

SOUTHERN SENTINEL.



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PLAQUEMINE, LA., PARISH OF IBERVILLE, JANUARY 16, 1850.

VOLUME II.—NO. 24.

State of Louisiana—Parish of Iberville.

Succession Sale.

By virtue of a decree or order of the honorable 6th District Court for the State of Louisiana, in and for the parish of Iberville, bearing date the 17th of December, 1849, I will offer at public sale to the highest and last bidder, on

Wednesday, 16th of January, 1850, between the hours of 10 A. M., and 2 P. M., the following described property, belonging to the

Succession of John Mitchellree, and to the community which existed between said deceased and his surviving widow, Elizabeth Riggs.

1st. A PLANTATION OR TRACT OF LAND, situated in the parish of Iberville, on the south west side of Lower Grand River, containing 388 71-100 superficial acres, together with the buildings and improvements thereon being and belonging, consisting in *Dwelling House, Sugar House and mill, and all the Apparatus for making Sugar.*

2d. Another Tract of Land, situated in said parish, on the north-east side of Lower Grand River, containing 363 70-100 superficial acres, bounded above by land of Alexander Stringer, and below by land of C. Adams, Jr., together with all the improvements thereon being and belonging.

Slaves.

3d. LAWSON, negro man, aged 40 years; 4th. DAN, negro man, aged 38 years; 5th. ANNISSE, negro woman, aged 30 years, and her three children—6. AARON, aged 6 years, 7. ENOCH, aged 4 years, and 8. ELIZA, aged 2 years.

Terms of Sale.

The Lands payable one-third in March 1851, one-third in March 1852, and one-third in March 1853. The moveables, all sums of \$20 and under payable in cash on the day of sale, and all sums over \$20 payable in March, 1850. Purchasers to furnish notes endorsed to the satisfaction of the Administratrix of said succession, payable at the office of the Recorder of said parish, and to bear eight per cent interest per annum, from time due till paid. Special mortgage to be retained on the lands and slaves to secure the payment of said notes and interests.

Sale to take place at the last residence of said deceased, in said parish.

J. L. PETIT, Sheriff.

Parish of Iberville, Dec. 17, 1849. dec19

Etat de la Louisiane—Paroisse d'Iberville.

EN vertu d'un décret de l'honorable cour du 6ème District de l'Etat de la Louisiane, en et pour la paroisse d'Iberville, en date du 17 Décembre, 1849, J'exposerai en vente publique au plus offrant et dernier enchérisseur.

Mercrèdi, le 16 de Janvier, 1850, entre 10 heures A. M. et 2 heures P. M., les propriétés ci-après décrites appartenant à la

Succession de feu John Mitchellree, et à la communauté qui existait entre lui et son épouse Elizabeth Riggs.

1. Une terre ou habitation située dans la paroisse d'Iberville, sur le côté sud west du Lower Grand River, mesurant cinq cent quatre vingt huit 71-100 acres de superficie, ensemble avec toutes les bâtisses et améliorations, qui existent sur la dite habitation; telles que maison de résidence, sucrerie, cabanes à nègres, &c.

2d. Une autre terre, située dans la dite paroisse d'Iberville, sur le côté nord east du Lower Grand River, mesurant trois cent soixante trois 70-100 acres de superficie, bornée du côté d'en haut par terre de A. G. Stringer, et en bas par terre de C. Adams, Jr., ensemble avec toutes les améliorations qui lui appartiennent.

Esclaves.

3d. LAWSON, nègre homme, âgé de 40 ans; 4th. DAN, nègre homme, âgé de 38 ans; 5th. ANNISSE, negresse, âgée de 30 ans, et ses trois enfants—6. AARON, âgé de 6 ans; 7. ENOCH, âgé de 4 ans, et 8. ELIZA, de 2 ans.

Termes et Conditions de la Vente.

