Oct. 31, 1865.

Respectfully,

C. H. AUSTIN,  
Treas. Board Trus. In. Im. Fund.

The Treasurer in account with the Board of Trustees of the  
Internal Improvement Fund.

1866.	DR.	
April 5.	To amount received on land notes,	\$491 80
May 12.	" " " "	220 00
Oct. 27.	" " " from H. A. Corley, Register and Salesman for lands sold from Nov. 22, 1865, to Oct. 27, 1866, (including a draft of J. Y. Jones, unpaid, for \$4,627 53)	\$51,716 59
	Less draft of J. Y. Jones on hand,	4,627 53— 47,089 06
		\$47,900 86

1865.	CR.	
Nov. 28.	—By amount paid J. B. Galbraith, Attorney, on ac- count of land note collections,	\$150 00
1866.		
Jan. 2.	" amount paid same on same account,	50 00
	" " " Frisbey for labor in Register's office,	7 50
	" " " for bank note reporter for salesman,	3 00
Feb. 18.	" " " Salesman certificate in favor J. A. Rogers, (cancelled land entry),	62 53
	" " " Treasurer's expenses to Stockholder's meeting at Jacksonville,	20 00
Mch. 8.	" " " Cancelled land entry certificate for R. L. Butler,	47 03
	" " " H. A. Corley, Salesman, for bill ex- penses for advertisements,	94 75
	" " " Officers salaries to Dec. 1865, viz: H. A. Corley, Salesman, \$600 C. H. Austin, Treasurer, 600—	1,200 00
April 2.	" " " Officers salaries first qr. 1866, viz: H. A. Corley, Salesman, \$200 C. H. Austin, Treasurer, 200—	400 00
May 14.	" " " Buggy hire attending Stockholders meeting P. and G. R. R.	5 00
June 8.	" " " Cancelled land entry for R. L. Butler,	34 45
July 20.	" " " Interest on Pen. & Ga. R. R. Bonds,	2,625 00
	" " " Interest on Florida R. R. Bonds,	230 00
July 22.	" " " Paid salary of officers 2d qr. 1866, H. A. Corley, Salesman, \$200 C. H. Austin, Treasurer, 200—	400 00
Sept. 27.	" " " Paid cancelled entry certificate for Alfred Shepard,	160 00
Oct. 1,	" " " Paid salaries officers 3d qr. 1866, H. A. Corley, Salesman, \$200 C. H. Austin, Treasurer, 200—	400 00
	" By balance, viz: State of Florida,	\$41,207 23
	Cash,	754 32— 41,961 60
		\$47,900 86

NOTE—The Assets and Sinking Fund remain as reported folio 20, Journal of the State, Convention, October 25, 1865, except the change arising from the sale of the Florida Rail Road and the transfer of the balance of the land notes to the Salesman for foreclosure, by order of the Board of Trustees.

REPORT OF THE SALESMAN  
OF  
Board of Trustees Internal Improvement Fund.

TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA, November 1, 1866.

*To the Board of Trustees of the  
Internal Improvement Fund:*

GENTLEMEN: The following statement will show the quantity of lands sold and the purchase money for the same from the 17th November, 1865, to this date:

	Quantity sold.	Purchase money.
Internal Improvement Lands,	13,835.04 acres.	\$23,787.14
Swamp Lands,	20,665.66 "	27,929.55
<b>Total,</b>	<b>34,500.70 "</b>	<b>\$51,716.69</b>

Of said sales entries were canceled and the purchase money refunded as follows: 40.02 acres Internal Improvement lands amounting to \$62.53, and 65.18 acres Swamp Lands, amounting to \$81.48, leaving the net quantity of lands disposed of 34,395.50 acres, yielding \$51,572.68.

HUGH A. CORLEY,  
Salesman.

REPORT  
OF THE  
SUPT OF COMMON SCHOOLS FOR FREEDMEN.

TALLAHASSEE, Nov. 8th, 1866.

To his Excellency, DAVID S. WALKER,  
*Governor of Florida:*

SIR—I have the honor to transmit to you, my report for the year 1866.

I was appointed Superintendent of Common Schools for Freedmen for the State, by your Excellency on the 7th day of April. I had been prior to this time, assistant superintendent. Mr. Hobbs and myself had so arranged it, that in the absence of funds for immediate action, he would go North to get funds, while I should travel throughout the State to establish schools.

I immediately commenced this work by organizing sabbath schools in connection with the ministers with whom I sought co-operation. We also urged through the press, and from the pulpit, the necessity of our engaging heartily in the instruction of our colored people as a matter of policy and protection, as well as a matter of humanity and christian benevolence, and that no one should do more readily than the Southern people, a work that we have been doing all our lives.

We of the South have been the best missionaries the world ever knew, receiving this black race from English and New England ships as barbarians, we have brought them to the social and religious status which they at present enjoy.

The history of the colored missions in the South is unparalleled in the annals of missionary labor throughout the world, as is shown by the simple fact that near four hundred thousand of this race were connected with the churches of the South before the war. We have existed formerly as master and servant, under reciprocal obligations, and now that these relations are dissolved, and not by any act of the colored people, it is our duty to extend to them that help and assistance that he has a right to claim at our hands, living in our midst, with the wisdom needful for self-government and self-control. These claims as an enlightened and christian people we cannot throw off.

In commencing this [work last January, I met everywhere, a kind reception and hearty response. The generally expressed opinion was, that we ought to do it.

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