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REPORT
OF THE
SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

1884

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REPORT

OF THE

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

FOR THE

FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1884.



WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.
1884.

REPORT

OF

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, November 1, 1884.

SIR: In submitting my third and last annual report of the operations of the Department, I beg leave to renew recommendations of former reports, so far as there may be necessity therefor, and to make such suggestions as experience and observation have shown that the public interest demands.

INDIAN AFFAIRS.

In my last annual report I gave it as my opinion "that it is quite possible, with wise and judicious treatment of the Indian question, to prevent the recurrence of hostilities between the Indian and his white neighbor that has marked nearly every year of our history." It affords me great satisfaction in my third and last report to be able to say that the past year has been one of peace among the Indians, and that no outbreaks have occurred. All the tribes are at peace with each other and with their white neighbors. In my former reports I have at some length discussed the "Indian question." I do not think it necessary to repeat what I have said in former reports concerning the duty of the Government in dealing with the Indians, or with reference to the necessities of the Indian service. I adhere to the opinions heretofore expressed, which were formed after much study, thought, deliberation, and experience in the immediate vicinity of Indian tribes.

During the past year new buildings have been erected at several of the agencies for the accommodation of the children in the boarding-schools. Five new boarding-schools and 12 new day-schools have been added to the list of schools in successful operation. There are now 81 boarding-schools, 76 day-schools, and 6 industrial or manual labor schools under Government control. Fourteen boarding and 4 day schools are supplied with teachers and other employés, by some one of the various religious denominations, the Government paying a stipulated price for the care and education of the children therein. This course has been necessitated by lack of sufficient appropriations to provide for all the

children willing to receive an education. The amount paid is somewhat less than the average cost per capita of children maintained in Government schools. There are also 23 schools maintained by churches and associations without expense to the Government, and to the support of which the Government contributes nothing. Three new industrial schools have been completed and put in successful operation during the last year: 1 at Chilocco, Ind. T., with a capacity for 150 children: 1 at Lawrence, Kans., with a capacity for 300 children; and 1 at Genoa, Nebr., with a capacity for 150.

The Chilocco school was opened January last, and although its capacity was rated at 150 children, the average attendance has been 168. The capacity of the school should be increased, for there is no lack of children who are ready and willing to attend it. The location of the school was by act of Congress. The act provided for the selection of 640 acres only. This amount was thought to be altogether too small, and 1,200 acres was at first selected. Afterwards thirteen sections more were selected by Executive order, in order that farming and stock-raising might be carried on by the scholars. During the last summer the boys broke 275 acres of sod, put in 50 acres of millet, cultivated 15 acres of vegetables, made several miles of fence, cut and put up over 400 tons of hay, besides caring for stock and doing work about the building. A herd of 425 cows has been purchased for the school. It is expected that this herd will be cared for by the boys in attendance, and will prove not only an advantage to them in teaching them to care for stock, but prove a source of financial profit to the school.

An additional appropriation should be made for shops, &c., for the school.

The Genoa school, situated on the old Pawnee Reservation in Nebraska, was opened in February last with an attendance of 140 Sioux. The boys have cultivated 6 acres of potatoes, several acres in garden truck, 140 acres of corn, and 60 acres of oats, and assisted in making brick and other work about the place. Additional buildings are necessary for shops and for other purposes. Suitable appropriations should be made therefor.

The completion of the buildings at Lawrence, Kans., was delayed by the cold weather as well as delay in the payment of the contractor, the First Comptroller holding that the money intended for that purpose was not available. Congress authorized the use of the appropriation as first intended, and the work was then resumed. The buildings, however, were not completed until in July, too late to commence school for the season. Seven boys, transferred from Chilocco to Lawrence, and under the direction of the superintendent of farming, and one white laborer, cultivated about 120 acres of corn, oats, millet, several acres of potatoes, &c., and have helped to erect a barn and other buildings. The school was opened for the fall term with an attendance of 100, which will be increased to 300.

A new school building has been erected at Albuquerque, N. Mex., intended to accommodate about 150 children. The superintendent has found it necessary to erect some other buildings, which he is now doing, with funds furnished by charitable people in the East, through the agency of the Presbyterian Church.

Fort Berthold and Fort Hall have been turned over to the Department for Indian schools. It is hoped that by the close of the fiscal year schools will be in operation in both of these forts.

Under the provisions for the placing of Indian children in industrial schools in States at an expense not to exceed \$167 per capita, 565 children have been placed in schools in the following States: Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Tennessee, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. Quite a number of Indian children who have had some training in manual labor schools have been placed in private families, mainly from Carlisle and Hampton. It is believed that hereafter quite a number may be placed in private families from Genoa and Lawrence. The Osages have taken an advanced position in educational matters, having enacted a law through their council requiring eight months' attendance at school of each child of school age, or the forfeiture of a year's annuity, amounting to about \$100 per capita. Besides the children in the agency schools they have about 100 children at other schools away from the agency. These Indians are quite willing to pay for the schooling of their children out of their tribal funds. The school work among the Indians, exclusive of the five civilized tribes, is best shown by the following, taken from the report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs:

Items.	1883.	1884.	Increase.
Training-schools, Carlisle, Forest Grove, &c.	3	6	3
Pupils in training-schools	610	1, 195	585
Boarding-schools on or near reservations	79	83	4
Pupils in such schools	4, 407	5, 034	627
Children placed in various schools through the country	122	579	457
Day schools	117	128	11
Total number of day pupils	5, 102	5, 186	84
Total number of boarding pupils	5, 139	6, 808	1, 669

Of the above, 142 boarding pupils and 1,056 day pupils are in New York; the day pupils attend the 30 public schools which the State of New York provides for her Indian population.

This calculation does not include the missionary schools.

The Department has been embarrassed on account of the small appropriations made for school buildings. On this subject the Commissioner of Indian Affairs says:

Buildings.—The embarrassment under which the office has labored for several years—insufficient school buildings—is becoming chronic. If reports gave the number of boarding pupils for which existing buildings furnish *suitable* accommodation, instead of the number which such buildings are compelled to accommodate, a much smaller showing would be made. Inspectors condemn the crowded, stiling dormito-

ries which they find, and agents on the other hand deplore the turning away from school of those who ask for admittance, and they decide to crowd the children temporarily, in the hope that the new building or addition for which they have entreated will soon be allowed. Too often the year goes by without relief and the whole management, even the *morale* of the school, suffers sometimes seriously. Buildings erected to meet the needs of ten years ago must still be made to suffice, and others too dilapidated and worthless to be repaired must still shelter children who therein are expected to become accustomed to the decencies and comforts of civilization, and to acquire habits of thrift and enterprise.

Since only \$25,000 was appropriated this last year for erection and repair of school buildings, no extensive work has, of course, been done. The Shoshone, Menomonee, Sisseton, and Siletz buildings, which were commenced in the previous year, have been completed and occupied; also the three new training-school buildings at Lawrence, Chilocco, and Genoa; and a building begun some years since at White Earth, Minn. The flourishing Albuquerque school has moved into new quarters after three years of waiting in rented buildings, supplemented by temporary make-shift additions, put up one after the other as the pupils crowded in. This building was intended for 158 pupils, and the superintendent of the school is asking for the immediate erection of another building to house the 50 additional pupils who will ask for admittance this fall, and the 100 others who can easily be obtained. The \$40,000 appropriated this year for buildings will be needed for the Crow, Devil's Lake, Wichita, Quinaielt, and Fort Peck buildings, and repairs and additions at other points, and Albuquerque must wait another year, as must also nine other places where there are either no buildings at all or else buildings which need immediate enlargement.

There is no obstacle to progress in Indian education with which this office has had to contend so great as the want of money to furnish suitable and even decent school buildings. As stated above, if all the Indian day and boarding school buildings, belonging to Government or other parties, had been filled, only one-fourth of the Indian school population would have been provided for. The suffering at Fort Peck and Blackfeet Agencies might have been made a golden educational opportunity for those tribes. Hungry children would need little urging to become inmates of boarding schools with well-spread tables. There has been money on hand to buy food for pupils, but none to put up shelters for them, and ignorance and wretchedness must continue unmodified and unrelieved.

