then with the States and Territories carved out of and embracing the public domain.

EXHIBIT OF THE AREA OF THE SEVERAL STATES AND TERRITORIES OF THE UNITED STATES.

States and Territories.	Square Miles.	Acres.
Maine	35,000	22,400,000
New Hampshire	9,280	5,939,200
Vermont	10,212	6,535,680
Massachusetts	7,800	4,992,000
Rhode Island	1,306	835,840
Connecticut	4,764	3,049,600
New York	47,000	30,080,000
New Jersey	8,320	5,324,800
Pennsylvania	46,000	29,440,000
Delaware	2,120	1,356,800
Maryland	11,124	7,119,360
Virginia	61,352	39,265,280
North Carolina	50,704	32,450,560
South Carolina	34,000	21,760,000
Georgia	58,000	37,120,000
Kentucky	37,680	24,115,200
Tennessee	45,600	29,184,000
Texas	274,356	175,587,840
Total	744,604	476,546,560
LAND STATES.		
Ohio	39,964	25,576,960
Indiana	33,809	21,637,760
Michigan	56,451	36,128,640
Illinois	55,410	35,462,400
Wisconsin	53,924	34,511,360
Iowa	55,045	35,228,800
California	158,981	120,947,840
Oregon	95,274	60,975,360
Minnesota	83,531	53,459,840
Florida	59,268	37,931,520
Alabama	50,722	32,462,080
Mississippi	47,156	30,179,840
Louisiana	41,346	26,461,440
Arkansas	52,198	33,406,720
Missouri	65,350	41,824,000
Total land States	978,429	626,194,560
District of Columbia	60	38,400
TERRITORIES EMBRACING PUBLIC LANDS		
Kansas	126,283	80,821,120
Nebraska	342,436	219,160,320
Minnesota	81,960	52,454,400
Washington	193,071	123,568,640
New Mexico	256,309	164,037,760
Utah	220,195	140,925,440
Indian	67,020	42,892,805
Total Territories	1,287,277	823,857,280
Total land surface	3,010,370	1,926,636,800

To which added water surface, lakes, rivers, &c., we have a surface of over three and a quarter millions of square miles.

The aggregate area of the land States and Territories is upwards of 1,450,000,000 acres.

In the work of surveying extension in the land States and Territories mentioned in the foregoing exhibit, the tracing of the great meridians and base lines, and establishing enduring monuments, require the highest professional skill, because upon these lines are closed and perpetuated the township lines, the whole framework of the system.

Principal and guide meridians have been run, and established to the extent of 7,039 miles; base lines to the extent of 4,819 miles—making an aggregate of 11,858 miles.

The other lines of the public surveys, township and subdivisional, from the commencement of operations to the present period have been extended over 689,169 miles, equal to 441,067,915 acres.

The surveys have been completed in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Alabama, Mississippi, Michigan, Arkansas and Iowa, and nearly so in Missouri, Louisiana and Florida, excepting in the last named, the "everglades" in the southern peninsula.

The details of the number of miles and acres surveyed in each department during the year ending September 30, 1860, are exhibited in an accompanying statement. The work has been continuous with the funds appropriated, and includes public lands, confirmed private claims, Indian reservations, and boundaries between States and Territories. During the period there have been returned surveys equal to 36,388 lineal miles; or, an area of 21,880,419 92 acres. The existing machinery is divided into eleven surveying departments; its personnel consisted, during the last year, of eleven surveyors general, eighty five employés, one hundred deputy surveyors, having four hundred assistants, in the capacities of compassmen, chainmen, flagmen, axemen and teamsters.

The surveying archives of Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Alabama and Mississippi have long since been delivered over to those States pursuant to law. The archives for Illinois and Arkansas, where the surveys are completed, may be transferred to the State authorities whenever the Legislatures of those States shall have passed acts of acceptance, as required by the laws of Congress of the 12th January, 1840, and 24d January, 1853. In the case of Missouri, Louisiana, Florida and Iowa, the surveying machinery is in progress of being wound up—the transfer in like manner is proposed when the Legislatures of those States shall have passed the prerequisite acts of acceptance.

The fragmentary work which may remain in any of those States after the Surveying Department is closed within their limits, such as surveys of private claims, islands or interstitial parcels of the public land, can at any time hereafter be executed through the instrumentality of the General Land Office, in virtue of the powers conferred upon the Commissioners by the acts of Congress for that purpose.

MISSOURI.

Having the object in view of an early closing of his office—the Surveyor General has been instructed to direct his force with diligence and energy to the complete protraction in triplicate of all field notes of townships, or of surveys of parcels of land, not yet reduced to plats—then to have all allotments of the school lands under the acts of Congress of 1812, 1824 and 1831, brought to a termination—to have disputed questions of confirmed locations promptly settled and platted, with any other cases of confirmed titles.

