
REPORT
OF THE
COMMISSIONER OF LANDS AND IMMIGRATION.
FOR THE YEARS 1883 AND 1884.

REPORT
OF THE
COMMISSIONER OF LANDS AND IMMIGRATION.

TALLAHASSEE, FLA., January 1, 1885.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY WILLIAM D. BLOXHAM,
Governor of Florida:

SIR—I have the honor to submit my report as Commissioner of Lands and Immigration, for the years of 1883 and 1884.

SWAMP LANDS.

Since the first day of January, 1883, the following patents for Swamp Lands have been received from the United States:

Patent No. 23, former Tampa, now Gainesville District.....	500.25
24, former Tampa, now Gainesville District.....	18,273.61
25, former Tampa, now Gainesville District.....	53,000.36
26, former Tampa, now Gainesville District.....	239.44
27, former Tampa, now Gainesville District.....	7,897.05
28, former Tampa, now Gainesville District.....	89,804.34
29, former Tampa, now Gainesville District.....	244,670.66
30, former Tampa, now Gainesville District.....	206,033.13
31, former Tampa, now Gainesville District.....	134,655.64
32, former Tampa, now Gainesville District.....	18,878.84
33, former Tampa, now Gainesville District.....	33,907.05
34, former Tampa, now Gainesville District.....	654.11
18, former St. Augustine, now Gainesville District.....	80.00
23, former Tallahassee, now Gainesville District.....	239.89
24, former Tallahassee, now Gainesville District.....	39,814.15
25, former Tallahassee, now Gainesville District.....	331.36
15, former Newnansville, now Gainesville District.....	40.00
16, former Newnansville, now Gainesville District.....	478.25
Total.....	854,503.63
Quantity previously patented, as shown by report of January 1, 1883.....	14,831,739.04
Making total patents received.....	15,686,242.67
The quantity disposed of prior to January 1, 1883, (exclusive of the Disston sale) as per my last report was.....	2,077,377.58
Amount sold exclusive of Disston sale in year 1883.....	35,089.69
Amount sold, exclusive of Disston sale, in year	

1884.....	40,766.76
Amount dedeed to railroads in year 1883.....	2,055,238.46
Amount dedeed to railroads in year 1884.....	956,866.15
Amount dedeed to Atlantic and Gulf Coast Canal and Okeechobee Land Company, in year 1883.....	9,373.95
Amount dedeed to Atlantic and Gulf Coast Canal and Okeechobee Land Company, in year 1884, less 360 acres previously conveyed.....	1,165,569.11
Amount dedeed to Florida Coast Line Canal and Transportation Company in year 1883.....	4,489.44
Entered by S I Wailes during years 1883 and 1884, under his contract with the Trustees of April 13, 1878.....	1,945.32
Entered on order of L. G. Dennis, as compensation for services as agent of the State in obtaining Patent No. 18 of Tallahassee District for 58,484.12 acres @ 10 per cent. of the lands, in 1883....	5,800.27
Entered with Stonelake Floats Nos. 1, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12, in year 1883.....	440.00
Amount conveyed to Disston and others at his request during years 1881, 1882, 1883 and 1884.....	3,966,079.68
Making total disposed of in years 1883 and 1884 including the Disston sale.....	<u>8,241,658.83</u>
Total disposed of up to January 1, 1885, including the Disston sale.....	<u>10,319,036.41</u>
Leaving balance on hand January 1, 1885.....	<u>5,367,206.26</u>

Of the quantity of land reported by me in my last report in the sales of 1881 and 1882, and in this report, in the sales of 1883, and 1884, 33, 939.31 acres were sold to settlers, and the purchase money amounting to \$30,660.69, turned over to Mr. Disston under the arrangement made with him by the Trustees, for the protection of settlers. This amount added to the amount above reported as conveyed to Mr. Disston and others at his request makes the 4,000,000 acres which was contracted to be conveyed to him.

Of the lands reported above as sold 12,264.47 acres were sold to Sydney I. Wailes for \$8,919.51 on his account as agent of the State at Washington, in adjusting land claims under his contract with the Trustees of October 19, 1878, and 6,515.00 acres sold to John A. Henderson for \$4,873.61, as agent of the State for selecting swamp lands.

RAILROADS.