To add to its other embarrassments, Congress has still further restricted the office by providing that during this year no Indian boarding-school building shall cost, including furnishing, over \$10,000. The Chilocco buildings, for 150 pupils, cost, exclusive of furnishing, and in a location where materials are easily accessible, over \$20,000, or over \$125 per pupil. A smaller building would somewhat increase the rate per pupil. Three evils are therefore left open to choice: (1) To limit the number of pupils to less than 75; (2) to put up a shabby structure, uncomfortable and inconvenient, and which will require extensive repairing and remodeling in the near future, and yet will never be what it should be; or (3) to erect one small building one year and attach another to it during the succeeding season at some extra cost for changes thereby necessitated. Either method pursued in private business would be considered inexcusably shiftless.

It has been the great object of the Department in dealing with the Indian to make him self-supporting. When an Indian youth has been taught to labor he is self-supporting, if an opportunity is presented to him to secure employment. One great difficulty met with is, that when the young of both sexes return to the agency there is no remunerative employment for them. They lack capital to open and cultivate a farm, and if they have acquired a trade, they find no employment of that

character. It is as necessary that some employment should be secured for them as it is to teach them to labor. An Indian educated at Government expense should not be allowed rations, but should receive encouragement to labor by donations of stock, implements of agriculture, &c., and then be compelled to take care of himself. He has the knowledge that enables him to make his living. Give him an opportunity, and if he fails, let him give way to those of his race who will work and live. If, however, the Indian boy or girl prefer to go out among the whites as a laborer, the Government should encourage and aid them so to do. A little money expended in that way will save a large amount that otherwise must be expended in their support. It ought to be the primary object of our dealings with the Indian to make him dependent on himself, and not on the Government; throw him on his own resources, with such aid only as is occasionally needed and as honesty and good faith on our part demands. All educated Indians should be citizens of the United States, and I suggest that those who shall complete the regular course at the several manual-labor schools be given citizenship, without their incurring the risk of a forfeiture of their interest in either tribal lands or tribal funds.

MANUAL-LABOR SCHOOLS FOR INDIANS.

The greatest agency for the civilization of the Indian is the manual-labor school. Indeed, I do not think I shall be far out of the way if I say the only agency for that purpose is the manual-labor school. In former reports I have gone into the question at considerable length. While the argument is by no means exhausted, it does not seem profitable to continue to discuss a question now admitted by all fair-minded men to have passed beyond the domain of speculation or doubt. The history of the few manual-labor schools established for the education of Indian children has demonstrated their great value, and that it is only necessary to multiply their number, so as to include all the Indian children of school age, to forever set at rest the question as to "what shall be done with the Indians." An honest compliance on the part of the Government with the conditions of the treaties with the various tribes concerning schools will substantially provide all the schools required for the education of all the children of school age whose attendance we can hope to secure. The amount due under the various treaties to the several tribes therein named I gave last year as amounting to the total sum of \$3,759,400. The amount now due after deducting all appropriations for school purposes is \$4,033,700. This money is now due. A large part of the money so agreed to be paid was in consideration of land ceded to the Government by the Indians. It is not a gratuity, but a debt due the Indians, incurred by the Government on its own motion, and not at the request of the Indians. It is true that the debt is due to dependent and weak people who have but little disposition to complain of the neglect of the Government to fulfill its obligation,

and are wanting in ability to compel the performance thereof; yet their very weakness and lack of disposition to complain ought to stimulate the Government to sacredly perform all the provisions of treaties providing for the education and advancement of these people. Not only a direct regard for our plighted faith demands this, but our interest also demands it.

In my last annual report I called attention to the various treaties providing for the education of Indian children. I submitted a statement of the sums required to fulfill such treaties. It appears that there was due at the close of the fiscal year 1884 the sum of \$3,759,400. I again submit the statement showing the amount due at the close of the fiscal year 1885:

Statement showing amounts which should have been appropriated up to June 30, 1885, to fulfill educational provisions of the treaties with various Indian tribes.

Name of tribe.	Date of treaty.	Revised Statutes, volume and page.	Provision of treaty.	Amount.
Apache, Kiowa, and Comanche.	Oct. 21, 1867	Vol. 15, p. 583	School building and teacher for every 30 children for twenty years.	\$295,400
Bannock	July 3, 1868	Vol. 15, p. 675	.....do	45,600
Cheyenne and Arapaho.	Oct. 28, 1867	Vol. 15, p. 595	.....do	306,800
Crow	May 7, 1868	Vol. 15, p. 651	.....do	277,600
Navajo	June 1, 1868	Vol. 15, p. 669	School building and teacher for every 30 children for ten years.	883,100
Northern Cheyenne and Arapaho.	May 10, 1868	Vol. 15, p. 656	School building and teacher for every 30 children for twenty years.	173,400
Shoshone	July 3, 1868	Vol. 15, p. 675	.....do	148,700
Sioux	Apr 29, 1868	Vol. 15, p. 637	.....do	1,595,200
Ute	Mar. 2, 1868	Vol. 15, p. 621	.....do	307,900
Total				4,033,700

DISARMING THE INDIANS.

In my former reports I have recommended the disarming of the Indians. I desire to again call attention to the subject, and repeat what I said in my last report concerning this matter:

If we subside the Indian, he has no use for fire-arms, and it is not economy to allow him to retain his arms for the purpose of supplying himself with game; far better to give him a sufficiency of food, and require him to remain on his reservation. If the Indian is disarmed he will cease to be an object of terror to his white neighbor, and the friendly relations that ought to exist between the white settler and his Indian neighbor will not be wanting. It is unsafe to trust an Indians with a gun; the very possession of it incites in him a desire to use it. The unarmed Indian is as safe in any country as the unarmed white man. It is the possession of his weapon and the knowledge that he may be tempted to use it that created hostility towards him on the part of the settler. Disarm him and put him under the protection of the law, and his person and property will be as safe as that of his white neighbor. His arms ought not to be confiscated; for every rifle give him an ox of twice its value to till his field—cows, sheep, or horses as he may need. The propriety of doing this cannot be doubted; the beneficial results will be readily seen.

Once disarmed, he will not only "cease to be an object of terror to his white neighbors," but will have less desire to exhibit himself before them, and be more inclined to settle down and become self-supporting. His gun and horse are the great hindrances to his civilization. The horse enables him to wander around the country, and the gun to secure a precarious living, which he ekes out by beggary and theft.

CRIMES ON THE RESERVATIONS.

I again desire to call attention to the necessity for legislation for the punishment of crimes on the Indian reservations. Since my last report the Supreme Court of the United States decided in the case of "*Ex parte Crow Dog*," indicted for murder, that the district court of Dakota was without jurisdiction, when the crime was committed on the reservation by one Indian against another. If offenses of this character cannot be tried in the courts of the United States, there is no tribunal in which the crime of murder can be punished. Minor offenses may be punished through the agency of the "court of Indian offenses," but it will hardly do to leave the punishment of the crime of murder to a tribunal that exists only by the consent of the Indians of the reservation. If the murderer is left to be punished according to the old Indian custom, it becomes the duty of the next of kin to avenge the death of his relative by either killing the murderer or some one of his kinsmen. The laws of the State or Territory wherein the reservation is situated ought to be extended over the reservation, and the Indians should be compelled to obey such laws and be allowed to claim the protection thereof.

COURT OF INDIAN OFFENSES.

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs, under my direction, in 1883, established a tribunal for the punishment of crimes among the Indians on their reservations, and entitled it a "court of Indian offenses." Experience has demonstrated the great value of this tribunal in maintaining order on the reservations. Where the courts have been organized, the beneficial effects thereof have been apparent, not only in maintaining order, but in teaching the Indian to respect the rights and property of his fellows. The agent at the Umatilla Agency, Oregon, says:

This court has worked admirably, and made radical changes, especially among the young men of the tribe, for the better, as all disorders or offenses that come before the judges here are inexorably punished.

Such is the testimony of other agents where the courts have been established.

These Indian judges have so far rendered gratuitous services to the tribes and the Government, but in some cases their labor is arduous, and as the most enlightened and advanced of the tribes are selected for the work, it is no inconsiderable tax on their time and good nature, for which they should receive a fair reward. I therefore concur with the Commissioner in recommending that suitable appropriation be made for the payment of the judges of the courts of Indian offenses, and that

authority by law be given to them to maintain order and punish minor offenses committed on the reservations by Indians and for the settlement of controversies between Indian and Indian.

LEASING OF INDIAN LANDS.