LOUISIANA.

The existing contracts for surveys are all required to be executed before the 30th June next—the field work, therefore, in this State may be regarded as nearly completed, excepting the New Orleans township, for which, with its exterior relations of private titles, and swamp, the Surveyor General has recommended an appropriation of $3,000. The item has heretofore brought to the attention of Congress, is desirable, and is recommended; yet this particular service need not delay the closing of that Surveying Department, because the work can hereafter be done under the orders of this office, whenever authority shall be given by Congress for its execution at the requisite augmented rates.

The field work of past years has been pressed with greater speed than the clerk work of the Louisiana Surveying Department, and hence a large accumulation of desk labor exists. The Surveyor General has been instructed to bring up the arrears, looking to the eventual transfer of the archives to the State. The estimates submitted have in view the closing of the Surveying Department in the two States—Missouri and Louisiana—dispensing with the chief officers there as soon as the public interests will allow, and completing transcripts by direct authority from this office out of the means anticipated pursuant to the estimates presented, these means to be applied in the most effectual manner to the end contemplated.

FLORIDA.

In Florida the field operations were carried on along the Atlantic coast, east of Indian river, and in the vicinity of Merritt's Island; also east and west of the Okeechobee lake, and in the neighborhood of Carloonhatchee river. The estimates submitted are for subdivisional work of certain arable lands—about twenty townships—equal to 460,800 acres, situated north of Carloonhatchee river, and west of Okeechobee lake. In addition to this the Surveyor General recommends the extension of township lines over a region of country south of Carloonhatchee, in latitude 26 deg. 50 min., and north of the Everglades, on the ground of the existence of extensive bodies of land not falling within the swamp grant; but the information in our possession does not satisfy us of the present necessity of this work, which would require augmented rates and may be done at any future period, when circumstances may render it desirable.

The question of the true boundary between Florida and Georgia is one of long standing, and should be promptly settled. The Commissioners appointed under the act of Congress of May 4, 1826, having disagreed as to the true source of St. Marys river, the boundary has never been since finally determined, Georgia insisting that Ellicott's mound, established in 1800, at the source of that river, was not at the real source of the river, and in 1829 the State applied to Congress for authority to run and mark the boundary according to the true intent and meaning of the treaty of 1795 with Spain; but nothing further in respect to the determination of that line has since been ordered by Congress. Ellicott's mound and the initial point of the boundary at the mouth of Flint river, were connected by actual measurement in a direct line as early as 1825 by the United States Surveyor General, and the public surveys in Florida have been closed thereon.

The failure of the Commissioners by disagreement to carry out the provisions of the said act of 1826 having, as stated, left the question as to the true boundary unsettled, the provisions of the act of Congress, approved 15th of April, 1850, "to settle the claim to lands along the boundary line between the States of Florida and Georgia," cannot be properly carried out in settling the determinous private rights of the people in Georgia and Florida until final adjustment of the boundary is had pursuant to further legislation of Congress.

KANSAS NEBRASKA.

The Surveyor General reports that the surveying service has progressed during the last year to the extent of the appropriations. The returns of the field work, consisting in Kansas of 5,746 miles township and subdivisional work, principally New York Indian lands, and in Nebraska 3,619 miles on the Missouri river, near the confluence of the Neobrarah and Missouri rivers, and on the Platte river near Fort Kearney, and on the head waters of the Big Blue river.

In this surveying department thirty-three township plats for Kansas have been prepared and sent to local land offices for an area of ..... 760,981 05 acres.
The plats previously reported, embracing ..... 11,325,334 96 "

Making plats duly returned for a total area in Kansas of ..... 12,086,316 00 acres.
Thirty-eight township plats for Nebraska have been prepared during the past year and transmitted for an area of 765,877 86 acres; plats previously reported for 8,652,897.79 acres, making plats returned for a surface of ..... 9,418,675 64 "

Constituting an aggregate of surveyed and platted land in Kansas and Nebraska of ..... 21,501,991.64 acres.

SURVEYS APPLIED FOR AT THE FOOT OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS.

Representations have been made to this office that the region of country particularly on the eastern slope of the mountains, or the South Platte gold region, is interspersed with numerous valleys of small extent, yet in the aggregate of a sufficient area to sustain a large population, the soil being of a productive character. It is reported that the lands at the head of the South Platte, and its tributaries, which have already been settled upon and cultivated, extend about one hundred miles along the Rocky Mountains, from north to south, and twenty five to fifty miles from west to east, embracing many towns, among which are Denver, Auraria, Golden City, Arrapahoe, Colorado, Mountain City, Russelville, Boulderville, and others. It is further stated that the country down the Platte river is very fine, and the valley on each side contains bottom lands from one to three miles in width, yielding the finest grass, being settled by farmers as far as Fremont's orchard, about one hundred miles east in the direct line of the Rocky Mountains, and garden farms are being cultivated to a considerable extent.