List of railroad companies to which the swamp lands have been conveyed:

Feb. 2, 1883—St. Johns & Lake Eustis Railway Co.....	40.00
April 17, 1883—Pensacola & Atlantic Railroad Co.....	1,138,292.35
April 23, 1883—Florida Southern Railroad Co.....	485,671.39
May 3, 1883—Florida Southern Railroad Co.....	334,326.15
June 18, 1883—Pensacola & Atlantic Railroad Co.....	51,838.37

Sept. 18, 1883—Jacksonville, St. Augustine and Halifax River Railroad Co.....	43,008.54
Dec. 27, 1883—Sanford and Indian River Railroad Co.....	2,061.66
July 19, 1884—Plant Investment Co.....	123,481.16
Mch. 20, 1884—Green Cove Springs and Melrose Railroad Co.....	7,781.43
Mch. 23, 1884—Florida Southern Railroad Co.....	4,299.72
May 17, 1884—Jacksonville, Tampa & Key West Railway Co.....	45,812.49
Dec. 19, 1884—Florida Railway & Navigation Co.....	22,491.16
Dec. 30, 1884—Plant Investment Co.....	73,538.53
Dec. 30, 1884—Jacksonville, Tampa & Key West Railway Co.....	679,461.31
Total.....	<u>3,012,164.61</u>

SWAMP LAND INDEMNITY.

During the two years 1883 and 1884 floats or certificates amounting to 17,230.69 acres have been received by the State from the United States as indemnity for lands which inured to the State under the act of Congress of September 28th, 1850, but which were disposed of by the United States. Of these floats or certificates No. 12, embracing 1,031.41 acres, was sold to George G. McWhorter for the sum of \$618.84. On the 26th day of April, 1884, No. 16, embracing 12,642.68 acres, was transferred to "The First National Bank of Pensacola" as the trustee of the "City of Pensacola," under Chapter 3475, Acts of 1883. Nos. 15 and 17, embracing 3,239.85 acres, were transferred to Sydney I. Wailes, State Agent at Washington, for procuring the same under his contract with the Trustees of April 13, 1878. And No. 14, embracing 316.75 acres, is on hand.

Detailed Statement of Indemnity Certificates received during 1883 and 1884:

No. 12.....	1,031.41 acres
14.....	316.75
15.....	79.18
16.....	12,642.68
17.....	3,160.67
Total.....	<u>17,230.69 acres</u>

The quantity of lands located by the respective owners of the Swamp Land Indemnity Certificates which have been patented to the State is as follows:

Amount as per last report.....	50,146.15
Supplement A—To Special Indemnity Patent No. 2.....	155.24
B— " " " " " ".....	111.71
C— " " " " " ".....	653.23
D— " " " " " ".....	88.01
E— " " " " " ".....	160.66
Total.....	<u>51,315.00</u>
Of which there has been conveyed by the State to the owners of the certificates, or to such persons as they directed, as per last report.....	39,154.25
Conveyed during years 1883 and 1884.....	<u>7,831.43</u>
Total.....	<u>46,985.68</u>

INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT LANDS.

Amount on hand January 1, 1883, (approximate) as per report	175,970.00	
To which add quantity approved in 1883.....	16,474.35	
Total (approximate).....		192 444.35
Amount sold in the year 1883.....	12,080.00	
Amount sold in the year 1884.....	12,633.16	
Amount conveyed to Florida Railway and Navigation Co. under act of January 6, 1855.....	400.53—	25,113.69
Balance on hand January 1, 1885, (approximate).....		167,330.66

Below is a Tabulated Statement of Sales of Swamp and Internal Improvement Lands during the years 1883 and 1884 :

Abstract of Internal Improvement and Swamp Lands sold during the years 1883 and 1884.