In my last report I called attention to the occupation of certain Indian reservations by stockmen with their herds, under an arrangement made with the Indians. I declined to treat these arrangements as leases made on the part of the Indians, but did treat them as licenses on the part of the Indians recognized by section 2117 of the Revised Statutes. I do not understand that the parties so occupying these lands with the consent of the Indians are there in violation of law, but their condition is not a satisfactory one either to themselves or the Department. The Department in allowing them to remain reserved the right to put them off of such reservation, notwithstanding such permit or license, if the Department considered it necessary to do so in the interest of the Indians. How far the Government may disregard the license so given by the Indians is a question that need not be discussed until it is presented, but should the Department attempt such exclusion against the wishes of the Indians, it would certainly lead to trouble. The amount paid for such privileges is understood to be about 2 cents per acre for the lands so occupied. This amount is not a fair compensation at this time for the use of such lands, or for at least a considerable portion thereof. Much of the land so occupied could be leased at from 4 to 6 cents per acre. The Cheyenne and Arapaho Indians attempted to lease 3,867,880 acres of their reservation, leaving unoccupied by stockmen about 430,000 acres. From the land so occupied by stockmen the Arapahoes and Cheyennes received last year 2 cents per acre, amounting to \$77,357.60, or an average of \$12.33 per capita. As it is believed that this reservation might be leased at from 4 to 6 cents per acre, the amount may be increased to \$24.66 or \$33.99 per capita. It is believed that the cattlemen will very readily consent to double or treble the price now paid, if they can have some assurance that they will not be disturbed at the whim or caprice of the Indians. The amount now received, \$12.33 per capita, is a sum quite sufficient, if the Department could control its payment to the Indians, to aid very materially in their support and civilization. A family of five persons would receive \$61.65 per annum at 2 cents per acre. At 6 cents per acre the amount realized would go far toward their support without further aid from the Government.

Other tribes also have good grazing lands that might be leased at profitable rates, leaving the Indians a sufficient quantity of land for their own use, either for agriculture or grazing. Some legislation should be had on the subject to enable the Government to demand and receive for the Indians the full value for the occupation of their lands, and to prevent conflicts between rival claimants holding such licenses or privileges. Such occupants are not on the reservation in violation of law

if they have the consent of the Indians; yet should their conduct be such as to convince the Department that their presence is injurious to the Indians, it is quite difficult to say what would be the result of an attempt on the part of the Department to remove them if the Indians continue to consent to their remaining. While there can be no objection to allowing the Indians of the Indian Territory to lease their lands for grazing purposes, there is a serious objection to allowing the Indians on reservations outside of the Indian Territory to lease lands valuable for agricultural purposes for the purpose of grazing only. If the reservation is larger than is required for the use of the Indians occupying it, there should be a reduction thereof, and all that is not needed for the use of the Indians should be opened to settlement. The time has passed when large and valuable tracts of land fit for agriculture can be held by Indians for either hunting or grazing lands to the exclusion of actual settlers.

There have been frequent complaints made by stockmen and settlers in the northern portion of Montana and Wyoming of depredations by Indians on their stock, necessitated by the want of supplies on the part of the Indians. I called attention to these complaints in my last report. I regret to say but little has been done to remove this cause of complaint. The game has been destroyed to such an extent that it is impossible for any considerable number of Indians to live by the chase, and it cannot be expected that Indians will starve in the neighborhood of extensive herds of cattle. White men would not under such circumstances, and we cannot demand of the Indians what we would not demand of the whites under like conditions. It may be said that the Indians should work and not steal for a living; but it must be remembered that these people have been educated to believe that theft is a virtue and not a crime, if the property stolen is the property of an unfriendly Indian or white man. Until we have given these Indians an opportunity to earn their living by some kind of manual labor we ought not to complain of their depredations. It is not, however, to be expected that the settlers and stockmen will submit to the loss of their stock because the Government has failed in its duty towards the Indians, and the inevitable result of such depredations is to bring on a conflict between the Indians and white settlers, and in the present condition of affairs the Indian is sure to get the worst of such conflict.

With valuable agricultural and pastoral lands in quantities far beyond his wants or ability to make useful, he is a beggar and dependent upon the Government; and when the Government fails to make suitable appropriation for his support, he is brought to the verge of starvation. Left to himself, he will continue in this wretched condition until the vices of savage life shall destroy his race. His destruction will not be speedy, but it will certainly come unless he can be induced to adopt the civilization of the age, which he has until recently scorned. At no time in the history of our intercourse with the Indians have they

shown a greater desire to abandon their savage life than during the last year. They have welcomed (with but few exceptions) all the agencies provided for their benefit, and have shown a commendable disposition to adapt themselves to the new order of things. They express not only a desire for improvement, but the determination to improve. They give up their children to go to distant parts of the country, to sections unknown to them, in order that they may secure the advantages of an education and become acquainted with the ways of civilized people. A great number in the various tribes have made an effort to contribute something to the support of themselves and families. They are asking for stock cattle, and declare their willingness to take care of them if furnished, and very generally profess a willingness to do whatever is required of them in order that they may become self-supporting. But, like all uneducated people, they are unstable in their opinions and resolves, and need much encouragement to enable them to keep in the way that they profess an earnest wish to follow.

In my last report I recommended that all the appropriations not made under the provisions of treaty stipulations should be placed at the disposal of the Department to be distributed as the necessities and wants of the Indians demand. Another year's experience and observation has strengthened my views on this question, and I believe if the non-treaty appropriations were placed at the disposal of the Department to be distributed at the discretion of the Secretary of the Interior there would be less complaints about starving Indians, and that much good might be done by using such appropriation to assist those Indians who show the greatest disposition to become self-supporting.

CASH ANNUITIES TO INDIANS.

In my last report I called attention to the practice of paying to the Indians cash as interest on the funds held in trust by the Government. In some instances the Indians are capable of receiving and expending such sums of money in a judicious way, but in most cases the money so paid to them is wasted and often worse than wasted. Such payments should be made in stock cattle, agricultural implements, or by the erection of suitable dwelling-houses for those willing to occupy and live in such houses. Whenever the Indian is capable of caring for this money due him, it should be paid to him in cash; but he will never care for it properly until he has been taught to labor and has learned the value of money by earning it.

INDIAN HOMESTEADS.

The Indian appropriation act for the current year contains a provision allowing the Indians to avail themselves of the homestead law, and appropriates \$1,000 to aid the Indians in making selections of such homesteads. The provision is but temporary, and should be made perma-

ment. Much complaint has been made on behalf of the Indians, especially in California, that unscrupulous white men have pre-empted lands in the occupation of Indians, and in some cases where the lands were occupied for Indian village farms before the cession of California to the United States. In order to save to these Indians the lands in their actual possession, I ordered the Commissioner of the General Land Office to refuse to receive filings on lands in the actual possession of Indians.

SURVEYING INDIAN RESERVATIONS.

The Indian appropriation act for the current year contained an appropriation of \$50,000 for the surveying into subdivisions of Indian reservations. The amount is grossly inadequate to the wants of the Department. An appropriation of like amount should be made for the next fiscal year. On this subject the Commissioner says:

The want of a proper definition of reservation boundaries has been for years, and is still, one of the most fruitful causes of contention and disorder known to the Department, and it is to be hoped that the full amount of my estimate for surveys for the ensuing fiscal year may be provided, in order that existing disputes may be speedily settled, and a subdivision of lands within the reservations made, wherever required and deemed advisable, for the settlement of the Indians in individual homes.

THE GREAT SIOUX RESERVATION.

In my last report I called attention to the magnitude of this reservation, and urged that it should be reduced by a purchase of about 18,000 square miles, as proposed by the commission appointed in 1882. A bill reported from the Committee on Indian Affairs for this purpose passed the Senate and is now pending in the House of Representatives. I again urge the necessity of action in this matter both in the interest of the Indians and whites.

CROW RESERVATION.

I again call attention to this reservation. Since my last report the Indians have been located on the Big Horn. This reservation is much larger than required for their support. The reservation is situated in the Territory of Montana, and contains 7,364 square miles, or 4,713,000 acres of land. At least 3,000,000 acres might be disposed of, leaving the Indians sufficient agricultural lands to become self-supporting if they desire to become agriculturists, and a sufficient amount of grazing lands should they prefer to become stock raisers. The 1,713,000 acres that would be left would give nearly, if not quite, 600 acres of land to each individual member of their tribes. The number of Crows has been estimated at 3,500; but it is quite certain that the number is much less, and probably not over 2,500 or 3,000. A portion of the money realized for such sale should be at once invested in a herd for the tribes, and cared for by the Government until such time as the Indians shall be prepared to accept and care for their stock themselves. The proceeds

of the surplus lands, properly used, would make the Crows self-supporting in a few years at the furthest.

THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

The report of the Commissioner of the General Land Office shows that sales, entries, and selections of public lands under various acts of Congress embrace 26,834,041.03 acres, and of Indian lands 697,128.97, aggregating 27,531,170, an increase over the year 1883 of 8,101,137.20. The receipts for disposal of public lands are \$11,840,993.07; Indian lands, \$938,137.26, or a total of \$12,779,130.33, an increase over that of 1883 of \$1,073,364.68, to which is to be added \$10,276.76 received for certified copies of records, making a total of \$12,789,405.09. The Commissioner reports the total number of entries, &c., to be as follows:

The total number of entries and filings made during the year is 286,832, aggregating 40,625,000 acres; an increase of 60,724 over the year 1883 and 128,588 over 1882.

The total number of entries and filings posted during the year is 327,186. These entries and filings constitute claims of record awaiting completion and adjudication. The increase in number of claims posted in 1884 is 75,501 over the year 1883 and 131,049 over the year 1882.

PRE-EMPTIONS.

Twenty-one thousand two hundred and eighty-six pre-emption entries were made during the year, embracing an area of 3,206,095.86 acres; 11,012 ex-parte cases were approved for patent and 352 contested cases were decided, the patented and decided cases involving 1,725,000 acres.

The number of cases undecided June 30, 1884, was 17,911, an increase of the number in arrears of 4,854 contested and ex-parte cases. The number of pre-emption filings made during the year was 51,641, which, at 160 acres each, would cover 8,262,560 acres.

REPEAL OF THE PRE-EMPTION LAW.

The Commissioner again recommends the repeal of the pre-emption law. He says:

I renew previous recommendations for the repeal of the pre-emption law. In my last annual report I pointed out the absence of any great utility of the pre-emption system for a legitimate appropriation of the public lands by actual settlers, as the homestead system contains a sufficient pre-emption feature and a double system is not required. Economy of administration alone suggests such repeal, while the great abuses flowing from the illegal acquisition of land titles by fictitious pre-emption entries, and the exactions made upon bona fide settlers, who are often obliged to buy off such claims in order to get access to public lands, render the appeal, in my judgment, a matter of public necessity.

Pre-emption claims are filed when no intention of perfecting entries exists, but the alleged claim is held for speculation, or as a cover for denuding land of its timber. The average proportion of entries to filings is less than one-half.

In cases of entries actually made, it is found that the most valuable timber lands and large areas of agricultural and grazing lands are entered in fictitious names or by persons employed for the purpose, and the lands thus pass into speculative holdings, or holdings in large quantities for permanent control. Coal lands, the Government price of which is \$10 and \$20 per acre, are illegally obtained in the same manner at the minimum price of non-mineral lands. The Government loses the difference in price, while a loss to the general public lies in the increased price of the coal product

in consequence of the control of coal-fields, which in this way is acquired and held with a comparatively small outlay of capital. The result is equally true as to timber lands. Experience has demonstrated that an effective remedy for these evils can only be found in the repeal of the laws under which they arise.

The difficulty of protecting the public lands from fraudulent entries under the pre-emption law can be readily understood by the statement of the Commissioner concerning the work of the special agents, twenty-five in number, appointed for the protection of the public land from fraudulent entries and illegal appropriation. The Commissioner says:

Thirty-five hundred and thirty-one alleged fraudulent entries of public lands, embracing an area of 500,000 acres, have been investigated and reported, principally in California, Colorado, Dakota, Minnesota, and New Mexico, and a lesser number in all other public land States and Territories; 680 entries have been canceled on final proceedings, 782 held for cancellation, and hearings have been ordered in 781 cases. About 5,000 entries have been suspended, awaiting investigation.

In a special report submitted May 15, 1884, in reply to a resolution of the Senate, I stated as follows:

"Beyond cases specifically examined, I have no doubt that much has been done in the way of prevention within the sphere of these operations. But the territory to be covered is so vast and the proportion of fraudulent entries found to exist is so large, that if it be the intention of Congress that the remaining public lands shall be protected from indiscriminate absorption through illegal and fraudulent appropriation, more adequate legislative measures will need to be adopted.

"The repeal of the pre-emption and timber-culture laws, which I have heretofore recommended, is one of the first essential steps in this direction. It is not possible, by any administrative action, to close the doors opened to abuses under these laws.

"This may equally be said in reference to the timber-land and desert-land laws and the commutation features of the homestead laws, and also of the provision allowing the filing of soldiers' homestead declarations by attorney, which latter provision is used to defraud both the soldier and the Government.

"If all laws for the disposal of public lands, except the homestead law, were repealed, and the latter amended as heretofore suggested, the great bulk of misappropriations would disappear from future entries.

"An examination of pending entries alleged and believed to be fraudulent would require a special agent to be constantly on duty in each of the principal land districts, and in some districts one such agent would be unable to cope with the work before him.

"If the system of examination in the field is to be effective, provision should be made for not less than one hundred special agents. The compensation of such agents, including guides, surveyors, and assistants, averages about \$3,600 a year each, and additional expenses for the payment of witnesses and the cost of taking testimony on the part of the Government at hearings before local officers are also necessarily incurred. The total appropriation for the protection of the public lands the next fiscal year should not be less than \$400,000, if efficient measures are desired. An addition of twenty-five clerks, who should be of the higher grades, would also be necessary in this office in directing the operations of special agents and examining and acting upon their reports.

"Further legislation is also requisite to authorize registers and receivers to subpoena witnesses and compel their attendance."

No increased appropriation having been made by Congress for the current fiscal year, I was confronted at the outset with the necessity of either withdrawing special agents from investigations in the field or of abandoning or suspending further action upon investigations that had already been had, and as a result of which hearings

had been ordered in several hundred cases. It was found impossible to carry on both, as the expenses of each singly would exhaust the appropriation. Hearings could not be had without the presence of special agents, who are material witnesses, and the payment of their expenses would leave no means to defray other costs.

It was therefore determined, as the only available course, to continue in the field such number of special agents as the appropriation permits and to suspend all hearings ordered on their reports. The result is that final action cannot be taken for the cancellation of entries examined and reported fraudulent until Congress shall make provision for the expenses of formal hearings, or obviate the necessity of them by clearly investing the executive department with power to summarily cancel entries found fraudulent upon special examination.

For a similar reason of the inadequacy of the appropriation to the needs of the service I have been compelled to remove general suspensions of entries in localities in which fraudulent appropriations have been reported as prevalent, and to permit entries to go to patent without the investigation necessary to determine the *bona fide* or fraudulent character of any of them.

It is obvious that some decisive action by Congress is called for by every consideration of public policy and administrative expediency.

If it is the legislative purpose to adhere to the policy of preserving the remaining public lands for actual settlers, and to prevent the acquisition of great bodies of land in fraud of law by single individuals and corporations, American or foreign, sufficient means should be placed at the disposal of the Land Department to prevent the vast and widespread violations of law which have been brought to the knowledge of this Department and the notice of Congress.

I have discharged my own duty in presenting this subject, as I have from time to time in my annual reports and in special reports submitted to Congress, as clearly and forcibly as I could, and I leave to the higher power of that body the responsibility of determining the course to be pursued.

It appears from the foregoing that if the pre-emption and timber-culture laws are not repealed more liberal appropriations should be made for the detection and punishment of fraud on the Government through the agency of said laws. But even with liberal appropriations for the detection of frauds of the character before mentioned, it will be impossible to prevent unscrupulous persons in the thinly-settled regions of country from appropriating public land by a mere technical compliance with the laws, while the spirit thereof is violated. There is but one remedy, and that is in the repeal of the law no longer necessary to enable the actual settler to secure a title to the land he occupies on the public domain. The public lands ought to be reserved for actual settlers, and should be conveyed only when the settler has shown his good faith by a residence on the land for the period provided for by the homestead law. No commutation of homesteads should be allowed.