The Surveyor General, in submitting estimates for the service for the year ending June 30, 1862, suggests the extension of the public surveys in that direction, and should the Indian title to the lands in that region of country be extinguished, the wishes of distant settlers and miners might be gratified by affording facilities for the acquisition of title to surveyed lands, so much desired by those pursuing agricultural avocations, and who may be enabled to purchase with the means realized from the sale of products in a ready market in mining communities.

The base line, being the boundary between Kansas and Nebraska, having been extended during the last year to the summit of the Rocky Mountains, affords facilities for the surveying of any portions of this surveying district, and as soon as the title to the Indian land is extinguished, the wants of the actual settlers dispersed throughout the wide extent of the Territories of Kansas and Nebraska, may be readily satisfied.

The base line just referred to, governing the public surveys in Kansas and Nebraska, had been established in former years for the distance of 204 miles west from the Missouri river, on the 40th degree north latitude to the intersection point of the 2d guide meridian, west, with that parallel. This line is not only the standard from which surveys in Nebraska start, and in Kansas count, but being reported as surveyed and marked on the latitude aforesaid, it will serve as the line of demarcation between those two Territories, separating their jurisdiction.

With the view to acquiring accurate information as to the character of the lands, together with the political considerations requiring tangible boundary, separating Kansas from Nebraska, the extension of the base line was ordered by you, and accomplished during the last year to the extent of 345 miles and 29 4 100 chains, the terminating point being on the summit of the Rocky Mountains, designated by a towering granite rock, presenting an acute top, affording no eligible place for the erection of any conspicuous artificial monument thereon, this point being 549 miles and 29 4 100 chains west of the initial monument erected on the Missouri river.

The surveyors represent considerable settlements along the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains, and on the 10th September, 1859, report:—"The base line as completed from initial point, on the west or right bank of Missouri river, to its point of intersection with the east boundary of Utah, said boundary line being on the summit of the Rocky Mountains," that, "following its meanderings, the entire length of the line between the above point, as laid down by measurement is 549 miles and 29 4 100 chains, making 10 degrees, 21 minutes 16 seconds of longitude; 55 56 1 100 miles, being a degree of longitude on the 40th parallel of latitude. The initial point on the Missouri river, being 95 degrees 16 minutes, 43 seconds added to 10 degrees, 21 minutes 16 seconds makes for the closing point on the Utah line as above described 106 degrees, 36 minutes 59 seconds west of Greenwich."

The Surveyor General has entered into contracts for the present fiscal year to the extent of the appropriation—$20,000—the field operations in Kansas being on both sides of Arkansas river in the southern part of the Territory, adjoining the Osage reservation in Nebraska, east of and about twenty five miles from Fort Kearney, also in the region east of the Pawnee reserve in the valley of the Loup fork of the Platte river.

The extension of the public surveys in Kansas for the next fiscal year, as recommended by the Surveyor General, is, in the opinion of this officer, much larger than the service requires. His estimates have accordingly been restricted, in view of the great extent of surveyed lands already subject to pre-emption and open to entry at private sale.

WISCONSIN.

In the country lying in Marathon and Oconto counties east of Wisconsin river, these have been surveyed township exteriors equal to 318 miles, and subdivisions amounting to 1,354 miles. In the region near the sources of St. Croix, Burnt Wood and Bad rivers, in La Pointe county, 403 miles of township and subdivision lines have been established.

The surveyor General has contracted for the survey of fourteen townships east of Wisconsin river, in the vicinity of Beaulieux Rapids, and west of the line separating Oconto from Marathon county—this portion demanding priority in survey on account of the evidence of valuable timber, with soil suitable for settlement.

Contracts, also, have been made for the extension of township survey, on the region between Lake Flambeau and Wisconsin river, extending north to the boundary of Michigan. About six townships, well timbered, at the head of the Wisconsin and Brule rivers and Lac Vaux desert, will be subdivided. Contracts have also been made for the subdivision of six townships—three on Bad river, emptying into Lake Superior, south of Madeline island, and the remainder adjoining the western boundary of Wisconsin, near St. Louis river.

In this part of Wisconsin there remains only eleven townships to be subdivided to complete the surveys in that part of the State, including those falling within the reservation for the La Pointe and other Indians, under the record clause of the second article of the treaty of the 30th September, 1854, with the Chippewas of Lake Superior, situated west of the mouth of the Montreal river, and in the valley of the Bad river. The office work in the surveying district has been despatched with commendable activity.

IOWA.

There have been run in the northwestern portion of this State, during the past year, 994 miles of subdivisional work, leaving to complete the whole State but two townships, under survey, with some small islands in navigable lakes and rivers; also isolated tracts which were covered with water when former surveys were executed. The transcription of the land archives for Iowa, it is proposed to press forward to the full extent of means at command, in order to be able to transfer those archives to the State authorities before the close of the ensuing fiscal year.