MONTH.	SWAMP LANDS.				INT. IMP. LANDS.				TOTALS.			
	Quantity sold.		Purchase money.		Quantity sold.		Purchase money.		Quantity sold.		Purchase money.	
	Acres.	Hdths.	Dollars.	Cents.	Acres.	Hdths.	Dollars.	Cents.	Acres.	Hdths.	Dollars.	Cents.
1883.												
January.....	3,353	11	7,911	83	681	17	851	44	9,134	28	8,763	27
February.....	3,090	35	2,875	61	650	44	1,030	28	3,770	79	3,908	39
March.....	2,510	69	2,277	90	2,630	57	4,220	81	5,141	26	6,498	71
April.....	2,271	52	2,137	43	615	00	1,196	73	2,830	52	3,334	16
May.....	2,074	45	1,938	24	2,739	93	5,730	39	4,874	38	7,668	63
June.....	3,237	80	3,051	76	1,200	51	2,157	73	4,438	21	6,209	49
July.....	3,350	48	3,063	76	680	99	1,442	14	4,031	47	4,505	90
August.....	2,011	24	2,021	55	319	34	610	88	2,330	58	2,632	43
September.....	2,700	21	2,568	45	200	29	400	58	2,900	50	2,969	03
October.....	1,744	97	1,690	00	1,078	82	2,157	84	2,823	79	3,847	64
November.....	2,213	62	2,091	56	650	07	1,320	14	2,863	69	3,411	76
December.....	1,431	25	1,397	61	542	87	1,085	74	1,974	12	2,483	35
Total in 1883.....	35,089	69	33,025	70	12,080	00	22,204	50	47,169	69	55,230	20
1884.												
January.....	1,500	61	1,349	54	715	04	1,462	58	2,215	65	2,812	13
February.....	5,189	80	6,064	60	1,354	03	3,418	07	6,543	83	9,482	67
March.....	7,400	35	5,555	69	5,341	69	13,332	81	12,742	04	18,888	50
April.....	7,235	64	5,359	39	1,038	61	2,236	87	8,274	25	7,696	26
May.....	4,261	26	3,596	75	434	63	1,026	47	4,695	89	4,823	16
June.....	3,094	04	2,653	40	759	00	1,671	41	3,853	04	4,324	87
July.....	2,909	92	2,479	64	300	77	696	78	3,210	69	3,176	42
August.....	5,090	86	4,631	15	288	09	760	14	5,378	95	5,391	29
September.....	1,792	07	1,585	95	280	00	599	94	2,072	07	2,185	89
October.....	783	21	678	98	360	38	765	69	1,143	59	1,442	67
November.....	167	04	182	33	239	87	519	67	406	91	682	00
December.....	1,341	96	1,215	48	1,521	05	3,582	58	2,863	01	4,798	06
Totals.....	40,766	76	35,330	90	12,633	16	30,073	01	53,399	92	65,403	91
To which add Swamp Indemnity Certificate No. 12..	1,031	41	618	84					1,031	41	618	84
Total Indemnity Certificates, Swamp and Internal Improvement Lands sold during years 1883 and 1884, embracing such of the Disston sale as have been sold to settlers.....	41,798	17	35,949	74	12,633	16	30,073	01	54,431	33	66,022	75
	76,887	86	68,975	44	24,781	16	52,277	51	101,601	02	121,252	95

SCHOOL LANDS.

The amount of school lands on hand the 1st of January, 1883, can only be approximated, as the tract book has not been posted with the sixteenth sections embraced in the recent surveys.

I estimate the quantity of School lands on hand January 1, 1883, at	588,467.00
To which add quantity of Indemnity School Lands, approved in 1882 and 1883.....	17,032.35
Total.....	605,499.35
Amount sold in 1883.....	66,813.57
Amount sold in 1884.....	29,036.34—
Total sold in 1883 and 1884.....	95,899.91
Balance on hand January 1, 1885, (approx.).....	509,599.44

SEMINARY LANDS.

Balance on hand January 1, 1883, (approx.).....	33,820.00
Amount sold in 1883.....	1,363.28
Amount sold in 1884.....	316.79—
Total sold in 1883 and 1884.....	1,680.07
Balance on hand January 1, 1885, (approx.).....	32 139.93

Below is a tabulated statement of sales of School and Seminary lands during the years 1883 and 1884 :

Abstract of School and Seminary Lands sold during the years 1883 and 1884.

MONTH.	SCHOOL LANDS.				SEMINARY LANDS.				TOTALS.			
	Quantity sold.		Purchase money.		Quantity sold.		Purchase money.		Quantity sold.		Purchase money.	
	Acres.	Hdths.	Dollars.	Cents.	Acres.	Hdths.	Dollars.	Cents.	Acres.	Hdths.	Dollars.	Cents.
1883												
January.....	1,359	30	1,775	81	160	68	214	69	1,519	98	1,990	40
February.....	3,268	84	4,616	15					3,268	84	4,616	15
March.....	7,416	04	10,330	73	120	28	280	54	7,536	30	10,591	27
April.....	13,422	31	18,257	20	200	06	350	44	13,622	37	18,607	64
May.....	14,820	39	22,972	73	482	24	813	86	15,302	63	23,786	59
June.....	4,690	21	6,191	21	120	00	300	00	4,810	21	6,491	21
July.....	4,960	62	6,352	40	80	32	120	50	5,040	84	6,472	90
August.....	3,823	19	4,778	63	40	00	100	00	3,863	19	4,878	63
September.....	1,680	40	2,120	49	39	89	49	86	1,720	29	2,170	35
October.....	2,176	42	2,928	52	119	83	149	78	2,295	25	3,078	30
November.....	4,972	93	6,217	17					4,972	93	6,217	17
December.....	4,423	02	6,448	79					4,423	02	6,448	79
Total in 1883.....	66,813	57	92,990	03	1,363	28	2,359	57	68,176	85	95,349	60
1884.												
January.....	2,557	79	3,329	30	39	80	99	60	2,597	59	3,428	80
February.....	3,572	12	6,818	24					3,572	12	6,818	24
March.....	6,043	61	6,898	49	78	18	291	40	6,121	79	6,989	89
April.....	3,639	86	4,549	83					3,639	86	4,549	83
May.....	3,754	42	4,702	71	38	83	194	15	3,792	25	4,896	86
June.....	1,896	66	2,600	85					1,896	66	2,600	85
July.....	1,183	68	1,479	58					1,183	68	1,479	58
August.....	1,588	69	1,985	95					1,588	69	1,985	95
September.....	1,021	81	1,567	54	40	01	50	01	1,061	82	1,617	55
October.....	1,817	07	2,271	32	80	03	100	03	1,897	10	2,371	35
November.....	918	66	1,138	39					918	66	1,138	39
December.....	2,091	97	2,614	06	39	94	49	93	2,131	91	2,664	89
Total in 1884.....	29,086	34	39,757	16	316	79	785	02	29,403	13	40,542	18
Total in 1883 & 1884.....	96,899	91	132,747	19	1,680	07	3,144	59	97,579	98	135,891	78