Les terres payables un tiers en Mars 1851, un tiers en Mars 1852, et un tiers en Mars 1853. Les esclaves, un tiers en Mars 1850, un tiers en Mars 1851, et un tiers en Mars 1852. Le mobilier payable toutes sommes de vingt piastres et au-dessus comptant le jour de vente, et toutes sommes au-dessus de vingt piastres, payables en Mars 1850.

Les acquéreurs fourniront leurs billets endossés à la satisfaction de l'administratrix de la dite succession, payable à l'office du Recorder de la paroisse d'Iberville, et porteront intérêt à raison de huit pour cent par an après échéance. Hypothèque spéciale sera retenue sur les terres et esclaves pour assurer le paiement des dites billets et intérêts.

La vente aura lieu à la dernière résidence du dit feu John Mitchellree, dans la dite Paroisse.

J. L. PETIT, Sheriff.

Paroisse d'Iberville, ce Dec. 17, 1849.—dec19

State of Louisiana—Parish of Iberville.

Succession Sale.

By virtue of three decrees of the District Court of the parish of Iberville; 1st, one in the suit of H. F. Deblieux, administrator of the succession of Jos. Materne, vs. J. P. Breaux, for a partition, dated 12th September, 1849—2d, another in the matter of the succession of Jos. Materne, dated on the same day—and 3d, another in the matter of the succession of Jacques Piereux Breaux, dated the 18th December, 1849—I will proceed to sell at public auction, on

Saturday, 19th January, 1850, on the plantation hereinafter described, commencing at the hour of 10 A. M., the following property, real and personal, being that of the

Successions of the said J. Materne and J. P. Breaux, deceased, and to the community which existed between them, to wit

Property of said partnership, and belonging to the said two successions, in equal undivided shares:

A PLANTATION, or tract of Land lying and situate in this parish, on the west side of Bayou Grosse Tete, measuring nine arpents front on said bayou by forty in depth, more or less, bounded above by land of Wm. Briggs, and below by land of Marcellin Bossie; said land established and cultivated as a sugar plantation.

Ten Slaves:

Bill, aged about 27 years; Isaac, aged about 30 years; Tom, aged about 20 years; Young Eloi, aged about 20 years; Old Eloi, aged about 40 years; Synéa, aged about 30 years; Vincy, aged about 39 years; François alias Puss, aged about 20 years; Marguerite, aged about 21 years, and her child Isaac, aged about 3 years.

And all the moveables attached to the said plantation, including work cattle, horses, utensils, &c.

Separate property of the succession of Joseph Materne:

Fifteen Slaves:

Jim, aged about 36 years; Drauzin, aged about 26 years; Bazile, aged about 17 years; Ovide, aged about 14 years; Alexandre, aged about 13 years; Ursin, aged about 12 years; Rosalie, aged about 46 years, and her two children, Isaac, aged 8 years, and Victorine, 5 years; Marie, aged about 30 years, and her four children, Alfred, 8 years; Baptiste, 5 years; Theodore, 3 years; and another child one year old.

Rosalie, aged about 25 years; And all the moveables of the separate estate of the said Joseph Materne, as inventoried.

Terms.

On the Plantation, \$7000 in cash on the day of sale, and the balance payable in three equal instalments of one-third in all March of each of the years, 1850, 1851 and 1852. The slaves of the partnership payable one-half of the price cash, and the balance in three equal annual instalments in all March 1850, 1851 and 1852.

The slaves of the succession of Joseph Materne payable, Rosalie and her two children, Isaac and Victorine, \$200 cash; Marie and her four children, \$200 cash; and Drauzin, Jim, Bazile, Ovide, Alexandre, Ursin and Rosette, each \$100 cash; and the balance payable in three equal instalments as above.

The moveables payable, all sums not exceeding \$10 cash, all sums above in March, 1850.