TERRITORY OF MINNESOTA (KNOWN AS DACOTAH), WEST OF MINNESOTA AND IOWA.

The surveys in this Territory have advanced, under the superintendence of the Surveyor General of Wisconsin and Iowa, whose office is at Dubuque. The fifth principal meridian which controls the surveys in Arkansas, Missouri, Iowa, and the State of Minnesota, governs also the extension of the lines of the public surveys in this Territory. Since the last annual report the returns of surveys in the country on both sides of the Big Sioux river, west of the State of Minnesota, have been made, amounting to 335 lineal miles of township exteriors, and there has been subdivided one township, in which Sioux Falls City is situated, embracing portions of the land falling within Root River Land District, organized in the former Territory, now State of Minnesota. The remainder of the township (101 N. R. 49 W.) lying west of Big Sioux river is not within any organized land district.

The work in this Territory consists of township and subdivisional surveys to be made south of the 43d latitude, west of the Big Sioux, north of the Missouri and east of the Yancton Reservation, embracing the valleys of Big Sioux, Missouri, Vermillion and James rivers.

The subdivisional work, not exceeding three full townships, is to cover such localities as may fall within claims provided for in the seventh article of the treaty of April 19, 1858, with the Yancton tribe of Indians.

As there exists no land district in this Territory, except for that portion lying east of Big Sioux river, north of township 100 north and east of the treaty line with the Sissetons and Wahpaytons bands of Dakota or Sioux Indians, of July 23, 1851, the necessity for prompt legislation is suggested for the organization of a land district for the present Territory of Minnesota.

STATE OF MINNESOTA—SEPARATE SURVEYING DISTRICT.

The whole area surveyed within the limits of this State is 20,919,560 acres, equal to 32,765 square miles, seven eighths of which are reported to be good land. Since the establishment, on the 22d of May, 1857, of the Surveyor General's office at St. Paul, as the seat of a separate district, 6,249,772 acres have been surveyed, 995,735 of which were completed during the last year. Contracts for 276,480 acres, north and east of Ottertail lake, and east of Mille Lacs, have been made. Plats for 226 townships, with 136 lists descriptive of soil, have been sent to the proper officers, and transcripts of field notes and records for that district and General Land Office have been prepared during the last year, to the extent of 18,841 pages.

In our last annual report the completion was reported of the greater portion of the survey of the western boundary of Minnesota, lying between the southern extremity of Big Stone lake and the northern boundary of Iowa, on a due south course for the distance of 124 miles, and that measures had been taken for the testing of the accuracy of its establishment in the field. During the past year the remaining portion of the boundary between the iron monuments at the heads of lakes Travers and Big Stone, distant 4 miles, 29 chains and 43 links, has been completed; returns made to this office, and, after testing the accuracy of the work in the field, the same has been accepted and payment in full made.

CALIFORNIA.

During the past year 4,386 lineal miles have been surveyed, embracing an area of 265,668 acres. The greater portion of the appropriation for this district was allotted for the survey of confirmed private claims, 193 in number, resting upon Mexican grants, reserving a small sum for the surveys and connections of the lines of the contiguous public lands.

A map herewith, which accompanied the Surveyor General's report, exhibits in a handsome and distinct manner the public lands, and in connection therewith the location of 348 private claims and Indian reservations.

From the organization of that surveying district to the present about 95,750 lineal miles, covering about 58,760,440 acres, have been surveyed.

The Surveyor General submits a very large estimate for surveys for the ensuing year, referring to a joint resolution of the State in furtherance of his views; but in consideration of the past extensive operations in that district, and the failure of any considerable receipts from the offering of several millions of acres, it is not deemed necessary by this office to ask for more than the moderate sum indicated in the estimates to be applied to the surveys of confirmed ranchos.

OREGON.

The surveying service in this State has been progressing during the last year along Columbia river, embracing settlements in the neighborhood of Fort Dallas, in the valley of Umatilla river, east of the Cascades, and in that portion of the country west of Klamath Lake, near the line between Oregon and California, not yet established in the field by actual demarkation.

During the last year 1,109 miles, embracing 336,884 acres, have been surveyed in this district.

Under the provisions of the act of Congress, approved June 25, 1860, "For the survey of the forty sixth parallel of north latitude, so far as it constitutes a common boundary between Oregon and Washington Territory," &c., instructions have been issued to the Surveyor General of the contermious districts, upon the subject of the establishment of that parallel of latitude. These officers have been called upon for a preliminary report, so that the best mode of proceeding may be decided upon, both as to the manner of execution, cost of the work and the personnel to be connected with it. Upon the receipt of the requisite report, prompt measures will be ordered for the survey of the boundary. The existence of valuable farming land is reported as adjoining the southern boundary of Oregon, between the Blue Mountains and Klamath Lake, and settlers are desirous of having that region surveyed; but this cannot be done until the southern boundary is established.