In connection with this subject I call especial attention to the Commissioner's report on the disposal of public lands. He says:

The surveyed public lands of the United States have largely been disposed of, or appropriated by various claims under general laws, or pledged for the satisfaction of educational, internal improvement, or other public grants. The total area surveyed from the commencement is 938,940,125 acres. The estimated area unsurveyed, exclusive of the Territory of Alaska, is 506,495,454 acres. This estimate is of a very general nature, and affords no index to the disposable volume of land remaining, nor to the amount available for agricultural purposes. It includes Indian and other public reservations, unsurveyed private land claims, the sixteenth and thirty-sixth sections

reserved for common schools, unsurveyed lands embraced in railroad, swamp land, and other grants, and the great mountain areas, and areas of unsurveyed rivers and lakes. Deducting these, and areas wholly unproductive and unavailable for ordinary purposes, and the volume of remaining land shrinks to comparatively small proportions. The time is near at hand when there will be no public land to invite settlements or afford citizens of the country an opportunity to secure cheap homes.

* * * * *

In the early history of the country, when the broad expanse of the public domain was unsettled, a liberal system of laws was adopted providing for an easy acquisition of individual titles, and even down to later periods the object apparently sought to be accomplished in the purpose of the laws and the policy of their administration was for the United States to hasten the disposal of its lands. With this purpose in view and abundant areas everywhere open to settlement, no special safeguard against appropriations in fraud of law appears to have been thought of or deemed necessary. On the contrary, the prevailing tendency of legislation has been to remove restrictions rather than to impose them, and acts have been passed primarily for the relief or benefit of actual settlers which have been availed of to the defeat of settlements by the facility afforded for the aggregation of land titles in speculative or monopolistic possession.

The numerous methods of disposal now existing, and the laxity of precautionary provision against misappropriations, are resulting in a waste of the public domain without the compensations attendant upon small ownerships for actual settlement and occupation.

It is my opinion that the time has fully arrived when wastefulness in the disposal of public lands shall cease, and that the portion still remaining should be economized for the use of actual settlers only. An act reserving the public lands, except mineral lands and timber reserves, for entry exclusively under the homestead laws, and amending the homestead laws so as to prevent the present easy evasion of wise restrictions and essential requirements, would be a measure meeting this end, and answering a pronounced public demand.

ILLEGAL FENCING OF THE PUBLIC LANDS.

In my last annual report I called attention to numerous complaints made concerning the illegal fencing of the public land, and urged some legislation by which such illegal fences might be summarily removed without the delay and expense of a suit in court. I regret to say that Congress has so far failed to take action on this subject. A number of suits have been instituted by the Department of Justice at the request of this Department, to compel the parties to remove such fences, but such proceedings involve much time and delay, and if the parties defendants desire to continue in possession of such fenced lands, appeals will be taken to the Supreme Court of the United States, and the Government put to great expense and the land withheld from occupation under the settlement laws. I trust that some legislation may be had that will enable the Department in a summary way to destroy these fences where the builders refuse to take them down. It has been claimed by some that the power exists in the Department to destroy these fences as obstructions on the public lands. If this is so the Department has no means at its disposal to pay the expenses of such removal, neither has the Department of Justice. Authority should be given to remove such obstructions, and provision made for the payment of the persons employed to do such work.

TAXATION OF RAILROAD LANDS.

I again call attention to the necessity for some legislation to compel the railroad companies having earned the land granted to them to take a patent therefor, so that the States or Territories in which such lands lie may have the benefits derived from taxing the lands within their boundaries. On this subject I repeat what I said in my last annual report:

By section 21 of the act of July 2, 1864 (13 Stat., 356), amendatory of the Pacific Railroad act of July 1, 1862 (12 Stat., 489), it is provided—

“That before any land granted by this act shall be conveyed to any company or party entitled thereto under this act there shall first be paid into the Treasury of the United States the cost of surveying, selecting, and conveying the same, by the said company or party in interest, as the titles shall be required by said company, which amount shall, without any further appropriation, stand to the credit of the proper account, to be used by the Commissioner of the General Land Office for the prosecution of the survey of the public lands along the line of said road, and so from year to year until the whole shall be completed, as provided under the provisions of this act.”

By act of July 31, 1876 (21 Stat., 121), substantially the same provision was extended to all railroad companies receiving grants of land, “unless * * * exempted by law from the payment of such cost.”

By the failure of the companies to pay such costs and apply for patents a large amount of lands granted to and held by railroad companies under the rulings and decisions of the Supreme Court, as enunciated in *Kansas Pacific Railway Company v. Prescott* (16 Wall., 603), and *Railway Company v. McShane* (22 Wall., 444), are substantially relieved from State taxation, and contribute nothing to the fair support of the burden and revenue of the local governments, and at the same time deny to the General Government the due compensation provided by law for the surveys already extended over a portion of the lands, and the benefit of the enlarged appropriations intended to secure further surveys along the line of the roads.

Experience has shown that, instead of aiding the Government and facilitating the survey and sale of the public lands along the routes, and the consequent settlement of the country, the provision has operated to retard such laudable results, and also has served to enable the companies to obtain such valuable parcels of land as they may find speedy profit in selling, thus imposing the full burden of taxation upon their grantees and other settlers who purchase lands in the same neighborhood, while refusing to take the patents for the larger body of less valuable lands upon which such burden would fall in the hands of the companies themselves.

It is earnestly to be desired that some means of adjustment of these grants, as a whole, be provided, or some method devised which shall, under cover of legislative authority, not only remedy the evil suggested, but enable this Department to reach a finality as to the titles to be conveyed to these corporations at the earliest practicable moment, and thus relieve an anxious and excited public feeling, already sufficiently aroused

upon the various difficult and complicated questions connected with the administration of this momentous and important branch of public affairs.

To this end I most urgently recommend that the prompt and serious attention of Congress be invited to the foregoing suggestions, and that the several companies be compelled to take patents for the lands earned, and to pay for the surveys made in accordance with the provisions of the statutes heretofore cited.

I append a table of the number of acres of land, and the number for which patents have issued, showing the number of acres for which no patents have issued, also the amount due the Government on such surveys.

Statement of the estimated number of acres of land granted to railroad companies by the acts of July 1, 1862 (12 Stat., 489), and July 2, 1864 (13 Stat., 356); the number of acres on which the cost of surveying has been paid to November 11, 1884; the estimated cost of the survey of the remainder of the grants; and the number of acres patented to the companies named up to June 30, 1884.

Name of company.	Estimated number of acres granted.	Number of acres on which cost of surveying has been paid.	Amount paid for cost of surveying.	Estimated number of acres in the remainder of the grants.	Estimated cost of surveying remainder of grant.	Number of acres patented up to June 30, 1884.
Union Pacific Railway Company	13, 222, 400	2, 302, 817	\$51, 842 39	10, 919, 583	\$370, 905 79	2, 305, 024. 64
Union Pacific, successor to Kansas Pacific Railway Company ..	6, 000, 000	1, 530, 537	31, 041 07	4, 469, 463	127, 626 64	963, 714. 03
Union Pacific, successor to Denver Pacific Railway Company	1, 024, 000	221, 942	9, 304 57	802, 058	34, 502 00	164, 721. 51
Central Branch Union Pacific Railroad Company	1, 160, 000	265, 684	5, 196 97	894, 316	17, 492 58	187, 447. 99
Central Pacific Railroad Company	9, 248, 200	1, 006, 881	53, 737 23	8, 241, 319	411, 732 37	814, 344. 08
Central Pacific, successor to Western Pacific Railroad Company	1, 576, 448	448, 387	17, 397 17	1, 128, 061	43, 631 25	446, 230. 65
Burlington and Missouri River Railroad Company in Nebraska	* 2, 382, 208	2, 378, 556	50, 515 79	.....	.....	2, 373, 290. 77
Sioux City and Pacific Railroad Company ..	† 45, 000	41, 398	680 13	3, 602	77 80	41, 398. 23
	34, 658, 256	8, 196, 202	219, 715 32	26, 458, 402	1, 005, 968 43	7, 296, 171. 90

* Area of grant claimed by the company; question of correct area pending in this office.

† But little land in addition to the amount already patented available for the grant.

With the exception of the two companies last named, the basis of the above estimates is stated in Commissioner's report of February 5, 1884, on questions submitted to the Department by Hon. G. W. Cassidy, chairman Committee on Pacific Railroads, House of Representatives.

The above statement includes all grants earned by construction of the road within the time fixed by law, where payment of cost of surveying lands is required, except those for the Saint Joseph and Denver City Railroad Company—practically adjusted and costs paid—and the branch line of the Southern Pacific Railroad—costs paid so far as lands have been selected. The companies in laches as to construction, which are required to pay such costs, are: Northern Pacific, Atlantic and Pacific, Southern Pacific main line, Texas and Pacific, New Orleans Pacific, California and Oregon (now consolidated with Central Pacific), Oregon and California, and Oregon Central.