Herewith I submit a tabulated statement of the sales of Internal Improvement and School Lands for the past four years with an aggregated statement of sales of the same class of lands from the year 1868 to 1880, inclusive, a period of twelve previous years.

From these it will be seen that the sales of Internal Improvement Lands proper for the last four years exceed in acreage the sales of the twelve previous years by 13,559.95 acres, and that the amount of purchase money for the same during the last four years exceeds that of the twelve previous years by \$40,234.00, and that the excess of sales of school lands for the past four years over the previous twelve years is 104,045.78 acres, the purchase money for which exceeds the amount received during the previous twelve years by \$161,295.58.

It is believed that the sales in the United States Land Office at Gainesville equal if they do not exceed those made in this office.

These are exclusive of sales and grants of swamp lands to settlers, corporations and others, and, taken together with the latter, indicate a condition of progressive development unequalled by anything in the previous history of the State.

The following is the tabulated statement to which reference is made:

INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT LAND SALES.

Sold in 1881—17,664.69 acres for.....	\$28,016.14
Sold in 1882—21,742.04 acres for.....	29,378.45
Sold in 1883—12,080.00 acres for.....	22,204.50
Sold in 1884—12,633.16 acres for.....	30,073.01
	<hr/>
64,119.73	109,672.10
Sales from 1868 to 1880 inclusive—12 years—50,559.78 acres for.....	69,438.01
	<hr/>
Excess	13,559.95
	\$40,234.09

SCHOOL LAND SALES.

Sold in 1881—15,232.56 acres for.....	\$21,069.78
Sold in 1882—36,570.51 acres for.....	62,853.59
Sold in 1883—66,813.57 acres for.....	92,990.03
Sold in 1884—29,086.34 acres for.....	39,757.16
	<hr/>
147,702.98	\$216,670.56
Sales from 1868 to 1880 inclusive—12 years 43,657.20 acres for.....	55,384.98
	<hr/>
Excess	104,045.78
	\$161,295.58

In the spring of 1883 John A. Henderson, Esq., was appointed agent to select lands granted to the State by act of Congress of September 28th, 1850. By the terms of his contract,

he was to bear all expenses of making the selections and of procuring the proofs required by the rules of the department in Washington, showing that the lands selected belonged to the class granted by the act. He states in his report that he has filed in the office of the United States-Surveyor-General, sixteen lists of selections numbered from five (5) to twenty (20) inclusive, embracing one million, five hundred and four thousand, four hundred and fifteen and sixty-five one-hundredths acres (1,504,415.65-100.) Of these seven hundred and sixty-seven thousand, seven hundred and sixty-eight and sixty-two one hundredths (767,768.62-100) acres have already been patented to the State which are included in the patents above enumerated. For the balance of 736,647.03-100 acres we hope to receive patents very soon.

The success of securing future selections and patents will depend greatly upon the action of the Surveyor-General in extending the surveys over vast areas of the unsurveyed public domain of this State. It is estimated that there are between five and six millions of acres of this class of lands south of the 27th parallel of North Latitude. Besides these, there are other large bodies of unsurveyed lands in different portions of the State. It has hitherto been the practice of the government to patent only surveyed lands, except unsurveyed portions of townships which have, in a few instances, been patented. For the continuation and completion of the great enterprises now chartered and in process of development, it is of the utmost importance to the State to have the surveys extended as rapidly as possible in order to enable her to secure such portions of these lands as passed under the grant.

I mention this subject here in the hope that you will take some notice of it in your message, and make such recommendations as its importance demands.

I respectfully call your attention to the condition of the records of this office and the necessity of some provision for their safe keeping and better preservation from injury by natural causes. The citizens of all portions of the State are deeply interested in them, and to them, also, will future generations be obliged to trace the titles to their estates. Their loss by fire or serious damage from any other cause would prove a great calamity to the whole people. I hope some measures will be provided to make them as safe and enduring as practicable.

Respectfully submitted,

P. W. WHITE, Commissioner.