On the land and slaves sold, notes endorsed to the satisfaction of the administrators, to be given by the purchasers, to be secured by special mortgage in acts of sale, and those to be passed before the Recorder of this parish.—The notes given for the partnership property will be two for each instalment of the price, and each for one-half of such instalment.—Notes for the price of the personal property to be given also, endorsed as aforesaid. All notes payable at the office of said Recorder, and to bear after maturity 8 per cent interest till paid.

J. L. PETIT, Sheriff.

Iberville, Dec. 18, 1849.—dec19

Etat de la Louisiane—Paroisse d'Iberville.

Vente de Succession.

EN vertu de trois décrets de la cour de District, en et pour la paroisse d'Iberville—1, un dans le procès de H. F. Deblieux, Adm'r. de la succession de Jh. Materne vs. J. P. Breaux, en date du 12 Sept. 1849; 2, un autre dans la succession de Joseph Materne de la même date; 3, le troisième dans la succession de Jacques Piereux Breaux, en date du 18 Dec. 1849.—J'exposerai en vente publique au plus offrant et dernier enchérisseur—

Samedi, le 19 Janvier, 1850, sur l'habitation ci-après décrite à 10 heures A. M., les propriétés ci-après décrites appartenant aux successions de Joseph Materne et Jacques Piereux Breaux, et à la société qui existait entre eux, savoir:

1. Propriétés de la dite société: Une habitation située dans la dite paroisse, sur la rive ouest du bayou Grosse Tête, mesurant neuf arpents de face au dit bayou sur quarante arpents de profondeur, plus ou moins, borné en haut par terre de Wm. Briggs, et en bas par terre de Marcellin Bossie, ensemble les bâtisses et améliorations, telles que sucrerie, moulin, &c. &c.

Les dix Esclaves, ci-après nommés:

Bill, âgé de 27 ans; Isaac, âgé de 30 ans; Tom, âgé de 20 ans; Young Eloi, âgé de 20 ans; Old Eloi, âgé de 40 ans; Synéa, âgé de 30 ans; Vincy, âgé de 39 ans; François alias Puss, âgé de 20 ans; Marguerite, âgée de 21 ans, et son enfant Isaac, âgé de 3 ans.

Aussi que le mobilier appartenant à la dite habitation, ainsi que les chevaux, bêtes-à-cornes, &c. &c.

Biens de la succession de feu Joseph Materne: Les Quinze Esclaves, ci-après nommés:

Jim, âgé de 36 ans; Drauzin, âgé de 26 ans; Bazile, âgé de 17 ans; Ovide, âgé de 14 ans; Alexandre, âgé de 13 ans; Ursin, âgé de 12 ans; Rosalie, âgée de 46 ans, et ses deux enfants, Isaac, âgé de huit ans, et Victorine, âgée de 5 ans.

Marie, âgée de 30 ans, et ses 4 enfants, Alfred, âgé de 8 ans; Baptiste, âgé de 5 ans; Theodore, âgé de 3 ans, et son petit enfant âgé d'un an;

Rosette, âgée de 25 ans.

Le mobilier appartenant à la dite succession.

Termes de Vente.

L'habitation payable \$7000 comptant, et la balance, en Mars en Mars 1850, un tiers en Mars 1851, et un tiers en Mars 1852. Les esclaves appartenant à la société payables, la moitié

comptant, et la balance payable en Mars 1850, 1851 et 1852.

Les esclaves appartenant à la succession de Joseph Materne payable comme suit savoir—Rosalie et ses deux enfants \$200 comptant; Marie et ses quatre enfants \$200 comptant; et Drauzin, Jim, Bazile, Ovide, Alexandre, Ursin et Rosette chacun \$100 comptant, et la balance payable en trois termes égaux comme ci-dessus.

Le mobilier payable toutes sommes au-dessus de \$10 comptant, et toutes sommes au-dessus de \$10 payables en Mars 1850.