The recommendation of last year is, therefore, renewed for authority to trace the forty-second parallel of north latitude from the northeastern corner of the State of California to the Pacific Ocean—an estimated distance of 221 miles—so that the township and subdivisional lines of the survey, both of California and Oregon, may be permanently closed on this common boundary. Should the requisite appropriation be made, this important work may be commenced as soon as the point of intersection of the forty second parallel with 120 degrees of longitude west of Greenwich, is astronomically determined by the commission which has been appointed by the President, under the act of Congress, approved 26th May, 1860, to run and mark the eastern boundary line of California, separating it from the Territories of the United States.

WASHINGTON TERRITORY.

Eleven Deputy Surveyors, under different contracts, have been in the field, west of the Cascade Mountains, and extending from the neighborhood of Columbia river to near the 49th degree, north latitude, the international boundary, east and west of the Willamette meridian. The Puget Sound guide meridian has been extended to the northern boundary of the Territory.

During the last year 2,992 miles of lineal measure have been run, embracing 529,675 69-100 acres.

The field work now under contract is mainly east of the Cascades.

By the establishment of the standard lines over the valleys north and east of Columbia river, the particular localities of the plateau of Spokane, and the little valleys of Snake, Yakama, Kikatat and Spokane rivers may be reached by the lines of public surveys from either of the standards recently established, whenever the wants of settlers may require either for agricultural or other purposes. Although the general description of the country traversed by the Columbia guide meridian, and the standard parallel, does not appear equal to the lands already surveyed west of the Cascades, in point of soil and timber, yet there are particular regions in the valleys of the numerous tributaries of the Columbia river, where the settlements are increasing and requires the subdivision of lands for their accommodation. Surveys for that duty have been despatched to the valleys of Snake, Tonchet, Walla Walla and Kikatats rivers.

NEW MEXICO.

The surveys in this Territory have been extended during the past year over confirmed private titles, equal to 433,479 acres, and public lands for an area of 826,479 acres, equal in all to 2,360 lineal miles; and contracts have been made for the survey of the confirmed claims, embracing the town of Las Vegas, Pinos, or Galienas Grant; town of Anton Chico, of Mora, claims of E. W. Eaton, Alexander Valle, Donat and Vigil and Hugh Stevenson.

The Surveyor General reports that great anxiety exists among claimants under the treaty of 1848, at Guadaloupe Hidalgo, respecting the survey of such claims as have already been confirmed, but not yet surveyed for want of means, and recommends that a board be established similar to that organized in California, for the adjustment of such titles, reporting that on his docket there are more than one thousand claims to be examined and passed upon.

UP to this time there have been surveyed twenty confirmed private claims under Mexican grants, and the appropriation of $10,000 by act of Congress, approved June 25, 1860, has been mainly directed to the survey of Pueblas, and other confirmed titles by the acts of Congress, approved December 22, 1858, and June 21, 1860.

The policy adopted respecting the survey of claims scattered over a vast extent of the country, requires the Surveyor General first to survey such "pueblos" and undivided confirmed claims as now fall within existing public surveys, then to survey the claims nearest the lines of the public surveys, and to connect them, if within six miles—the first closing of the lines of the public surveys thereon to be made after the body of the public surveys shall advance around them.

UTAH.

Operations in this district have been confined to the examination of surveys executed prior to 1858, under the superintendence of the late Surveyor General, against which allegations of fraud had been preferred. The final result has not yet reached here. The whole surveys executed since the organization of the Territory, cover 2,190,100 acres, of which plats had been returned here for 2,190,000 acres. The residue, 319,900 acres, had been surveyed by Charles Mogo, under contract date of March 6, 1857, with the late Surveyor General, but, owing to the Mormon difficulties in that year, and the departure of the late Surveyor General from Utah, they have not been examined and passed upon. In consideration of the large area of the surveyed lands in Utah, the absence of provisions of law granting pre emptions, and of the fact that there is no land district yet authorized there, no additional surveys are now recommended by this office.

The Surveyor General of Utah, on the 25th of April last, reported that unauthorized surveys had been made in Carson river valley on the eastern slope of Sierra Nevada, by county surveyors. Instructions were, there upon, promptly despatched to him by this office, which he has carried out, to apprise all concerned of the illegality of any such surveys by unauthorized surveyors, and the penalty prescribed for violation of the law in this respect, and that surveys of lands in the Territory could only be made by the authority of the United States.

He has already given notice to persons claiming mineral lands, coal and lead, under color of Territorial legislation, that any such claims are illegal and invalid, being in derogation of the rights of the government under the constitution and laws of the United States.