LAPSED GRANTS.

In my report for 1882, as well as in that of 1883, I called attention to the necessity for some legislation in reference to lapsed land grants

The Department is not at liberty to declare a grant forfeited because the road is not completed within the time fixed in the grant. The Supreme Court of the United States declared in the case of *Schulenberg v. Harriman* (21 Wallace, p. 44) that a failure to complete the road within the time fixed in the grant did not forfeit the grant. Under this decision the Department cannot treat the land so granted to the railroad companies, or to the States for the benefit of such corporations, as public lands; and to all intents and purposes, so far as the public is concerned, the grants are private property, notwithstanding that the companies in some instances have not even attempted to comply with the conditions of the grant. I again repeat what I said on this subject in my last annual report:

It is difficult to make the people understand that the executive department of the Government cannot declare a grant forfeited when the corporation for whose benefit it was made has failed to comply with the conditions thereof. Petitions are presented to the Executive demanding the forfeiture of grants for non-compliance with the conditions thereof. Individual claimants declare themselves outraged because the Commissioner of the General Land Office refuses to allow filings on the odd sections of lands within the unforfeited railroad grants. The Government is derided as the Government of the rich and opposed to the poor, because the executive department of the Government does not do what the courts have repeatedly declared could be done only by the legislative branch of the Government; that is, declare a forfeiture of a grant.

Complaint is made that grants made more than a quarter of a century ago are still treated as valid subsisting grants and the settler forbidden to go thereon, although nothing has been done toward the building of the road, which must be built before the railroad company can receive the evidence of the title given to it by the Government so many years before.

If the grants are not forfeited when there has not been a full compliance with the conditions of the grant, it seems to be just and proper that some provision should be made by which the settlers, who through ignorance or because they believed such grants had been or would be forfeited have made settlement on such railroad lands, can secure a title either through the railroad company or from the Government.

If the executive department of the Government disregards the law and issues a patent to such settler, he takes nothing by the instrument, and is as much at the mercy of the corporation as if he had not received the Government patent. Congress alone can relieve the settler by declaring the grants forfeited.

I trust this matter will receive the early attention of Congress.

PENSIONS.

The report of the Commissioner of Pensions shows that at the close of the fiscal year 1884 there were 322,756 pensioners, classified as follows:

Army invalids.....	218,956
Army widows, minor children, and dependent relatives.....	75,836
Navy invalids.....	2,616
Navy widows, minor children, and dependent relatives.....	1,938
Survivors of the war of 1812.....	3,898
Widows of those who served in the war of 1812.....	19,512

There were added to this roll during the year the names of 34,192 new pensioners, and 1,221 previously dropped were restored to the rolls, making in the aggregate 35,413; and 16,315 were dropped for various causes, being a net increase on the roll of 19,098.

The average annual value of each pension at the close of the year is \$106.75, and the aggregate annual value of all pensions is \$34,456,600.35, an increase over like value for the previous year of \$2,211,407.92.

The amount paid for pensions during the year is \$56,908,597.60, exceeding, as will be observed, the annual value of pensions several millions of dollars, which represents the first payments, generally in new claims, and known as arrears of pensions. The amount paid during the year to 31,307 new pensioners was \$23,413,815.10, and there remained in the hands of the several pension agents 7,203 cases of this class unpaid, in which there was due \$4,949,090.05.

The detail of these statements will be found in Table 1 of the Commissioner's report. Since 1861 there have been filed 927,922 claims for pensions; of this number, 545,130 have been allowed. About 82 per cent. of the whole number now pending are awaiting the action of the claimants or their witnesses on unanswered calls from the Pension Office. Since 1861 the total amount disbursed for pensions has been \$678,346,834.34. In order to show the increase of business in the Pension Office, the Commissioner furnishes the following table of letters sent and received:

Fiscal years.	Letters received.	Congressional letters received.	Letters sent.
1878	588,692	9,211	96,100
1879	669,117	16,133	361,500
1880	891,512	35,488	762,236
1881	847,123	36,813	1,106,531
1882	1,338,909	66,021	1,171,221
1883	1,681,171	70,235	1,454,699
1884	1,776,906	75,286	1,368,011

NOTE.—In the "letters sent" the calls made on the Adjutant-General and Surgeon-General, U. S. A., are not included.

Two hundred and forty special examiners were employed in the field. Congress at its last session authorized the employment of an additional force of one hundred and fifty. The system of special examination appears to have given great satisfaction to the claimants and the office.

The appeals from the Commissioner of Pensions to the Secretary were, during the fiscal year 1883, 746; during the past year, 1,516.

The act of January 25, 1879, provided—

That all pensions which have been granted under the general laws regulating pensions, or may hereafter be granted, in consequence of death from a cause which originated in the United States service during the continuance of the late war of the rebellion, or in consequence of wounds, injuries, or disease received or contracted in said service during said war of rebellion, shall commence from the date of the death or discharge from said service of the person on whose account the claim has been or

shall hereafter be granted, or from the termination of the right of the party having prior title to such pension.

In an act entitled "An act making appropriations for the payment of the arrears of pensions granted by act of Congress," approved March 3, 1879, it was provided as follows :

All pensions which have been, or which may hereafter be, granted in consequence of death occurring from a cause which originated in the service since the 4th day of March, 1861, or in consequence of wounds or injuries received or disease contracted since that date, shall commence from the death or discharge of the person on whose account the claim has been or is hereafter granted, if the disability occurred prior to discharge, and if such disability occurred after the discharge, then from the date of actual disability, or from the termination of the right of party having prior title to such pension : *Provided*, The application for such pension has been or is hereafter filed with the Commissioner of Pensions prior to the 1st day of July, 1880, otherwise the pension shall commence from the date of filing the application ; but the limitation herein prescribed shall not apply to claims by or in behalf of insane persons and children under sixteen years of age.

Thus all persons applying for pension prior to July 1, 1880, are entitled to pension from the time of discharge or the death of the person on whose account the claim is made, unless the disability occurred after discharge. In all claims made subsequent to that date the pension must commence from the time of the filing of the application. No good reasons can be given why the claimants who file their claims after July 1, 1880, ought not to receive their pensions from the time of discharge if such disability then existed, or if not then existing, from the time such disability originated. It is but just that all persons who are able to establish the right to receive a pension should be treated alike with reference to time of the commencement thereof.

It has been urged in favor of this limitation that the large amount of arrears is an inducement to applicants to apply and secure a pension, and that the large amount to be realized is a temptation to commit fraud on the Government by means of false witnesses.

The Government has the means of detecting fraud if attempted, and injustice should not be done to the deserving and needy soldier for fear the Government may in some few instances be imposed upon and compelled to pay a pension to which the soldier is not justly entitled. It is impossible for a soldier to secure a pension for disabilities not existing ; it is often, however, a question whether such disability is or is not the result of service in the line of duty. The rules of the Pension Office for the determination of this question are sufficiently strict, and with a proper administration of the affairs of that office very few pensions will be allowed parties not entitled to receive the same. It is to be hoped that the limitations imposed by the act of March 3, 1879, will be repealed.

THE PATENT OFFICE.

The following report of the business of the Patent Office for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1884, is submitted:

Applications for patents received.....	35,204
Applications for design patents received.....	1,322
Applications for reissue patents received.....	244
Applications for registration of trade-marks.....	1,077
Applications for registration of labels.....	975
Total.....	38,822
Caveats filed.....	2,672
Patents granted, including reissues and designs.....	22,882
Trade-marks registered.....	903
Labels registered.....	833
Total.....	24,618
Patents withheld for non-payment of final fees.....	2,652
Patents expired.....	10,230

Receipts and expenditures.

Receipts from all sources.....	\$1,145,433 10
Expenditures (not including contingent expenses).....	901,413 39
Surplus.....	244,019 71

Comparative statement showing the increase in the work.

Applications for patents, including reissues, designs, trade-marks, and labels, received during the fiscal years ending June 30—

1881.....	24,906
1882.....	30,062
1883.....	35,734
1884.....	38,822
Increase 1884 over 1881.....	13,916
Increase 1884 over 1882.....	8,760
Increase 1884 over 1883.....	3,088

Applications awaiting action on the part of the office July 1—

1883.....	4,699
1884.....	9,786

Comparative statement showing the increase in receipts.