Les acquéreurs fourniront leurs billets endossés à la satisfaction des administrateurs; pour les propriétés de la société les acquéreurs fourniront deux billets, chacun pour la moitié de chaque terme endossés comme ci-dessus lesquels billets seront payables au bureau du Recorder de la dite paroisse, et en cas de non-paiement à échéance, ils porteront intérêts à 8 pour cent par an. Hypothèque spéciale sera retenue sur la terre et les esclaves pour sûreté du paiement des dites billets et tous intérêts éventuels. Actes de vente par devant le Recorder aux frais des acquéreurs.

J. L. PETIT, Sheriff.

Iberville, 18 Dec. 1849.

Succession de John } Cour de 6ème District, Spright, dec'd, No. 114, } Paroisse d'Iberville, } Etat de la Louisiane.

ATTENDU que Alexander G. Stringer a présenté une pétition à la cour sus-dite, à l'effet d'obtenir l'administration de la succession de feu John Stringer, d'écide, avis est par le présent donné à tous ceux que cela peut concerner, d'avoir à produire sous dix jours les raisons pour lesquelles il ne serait pas fait droit à la dite pétition.

Par ordre de la cour ce Jan. 7, 1850.

jan9 PAUL DEBLEUX, Greffier.

In the succession of } 6th District Court, Rich. H. Hinds, dec'd, No. } Parish of Iberville, } State of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, Alexander G. Stringer, having petitioned this court for letters of administration on the estate of Richard H. Hinds, deceased, notice is hereby given to all whom it may concern to show cause within ten days why the prayer of the said petitioner should not be granted.

By order of court, Jan. 7, 1850.

jan9 PAUL DEBLEUX, Clerk.

Succession de Richard H. Hinds, No. 120, pe- } Cour de 6ème District, } Paroisse d'Iberville, } Etat de la Louisiane.

ATTENDU que Alexander G. Stringer a présenté une pétition à la cour à l'effet d'obtenir les lettres d'administration à la succession de Richard H. Hinds, d'écide, avis est par le présent donné à tous ceux que cela peut concerner d'avoir à produire sous dix jours les raisons pour lesquelles il ne serait pas fait droit à la dite pétition.

Par ordre de la cour ce 7 Jan. 1850.

Succession of John } 6th District Court, Spright, dec'd, No. 114, } Parish of Iberville, } State of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, Alexander G. Stringer has petitioned the aforesaid court to be appointed administratrix of the succession of the late John Spright, deceased, notice is hereby given to all whom it may concern to show cause within ten days, why the prayer of the said petitioner should not be granted.

By order of the Court, Jan. 7, 1850.

jan9 PAUL DEBLEUX, Clerk.

CITY ADVERTISEMENTS.

Silk Goods Establishment.

C. YALE, JR. & CO.,

No. 27 Magazine st.,

WHOLESALE DEALERS IN SILK, FANCY AND STRAW GOODS.

Millinery Articles, Bonnets, Laces, Gloves, Shawls, Hosiery and Linens.

No. 27 Magazine st.,

NEW ORLEANS.

H. R. BEACH'S

Louisiana Carriage

No. 119 COMMON street. No. 116 GRAVIER ST.

Repository,

(Rear of the St. Charles Hotel, New Orleans.)

Constantly on hand, Carriages of approved modern style, and best workmanship, from eminent manufacturers in Philadelphia, Newark and New York, all of which are offered for sale on accommodating terms.

oc24 6m

New Goods—New Goods.

Watches, Clocks, Jewelry and Fancy Goods.

E. A. TYLER,

39 Camp street,

Is now daily receiving additions to his well selected stock, consisting of FINE WATCHES of the best make, in Gold and silver cases; RICH MANTEL CLOCKS and VASES; Gold, Guard, Fob, and Vest Chains; Seals, Keys and Chain Ornaments; Gold, Pencils and Pens; Thimbles, Buckles, new patterns of Bracelets, Pins, Ear Rings and Necklaces; a beautiful assortment of Diamond Rings, Pins, Ear Rings and Studs; Silver and silver plated Ware; Silver Card Cases, Snuff Boxes, &c.; Gold, Silver, shell and steel Spectacles, with glasses to suit all eyes; Paper Machines; Fancy Goods; Fine Perfumery—together with a great variety of other articles too numerous to mention. Strangers visiting the city are invited to call and examine his goods, any of which will be sold at very low prices.