The Surveyor General and three clerks, during the last year, have been occupied in the examination of the archives of the surveys heretofore made, which, during the Mormon troubles in Salt Lake City, had been scattered and held in possession by sundry persons. That officer has collected nearly all the papers, and after reorganizing the office, proceeded to the completion of transcripts of the surveys; has been engaged in the inspection of the surveys in the field, and in reconnoissances made through some portions of the Territory, with the view to ascertaining the character of land most eligible for survey.

These immense fields of the public surveys are marked by regularity, simplicity and beauty. The traveller passing from the Atlantic States westward will not fail to observe the irregular figures of the rural lands he leaves, in contrast with those met with when he touches the eastern line of the Western or land States, where the rectangular or public land system prevails so effectively that the least informed may proceed to the identification of any particular subdivision in a given locality with as much certainty as he could identify the number of a building in a block of any of our capital cities.

THE SURVEY OF THE KEYS AND ISLANDS.

Under acts of Congress and former appropriations for the survey of keys and islands along the coasts of Florida and California, it became requisite to have the keys and islands surveyed and connections made with the land marks on the main shores. The usual legal rates in the respective surveying districts were not adequate for the compensation of the land surveyors, owing to the expensive outfits for reaching islands and keys of limited areas distant from the main land. To meet the provisions of the law in the premises, this office therefore availed itself of the aid of the Coast Survey service, under the management of its distinguished Superintendent, and with the approbation of the Secretary of the Treasury, instructions were issued in 1848, to the Superintendent of that branch of the public service for the survey of the keys on the coast of Florida, and of the islands off the coast of California. Since that time up to the year 1857 the surveys through the instrumentality of the Superintendent of the Coast Survey have cost the government but small additional sums beyond the usual appropriations for the service of the Coast Survey proper, and from the period last mentioned up to the present the survey of keys and islands has been continued without special appropriations, the expenses incurred having been met with the funds applicable for the general Coast Survey service. The returns of the surveys of the keys and islands since the commencement of the work are extensive, consisting of the survey and subdivision of the keys off the Florida coast, from the mouth of the Miami river, the affluent of Biscayne bay, thence south along the coast to Key West, to Marquesas Keys, and connecting other numerous keys by series of triangulations with the mainland, and preparing township plats, embracing twenty seven thousand acres of surface. The keys have been separated from the main shore by Key Biscayne bay, Card's sound, Cayo Largo and Florida bay. All east and south of the Everglades, extending for upwards of one hundred and fifty miles, and connected with the main shore of the peninsula from Virginia Key, in latitude 25 deg. 45 min. N., longitude 80 deg. W., to latitude 24 deg. 45 min. N., longitude 83 deg. W. In the prosecution of the survey of the Florida mainland and keys, Cape Sable, the extreme point of the peninsula, has been connected by triangulations with the keys.

The survey of the islands off the coast of California has been prosecuted to a considerable extent by the Coast Survey office; but owing to the mountainous character of the lands no subdivisional work has yet been returned. Their relative positions in reference to each other and to the main shore have been, however, correctly ascertained, and handsomely represented upon the maps of the Coast Survey office.

PROCLAMATION FOR THE SALES OF PUBLIC LANDS.

Pursuant to executive orders there have been proclaimed for sale during the five quarters ending September 30, 1860, 16,355,361 acres; and during the past month, viz., under date of 22d October, 1860, in California, 3,686,287 acres, particulars being shown in accompanying statements.

To relieve settlers who might be unable to prove up before the day of public sale, the Secretary of the Interior decided, and instructions have been accordingly despatched to the Land offices, that it was competent for such settlers who may have failed to prove and pay up before the day of public sale, to make a new improvement, and file a declaration for the same tract they had settled upon, if unsold, and that settlement claims of this class were not liable to location by warrants without the consent of the settler, such being the proviso in the bounty land laws in regard to locations:—