Fiscal year ending June 30, 1881.....	\$789,895 52
Fiscal year ending June 30, 1882.....	930,864 14
Fiscal year ending June 30, 1883.....	1,095,884 70
Fiscal year ending June 30, 1884.....	1,145,433 10
Increase 1884 over 1881.....	355,537 58
Increase 1884 over 1882.....	214,568 96
Increase 1884 over 1883.....	49,548 40

It will be seen from the foregoing statement that the business of the Patent Office is continually increasing. The examining work is about six months in arrears. Every succeeding year greater labor and care are required in the consideration of applications, owing to the increase in the number of patents issued and the widening of the field of invention.

Special efforts were made to impress upon Congress during its last session the needs of the office, and, as a result, an increase of twenty-two was provided in the examining corps, but an experience of several months is requisite before new appointees can become sufficiently skilled to render material aid in the examination of applications.

In the estimates of appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1886, the Commissioner asks an increase of forty in the examining corps, as also an increase in compensation. The first is essential in order that the force may be adequate for the business coming before the office, and the second is necessary to secure and retain skilled and experienced men who are able to discern what is novel in the intricate inventions presented for consideration.

Additional room, a power hall, and a laboratory are indispensable to the proper conduct and dispatch of business; and, while the estimates submitted show considerable increase over the present appropriation, the receipts of the office are more than ample to cover them. In providing the necessary facilities for the administration of the affairs of this office no burden will be imposed upon the people, for the inventors alone pay into the Treasury more than sufficient to furnish everything requisite.

In addition to the legislation repeatedly recommended in relation to section 4887 of the Revised Statutes, it is very desirable that section 4936 be so amended as to authorize this office to refund from its current receipts any sum or sums of money to any person who has, through mistake, paid the same into the Treasury, or to any receiver or depository, to the credit of the Treasury, as for fees accruing at the Patent Office. It has frequently happened that fees thus paid have been covered into the Treasury before it was ascertained that they had been paid under a misapprehension. In cases of this kind special legislation is necessary to authorize the Treasury Department to refund. Much labor to this office and the Treasury would thus be saved, and persons would be able to recover money paid by mistake without petitioning Congress.

OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER OF RAILROADS.

The report of the Commissioner of Railroads gives the operations of his office during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1884.

The property and accounts of the railroads coming within the jurisdiction of the office have been examined, the several companies having freely accorded all proper facilities for the inspection of their properties and the examination of their books.

Statements are submitted in detail showing the indebtedness of the subsidized railroads to the United States, earnings and expenses, financial condition, 5 and 25 per centum of net earnings, and various other data pertaining to these roads.

The Commissioner also submits detailed statements of the sinking funds of the Union and Central Pacific Railroad Companies, showing the sums which have been covered into said funds by the Treasury of the United States, and the amount and character of investments made by the Secretary of the Treasury as custodian.

CONDITION OF THE BOND AND INTEREST ACCOUNT.

The public debt statement issued by the Treasury Department June 30, 1884, shows the condition of the accounts with the several Pacific railroad companies as to moneys actually covered in to their credit, but takes no account of moneys in the sinking fund held by the Treasurer of the United States, or of the compensation for services not at that time settled by the accounting officers.

This is shown by the following statement:

Name of railway.	Principal outstanding,	Interest accrued and not yet paid by the United States.	Interest paid by the United States.	Interest repaid by companies to credit of bond and interest account.		Balance of interest paid by the United States.
				By transportation services.	By cash payments, 5 per cent. of net earnings.	
Central Pacific..	\$25,885,120 00	\$776,553 60	\$24,229,108 87	\$4,784,617 43	\$648,271 96	\$18,796,219 48
Western Pacific..	1,970,560 00	59,116 80	1,727,365 74	9,367 00	.....	1,717,998 74
Union Pacific....	27,236,512 00	817,095 36	25,774,945 77	10,006,107 79	.....	13,768,837 98
Kansas Pacific....	6,303,000 00	189,090 00	6,318,423 09	3,055,291 60	.....	3,263,131 49
Central Branch, Union Pacific.	1,600,000 00	48,000 00	1,597,808 26	162,401 27	6,926 91	1,428,480 08
Sioux City and Pacific.....	1,628,320 00	48,849 60	1,513,147 09	131,138 32	.....	1,382,008 77
Total	64,623,512 00	1,938,705 36	61,160,798 82	18,148,923 41	655,198 87	42,356,676 54

The "interest accrued and not yet paid by the United States," amounting to \$1,938,705.36, was payable July 1, 1884.

The total indebtedness of the several subsidized Pacific railroads to the United States on June 30, 1884, is reported by the Commissioner to be as follows:

TOTAL DEBT,

Including principal and accrued interest.

Union Pacific (including Kansas Pacific)	\$66,639,066 22
Central Pacific (including Western Pacific)	54,647,825 01
Sioux City and Pacific	3,290,316 69
Central Branch Union Pacific	3,245,808 26
Total	127,823,016 18

TOTAL CREDIT.

Transportation services performed and money paid into the Treasury.

Union Pacific.....	\$16,496,975 73
Central Pacific.....	8,090,779 87
Sioux City and Pacific.....	131,138 32
Central Branch Union Pacific.....	169,328 18
Total	24,888,222 10
Balance in favor of the United States, but not due until maturity of principal, 1895-1899.....	102,934,794 08

RECAPITULATION.

Due from Union Pacific	\$50,142,090 49
Due from Central Pacific.....	46,557,045 14
Due from Sioux City and Pacific.....	3,159,178 37
Due from Central Branch Union Pacific.....	3,076,480 08
Total	102,934,794 08

CONDITION OF SINKING-FUND ACCOUNTS.

The sinking funds of the Union and Central Pacific Companies, held by the Treasurer of the United States under the act of May 7, 1878, amounted to \$6,084,099.82, on June 30, 1884, the Union Pacific having to its credit \$3,435,576.34 and the Central Pacific \$2,648,523.48.

Investments have been made by the Secretary of the Treasury as follows :

Character of bonds.	Union Pacific.	Central Pacific.	Total.
Funded loan of 1881 (5 per cent.).....	\$256,450 00	\$736,700 00	\$993,150 00
Funded loan of July 12, 1882 (3 per cent.)	1,620,000 00	.....	1,620,000 00
Funded loan of 1907 (4 per cent.).....	32,650 00	199,100 00	231,750 00
Currency sixes	361,000 00	444,000 00	805,000 00
Principal	2,270,100 00	1,379,800 00	3,649,900 00
Premium paid	172,990 43	179,563 73	352,554 16
Total cost	2,443,090 43	1,559,363 73	4,002,454 16

The amounts remaining in the United States Treasury *uninvested* on June 30, 1884, were as follows :

Credit of the Union Pacific.....	\$992,485 91
Credit of the Central Pacific.....	1,089,150 75
Total	2,081,645 66

The last investments for the Union Pacific were made during the month of March, 1884, the sum of \$1,620,000 having been invested in the 3 per cent. funded loan of July 12, 1884, at a premium of \$48,925, or an average of 3.02 per cent. The total investments for this company amount to \$2,270,100, at a premium of \$172,990.42. The interest on the

sinking-fund investments to June 30, 1884, amounted to \$139,127.97, or \$33,862.45 less than the premium paid. The amount remaining in the Treasury uninvested June 30, 1884, was \$992,485.91.

No investments have been made for the Central Pacific since November 27, 1882. The total investments for this company amount to \$1,379,800, at a premium of \$179,563.72. The interest on the sinking-fund investments to June 30, 1884, amounted to \$170,107.83, or \$9,455.90 less than the premium paid. The amount remaining in the Treasury uninvested June 30, 1883, was \$844,652.13, and June 30, 1884, it had increased to \$1,089,159.75.

Reference to the foregoing table shows that June 30, 1884, the sum of \$2,081,645.66, belonging to the sinking funds of the two companies remained in the Treasury Department uninvested. The Commissioner suggests that this amount be immediately invested in order that the several sinking funds may earn a reasonable rate of interest.