oc10 1y

New York Saddlery Warehouse,

No. 15 Canal, near Camp street,

Andrew G. Bull & Co., Man-

ufacturers and Dealers in Saddles, Bridles, Harnesses, Trunks,

Whips, Horse-shoes, Saddlery Ware, Coach Trimmings, and Furniture of every description. Also, Harness, Bridle and Band Leather. Having a large and complete assortment, we do not deem it necessary to enumerate a long list of articles, but invite purchasers to call, with an assurance that they will, in good order, procure what they want, and at prices unusually low, at the sign of the Black Horse's Head, No. 15 Canal street, New Orleans,

oc24 2m

SOUTHERN SENTINEL.

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By William P. Bradburn.

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TERMS OF THE SENTINEL.

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Advertisements—One Dollar per square, (10 lines or less) will be charged for the first, and Fifty Cents for every insertion thereafter. All advertisements not specified as to number of insertions, will be published until notified, and charged accordingly. In both languages, charged double.

17 Announcements for office \$10, to be paid invariably in advance.

PLAQUEMINE:

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 1850.

President's Message.

[CONCLUDED.]

A contract having been concluded with the States of Nicaragua, by a company composed of American citizens, for the purpose of constructing a ship canal through the Territory of the State, to connect the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, I have directed the negotiation of a treaty with Nicaragua, pledging both governments to protect those who shall engage in and perfect the work. All other nations are invited by the State of Nicaragua to enter into the same treaty stipulation with her, and the benefit to be derived by each, from such an arrangement, will be the protection of this great inter-oceanic communication against any power which might seek to obstruct it or monopolize its advantages.—All States entering into such a treaty will enjoy the right of passage through the canal on payment of the same tolls.

The work if constructed under these guarantees will become a bond of peace instead of a subject of contention and strife between the nations of the earth. Should the maritime States of Europe agree to this arrangement (and we have no reason to suppose that a proposition so fair and honorable will be opposed by any), the energies of their people and ours will co-operate in promoting the success of the enterprise. I do not recommend any appropriation from the national treasury for this purpose, nor do I believe that such an appropriation is necessary.

Private enterprise, if properly protected, will complete the work, should it prove to be feasible. The parties who have procured the charter from Nicaragua for its construction desire no assistance from this government beyond its protection, and they profess, that having examined the proposed line of communication, they will be ready to commence the undertaking whenever that protection shall be extended to them. Should there appear to be reason, on examining the whole evidence, to entertain a serious doubt of the practicability of constructing such a canal, that doubt could be speedily solved by an actual exploration of the route.

Should such a work be constructed under the common protection of all nations, for equal benefits to all, it would be neither just nor expedient that any great or maritime State should command the communication. The territory through which the canal may be opened ought to be freed from the claims of any foreign power. No such power should in any way occupy a position that would enable it hereafter to exercise so controlling an influence over the commerce of the world, or to obstruct a highway which ought to be dedicated to the common uses of mankind.

The route across the Isthmus at Tehuantepec and Panama are also worthy of our serious consideration. They did not fail to engage the attention of my predecessor. The negotiator of the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was instructed to offer a large sum of money for the right of transit across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec. The Mexican Government did not accede to the proposition for the purchase of the right of way, probably because it had already contracted with private individuals for the construction of a passage from the Guascacualco river to Tehuantepec. I shall not name any proposition to purchase for money, a right which ought to be equally secured to all nations, in payment of a reasonable toll to the owners of the improvement, who would doubtless be well contented with that compensation, and the guarantee of the maritime States of the world in separate treaties, negotiated with Mexico, binding her and them to protect those who should construct the work. Such guarantees would do more to secure the completion of the communication through the Territory of Mexico than any other reasonable considerations that could be offered, and as Mexico herself would be the greatest gainer by the opening of the communication between the Gulf and the Pacific ocean, it is presumed that she would not hesitate to yield her aid in the manner proposed, to accomplish an improvement so important to her own best interests.