	Acres.
On the 30th of June, 1859, we had on hand, prepared for market and unoffered, an area of	57,094,647
During the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1860, the quantity returned for market was	8,534,806
And during the quarter ending Sept. 30, 1860	1,114,671
Total returned during the five quarters	9,649,471
Total surveyed and returned for market up to Sept. 30, 1860	66,744,118
During the fiscal year ending June 30, 1860, there were proclaimed for sale	9,257,217
And during the quarter ending Sept. 30, 1860	7,128,344
Making a total proclaimed of	16,485,561
Leaving on hand Sept. 30, 1860, prepared for market and not proclaimed or offered at public sale, exclusive of school sections	56,348,757
Deduct from this the area as shown in the foregoing in California, proclaimed Oct. 22, 1860, of	3,685,287
Leaving now on hand ready for market	46,663,470
The estimated quantity which had been offered at public sale and remaining subject to private entry at the various land offices, on Sept. 30, 1860, is	39,267,000
The cash sales for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1860, embrace	3,461,213 66
Cash received for same	$1,543,689 24
For the quarter ending September 30, 1860	516,416 14
Cash received	277,796 73
Making a total for the five quarters of	3,977,619 83
In money	$2,131,436 97
During the fiscal year men tioned there have been located with bounty land warrants	2,782,780.00
And during the quarter just expired	496,360.00
Making total locations, in satisfaction of bounty land claims during the five quarters ended in September 30, 1860, of	3,279,040 00
During the year ending June 30, 1860, there have been approved under the Swamp Grants of 1849 and 1850	1,674,708.96
And during the quarter ending September 30, 1860	363,061 97
Total for the five quarters under Swamp Grant	2,037,770.93
During the fiscal year last mentioned there have been certified to certain States for railroad purposes	1,676,304 00
And during the quarter which expired September 30, 1860	989,319.00
Being a total certified for railroads during the five quarters of	2,665,624.00
Making an aggregate of	12,060,858.72
Disposed of during the five quarters ending September 30, 1860, for cash in satisfaction of bounty warrants, as swamp and for railroads	
The whole surface of the public domain, exclusive of water, is as heretofore stated	1,450,000,000
The whole area surveyed up to Sept. 30, 1860, is	441,067,915
The quantity which has been offered at public sale up to Sept. 30, 1860, is, including school sections	69,803,508
The whole quantity disposed of for cash up to Sept. 30, 1860, is	150,653,048
And by private claims, grants, donations, &c.	243,455,664
Making an aggregate of	394,068,712
Of the public domain disposed of to Sept. 30, 1860, by sales, grants, private claims, &c.	
The total area of unsold and unappropriated, of offered and unoffered lands of the public domain, on Sept. 30, 1860, was	1,055,911,288

SWAMP AND OVERFLOWED LANDS—LOUISIANA HOLDING UNDER ACTS OF 1849 AND 1850, OTHER STATES UNDER ACT OF 1850.

During the last year there have been prepared and submitted for approval nineteen lists, containing 586 pages, of which transcripts have been sent to the Governors of the States and local land officers; and in the same period thirty-four patents for swamp lands have been granted, containing 538 pages, and covering 369 folio pages of record.

Since the commencement of operations under these grants there have been selected in the States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Alabama, Mississippi, Iowa, Louisiana, Michigan, Arkansas, Florida and Wisconsin an aggregate area of ..... acres 57,187,550 99-100
Of this quantity there have been approved to the States 44,237,971 80-100
And of which there have been patented to the States an area of 31,461,220 37-100
the details of which are shown in accompanying exhibits.

Under the act of 12th March, 1860, extending the provisions of the act of September 28, 1850, to the States of Minnesota and Oregon, steps have been taken preliminary to the commencement of the work of selection. They consist in submitting to the executives of those States one or the other of two propositions, to wit—the adoption of the field notes of the surveys, or the designation of the lands from personal inspection by duly constituted agents. No communication accepting either has yet been received.

The authorities of all the States upon which the benefits of the acts of 1849 and 1850 are conferred have been notified of the limitation made by the act of 1860, for making the requisite selections. Since the last annual report the State of California, through her agent, has presented the State's claim under the law, no definite action previous to that time having been taken by the State authorities. Complete instructions detailing the principles to be observed in selecting have been addressed to the United States Surveyor General at San Francisco. The State of Alabama has also notified this office of the method she will adhere to in the adjustment, and full instructions have been addressed to the local land officers on the subject.

The recent act of 12th March last declares the principle that "any lands which the government of the United States may have reserved, sold or disposed of (in pursuance of any law heretofore enacted) prior to the confirmation of title to be made," shall be excluded from the operation of the act of September 28, 1850.

The communications addressed to the authorities of the several States, and to the local land officers, embody this principle, and hold

1. That as the grant contemplates the inundation of extensive regions of country by such natural arteries as the Mississippi, the lands evidently intended to be granted are those which by reason of their swampy character and liability to overflow are worthless in their natural condition, and whereon crops cannot be raised without reclamation by levees and drains. An overflow or inundation from casual cause, merely temporary in its effects, does not bring the lands within the law, and cannot be said, in any proper sense, to render them "unfit for cultivation." The law contemplates such long continued overflow or freshets only as would totally destroy crops and prevent the raising of the same without artificial means, by levees, &c., such as are found on the Mississippi river.

2. That bodies of land covered by shallow lakes, or ponds, which may become dry by evaporation or other natural cause, do not come within the meaning of this act.

3. Lands which have been disposed of by the general government prior to the date of their selection, cannot be claimed as swamp, as they are excluded by direct operation of law from the swamp grant.

RAILROADS.

By acts of Congress of 1856 and 1857, grants are made to eight States to aid in the construction of forty-five railroads.