We have reason to hope that the proposed railroad across the Isthmus of Panama will be successfully constructed under the protection of the late treaty with New Grenada, ratified and exchanged by my predecessor on the 10th day of June 1848, which guarantees the perfect neutrality of the Isthmus, and the rights of sovereignty and property of New Grenada over the territory, with a view that the free transit from ocean to ocean may not be interrupted, or embarrassed during the existence of the treaty. It is our policy to encourage every practicable route across the Isthmus, which connects North and South America either by a railroad or canal, which the energy and enterprise of our citizens may induce them to complete; and I consider it obligatory upon me to adopt that policy especially in consequence of the absolute necessity of facilitating intercourse with our possessions on the Pacific. The position of the Sandwich Islands with reference to the Territory of the United States on the Pacific—the success of our persevering and benevolent citizens who have repaired to that remote quarter in christianizing the natives and inducing them to adopt a system of government and laws suited to their wants, capacity and merits, and the use made

by our numerous whale ships of the harbors of Islands, to obtain refreshments, and repairs—all combine to render their destiny peculiarly interesting to us. It is our duty to encourage the authorities of these Islands in their efforts to improve and elevate the moral and political condition of the inhabitants, and we should make reasonable allowance for the difficulties inseparable from this task. We desire that the Islands may maintain their independence, that other nations should concur with us in this sentiment. We could in no event be indifferent to their passing under the dominion of any other power. The principal commercial States have in this a common interest, and it is to be hoped that no one of them will attempt to interpose obstacles to the entire independence of the Islands.

The receipts into the treasury for the fiscal year ending on the 30th of June last, were, in cash, \$48,830,097 50, and in treasury notes funded \$10,833,000, making an aggregate of \$59,663,097 50; and the expenditures for the same time were, in cash, \$16,798,666 82, and in treasury notes funded, \$10,333,000 making an aggregate of \$27,131,667 82.

The accounts and estimates which will be submitted to Congress in the report of the Secretary of the Treasury, show that there will probably be a deficit, occasioned by the expenses of the Mexican war and treaty, on the 1st day of July, 1851, of \$10,527,092 73, making in the whole a probable deficit to be provided for of \$16,375,214 39. The extraordinary expenses of the war with Mexico, and the purchase of California and New Mexico, exceed in amount this deficit, together with loans heretofore made for those objects. I therefore recommend that authority be given to borrow whatever sum may be necessary to cover that deficit. I recommend the observance of strict economy in the appropriation and expenditure of the public moneys.

I recommend a revision of the existing tariff, and its adjustment on a basis which may augment the revenue. I do not doubt the right of Congress to encourage domestic industry, which is the great cause of national as well as individual wealth and prosperity. I look to the wisdom and patriotism of Congress for the adoption of a system which may place home labor, at least on a sure and permanent footing, and by due encouragement of manufactures, give a new and increased stimulus to agriculture, and promote the development of our vast resources and the extension of our commerce. Believing that to be the attainment of those ends, (as well as the necessary augmentation of the revenue and the prevention of frauds) a system of specific duties is best adapted. I strongly recommend to Congress the adoption of that system, fixing the duties at rates high enough to afford substantial and sufficient encouragement to our own industry, and at the same time so adjusted as to insure stability.

The question of the continuance of the Sub-Treasury system is respectfully submitted to the wisdom of Congress. If continued, important modifications of it appear to be indispensable.

For further details and views of the above and other matters connected with commerce, the finances and revenue, I refer to the report of the Secretary of the Treasury.

No direct aid has been given by the General Government to the improvement of agriculture, except by the expenditure of small sums for the collection and publication of agricultural statistics, and for some chemical analysis, which have been thus far paid for out of the patent fund. This aid is, in my opinion, wholly inadequate to give to this leading branch of American industry the encouragement which it merits. I respectfully recommend the establishment of an Agricultural bureau, to be connected with the Department of the Interior. To elevate the social condition of the agriculturist, to increase his prosperity, and extend his means of usefulness to his country, by multiplying his sources of information, should be the study of every statesman, and a primary object with every legislature.

No civil government having been provided by Congress for California, the people of that territory, impelled by the necessities of their political condition, recently met in convention for the purpose of forming a Constitution and State Government, which the latest advice given reason to suppose has been accomplished; and it is believed they will shortly apply for the admission of California into the Union as a Sovereign State. Should such be the case, and should their constitution be conformable to the requisition of the constitution of the United States, I recommend their application to the favorable consideration of Congress.

The people of New Mexico will, also, it is believed, at no very distant period, present themselves for admission into the Union. Preparatory to the admission of California and New Mexico, the people of each will have instituted for themselves a republican form of government, laying its formation in such principles and organizing its powers in such form as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness.

By awaiting their action all causes of uneasiness may be avoided, and confidence and kind feeling established. With a view of maintaining the harmony and tranquility so dear to all, we should abstain from the introduction of those exciting topics of a sectional character which have hitherto produced painful apprehensions in the public mind, and I repeat the solemn warning of the first and most illustrious of my predecessors against furnishing "any grounds for characterizing parties by geographical discriminations."

think fit to authorize) to be expended within the territory, or be paid into the treasury for the purpose of meeting appropriations for the improvements of its rivers and harbors.

A party engaged on the coast survey was dispatched to Oregon in January last. According to the latest advices, they had no left California, and directions have been given them, that as soon as they shall have fixed on the site of the two Light houses and the boys authorized to be constructed and placed in Oregon, to proceed without delay to make reconnoissances of the most important points of the coast of California, and especially to examine and determine on a sight for Light houses on that coast, the speedy erection of which is urgently demanded by our rapidly increasing commerce.

I have transferred the Indian agencies from upper Missouri and Council Bluffs to Santa Fe and Salt Lake, and have caused to be appointed sub-agents in the valleys of the Gila, the Sacramento, and San Joaquin rivers. Still further legal provisions will be necessary for the effective and successful extension of our system of Indian intercourse over the new Territories.

I recommend the establishment of a branch Mint in California, as it will, in my opinion, afford important facilities to those engaged in mining, as well as to the Government in the disposition of the mineral lands.

I also recommend that commissioners be organized by Congress to examine and decide upon the validity of the present subsisting land titles in California and New Mexico, and that provision be made for the establishment of offices of Surveyor General in New Mexico, California, and Oregon, and for the surveying and bringing into market the public lands in these territories. These lands, remote in position and difficult of access, ought to be disposed of on terms liberal to all, but especially favorable to the early emigrants.

In order that the situation and character of the principal mineral deposits in California may be ascertained, I recommend that a geological and mineralogical exploration be connected with the linear surveys, and that the mineral lands be divided into small lots suitable for mining, and be disposed of by sale or lease so as to give our citizens an opportunity of procuring a permanent right of property in the soil. This would seem to be as important to the success of mining as of agricultural pursuits.

The great mineral wealth of California, and the advantages which its ports and harbors, and those of Oregon, afford to commerce, especially with the Islands of the Pacific and Indian oceans, and the populous regions of Eastern Asia, make it certain that there will arise in a few years large and prosperous communities on our Western coasts. It therefore becomes important that a line of communication, the best and most expedient which the nature of the country would admit, should be opened within the territory of the United States from the navigable waters of the Atlantic or the Gulf of Mexico to the Pacific. Opinion, as elicited and expressed by two large and respectable conventions lately assembled at St. Louis and Memphis, points to a railroad, which if practicable, will best meet the wishes and wants of the country.