The lines of route of thirty three of these roads have been established, and maps of their final locations filed, showing an aggregate length of 5,582 miles. The grant for two of the roads—one in Alabama and one in Louisiana—has been rejected. For the remaining ten roads—in Alabama, Florida and Mississippi—no returns designating actual locations have been received.

The adjustments of the grants for these thirty-three roads have been nearly completed. Lists embracing 8,977,044 acres have been approved, and transcripts furnished the Executives of the States. Lists of the remaining lands during under these laws are in the course of preparation, so far as returned.

Much difficulty has been experienced in the adjustment of these grants, owing to the numerous conflicts which have arisen. Antagonistic interests, presenting questions of law and fact, are constantly coming before the department for examination and decision, often involving interests to a large amount, and requiring much care in their adjudication. The adjustment of the interests of the roads, where they intersect and overlap each other, has been very difficult, for in some instances as many as five roads are found overlapping and conflicting with each other, and with numerous other interests. The following is an exhibit of the States and the quantities of land under said grants actually approved to each up to this date:—

States.	Acres.
Iowa	2,431,541
Alabama	1,868,275
Florida	1,759,160
Louisiana	996,845
Wisconsin	211,063
Michigan	957,666
Mississippi	171,560
Minnesota	581,904
Total	8,977,004
To the foregoing may be added, by estimate, yet to inure to certain other States, to aid in the construction of routes traversing, in some instances, regions of country yet unsurveyed	9,000,000
In addition to the foregoing there have been granted, under other acts—viz: September 28, 1850, to Illinois; June 10, 1852, to Missouri, and 9th February, 1853, to Missouri and Arkansas—other belts of land to aid in the construction of railroads, equal in the aggregate to	6,212,495
Total	24,189,499

From time to time, as our adjustment of these grants advanced, the surplus land that had been withdrawn has been released and restored to market during the last year as follows:—

States.	Acres.
Alabama	1,400,000
Michigan	1,500,000
Louisiana	1,660,000

The present and the past reported restorations embrace all withdrawn lands except in those cases where routes are not yet reported as definitely fixed.

RIGHT OF WAY.

By the act of Congress of August 4, 1852, "the right of way" "is granted to all" rail and plank roads and macadamized turnpikes passing through the public lands belonging to the United States." The Chicago, Detroit and Canada Grand Trunk Junction Railroad Company of Michigan, and the Western Railroad Company of Kansas, have filed the required maps of the location of their respective roads, and claimed the benefit of this act; the lines of the roads have been laid down on our township plats, entered on our records, and noted, so as to protect them, connected diagrams showing the lines of the roads, and proper instructions in the matter have been transmitted to the local officers, and the tracts embracing the locations will be sold subject to these rights.

SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

By the acts of Congress of 18th August, 1846, and 3d August, 1854, there inured to the State of Wisconsin, for the Fox and Wisconsin river improvement grant, an area of 484,269 acres. This grant has been finally closed and settled by the ex-Indian lands reported to the Secretary by this office on the 10th November, 1860.

DES MOINES RIVER GRANT.

By the act of Congress, approved 8th August, 1846, a grant was made to the State of Iowa "to improve the navigation of the Des Moines river, from its mouth to the Raccoon Fork."

The area heretofore reported as approved to the State below the Fork is, acres 321,628.08
—To which add area in four lists, embracing 1,364.18
Total area approved below Raccoon Fork 322,992.16

Besides this there had been conditionally approved to the State by your predecessors, 271,472.24 acres.

A controversy arose as to the extent of this grant, it having been claimed that the State was entitled along the whole course of the river to its source. The eastern fork of the river extends to the northern boundary of Iowa, the western into Minnesota. The present Attorney General and Secretary of the Interior held that the grant did not lawfully extend above the Raccoon Fork, and this decision has been sustained by the Supreme Court of the United States in the case of the Dubuque and Pacific Railroad Company vs. Litchfield, 23 Howard.

In view of the individual interest which may have arisen under the State to lands above the Fork, and the State's claim under railroad grants, three of which, under the act of 1856, traverse that region, the department has deferred action in the matter until Congress shall have had time to consider the subject, with a view to further legislation.

ROCK RIVER CANAL GRANT, UNDER ACT OF AUGUST 8, 1846, TO THE TERRITORY OF WISCONSIN, AND ACT OF MAY 29, 1848, FOR THE ADMISSION OF THE STATE INTO THE UNION.

Under the opinions dated July 24, 1852, and September 18, 1854, of the Attorneys General, the State was held liable for the lands sold under the grant (which was forfeited), and which amounted to the sum of $318,519 55
The State, however, on the books of the Treasury, has been credited, by offsets on account of the five per cents, up to January 1, 1860, in the sum of 247,501 79
Leaving a balance,