The Commissioner again calls attention to the controversy between the Government and the Union Pacific Railway Company as to what constitutes "net earnings" under the act of May 7, 1878. The correspondence bearing on this subject was printed in his report for 1883, pages 31-36. A bill to authorize the funding of the debts of the Pacific Railroads being under discussion in the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate, Mr. Charles Francis Adams, jr., then a director of the Union Pacific Railway Company—now president—addressed a communication, under date of June 17, 1884, to Hon. George F. Hoar, a member of the committee, in which he proposed as a basis of settlement pending action of the courts, that no dividends should be paid on the stock of the company during the current year; that the Government should withhold payment for all services rendered, not only on the aided but the non-aided portions of the road, and that the company should forthwith pay into the Treasury on account of the sinking fund the sum of \$718,814.60, being the amount found due the United States, in cash, for the year ending December 31, 1883. On the same date Hon. George F. Edmunds, chairman, informed this Department that the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate had passed the following resolution:

Resolved, That this committee will postpone until the first Monday in December, 1884, the further consideration of the matters arising under the act of May 7, 1878, relating to the Union Pacific Railroad Company, &c., if the said company shall immediately carry out the offer of Mr. Adams, as stated in his communication dated June 17, 1884, addressed to the Hon. George F. Hoar, and on the express understanding that this action of the company and of the United States in receiving the money and security in said communication mentioned shall have no effect on any penalty or forfeiture or other right of the United States incurred or arising, or to occur or arise, against the said company or any of its officers, but that all rights, penalties, and forfeitures shall stand as if these acts had not been done.

Pursuant to this arrangement the Union Pacific Railway Company deposited with the Assistant Treasurer of the United States at Boston, June 20, 1884, the sum of \$718,814.60, to be carried to the credit of the

sinking fund, "but it is not to be considered that the company assents to the Government's statement or claim of the amount of net earnings, or the elements that should enter into the determination of them. The company also reserves the right to have a judicial determination of the amounts to be paid by the Government for transportation, and also what shall be deducted from gross earnings in order to ascertain net earnings." The company has also filed, under its corporate seal, an assignment of all its earnings for transportation services rendered for the Government over all lines owned and operated by it. This assignment remains in force until matters in dispute are finally determined. The full correspondence on the subject will be found in the Commissioner's report.

The total balance claimed by the Government as due in cash from the Union Pacific Railway Company under the act of May 7, 1878, for the period from July 1, 1878, to December 31, 1882, amounted to \$1,727,742.54, but the sum of \$69,358.83 deposited with the Assistant Treasurer at Boston July 26, 1881, having by consent of the company been accepted June 30, 1884, as a payment on account and covered into the sinking fund, this amount is reduced to \$1,658,383.71. If the whole amount claimed by the company on account of the contested items for new construction and new equipment should be deducted, there would still remain an uncontested balance of \$967,486.05, which the company claims is overpaid by the additional allowance it will receive for carrying the mails.

The following statements show the financial condition of the Union and Central Pacific Railroad Companies June 30, 1884:

Union Pacific Railway Company.

LIABILITIES.

Funded debt.....	\$84,680,332 50
Interest on funded debt accrued not due.....	797,729 99
United States subsidy bonds.....	33,539,512 00
Interest on United States subsidy bonds accrued not due.....	33,099,554 22
Bills payable.....	\$7,205,533 14
Accounts payable.....	2,542,423 57
Pay-rolls and vouchers.....	1,969,996 52
Dividends unpaid.....	83,884 77
Coupons due and unpaid.....	1,276,182 90
Called bonds.....	32,000 00
	<hr/>
	13,110,020 90
Total debt.....	<hr/>
Capital stock.....	165,227,149 61
	60,868,500 00
	<hr/>
Total stock and debt.....	226,095,649 61

ASSETS.

Cost of road and equipment.....	\$157, 728, 147 11
Fuel, material, and stores on hand.....	2, 482, 243 67
Cash on hand.....	1, 192, 070 86
Company's stocks and bonds owned by company	2, 072, 353 09
Sinking funds in hands of trustees—cash.....	170, 802 21
Bills and accounts receivable.....	2, 913, 419 00
Bonds and stocks of other companies—cost.....	36, 853, 444 51
Miscellaneous investments.....	966, 612 14
Interest repaid the United States by transportation.	7, 637, 344 18
Due from United States for transportation.....	9, 698, 252 11
Land contracts and land cash	13, 639, 479 09
Advances payable in bonds and stocks.....	7, 387, 095 50
Sinking funds in United States Treasury.....	2, 270, 100 00
	<hr/>
	\$245, 011, 363 47
Surplus, including land sales.....	18, 915, 713 86
	<hr/>
Surplus, excluding land sales	8, 628, 882 38

Central Pacific Railroad Company.

LIABILITIES.

Funded debt.....	\$53, 153, 000 00
Interest on funded debt accrued not due	1, 352, 565 00
United States subsidy bonds.....	27, 855, 680 00
Interest on United States bonds accrued not due.....	26, 792, 145 01
Bills payable	\$5, 975, 000 00
Accounts payable	4, 028, 497 61
Hospital fund.....	43, 256 74
Interest and dividends unpaid.....	131, 966 00
	<hr/>
	10, 178, 720 35
Sinking fund uninvested.....	1, 069, 091 68
Trustees' land mortgage.....	635, 653 30
	<hr/>
Total debt.....	121, 036, 855 34
Capital stock	59, 275, 500 00
	<hr/>
Total stock and debt.....	180, 312, 355 34

ASSETS.

Cost of road.....	\$141, 327, 529 90
Cost of equipment	8, 297, 118 98
Real estate, shops, &c.....	3, 282, 283 90
Cash on hand.....	167, 575 76
Fuel and material on hand.....	4, 821, 999 54
Stocks and bonds owned	1, 086, 078 32
Miscellaneous investments.....	1, 525, 373 37
United States transportation and sinking-fund ac- counts.....	8, 918, 162 07
Company's sinking funds.....	5, 943, 016 68
Bills and accounts receivable.....	900, 757 64
Amount in hands of trustees of land mortgage to re- deem bonds.....	635, 653 30
Land cash, notes and contracts.....	1, 081, 530 41
	<hr/>
	177, 987, 079 87
Balance, deficit	2, 325, 275 47

The company estimates farming lands unsold at \$25,250,000 and water-front and lands in San Francisco, Oakland, and Sacramento at \$7,750,000—in all, \$33,000,000—in addition to the above assets.

The Commissioner again invites attention to the subject of the funding of the debts of the several Pacific railroads, and renews his suggestion that the present uncertain mode of payment be commuted to one of fixed obligations having the same lien. It is manifest that the act of May 7, 1878, has not adequately accomplished its purpose. It would seem of the highest importance that Congress take immediate and final action looking to the ultimate payment of this indebtedness. Under existing law the debt is steadily increasing at the rate of over \$1,000,000 per annum. I am of opinion that the best method of dealing with this indebtedness would be to authorize the funding of the debt on an extension of time, and to require the payment of fixed amounts at stated periods. In consideration of this extension, the companies should be required to file assignments of all earnings already accrued for Government transportation over non-aided portions of their roads. All future earnings for like services over all roads owned, leased, or operated by these companies should be pledged by the terms of the act to the payment of the accruing installments of the debt as they mature.

If it be not deemed by Congress expedient to thus fund the debt, the discretion of the Secretary of the Treasury as to the investment of the sinking fund which is now confined to 5 per cent. United States bonds should be enlarged, as the interest of the whole investment thus far made has not yet equaled the premiums paid for the bonds.

THE TENTH CENSUS.

The report of the Superintendent of Census shows that eight volumes of the Census Reports have been published, and that volume nine will be published during the month of November. Other volumes will follow as rapidly as possible. The Superintendent makes the following statement:

By the terms of the act of July 7, 1884, making appropriations for sundry civil expenses, it was provided that the sum of \$30,000 should be appropriated "for the work of taking the Tenth Census and closing the Bureau on January 1, 1885." With the retention of the entire force employed at the date of the passage of this bill it would have been impossible to complete the final report within the limitation of time therein prescribed, but the inadequate sum appropriated necessitated a heavy reduction in our clerical force, and has thereby correspondingly delayed the work of the office.

Furthermore, the same act authorized the printing of additional copies of the Compendium of the Tenth Census and of various monographs, thus devolving upon the Superintendent and his already crippled force a serious burden of extra labor.

I have, therefore, the honor to request a recommendation may be submitted to Congress that the time for the completion of all tabulations and the preparation of all original matter for the final report on the Tenth Census be extended until July 1, 1885; that the additional sum of \$45,000 already submitted in estimate for a deficiency in the present fiscal year be appropriated, and that the further appropriation of

\$10,000 be made for the expenses of such force as shall be required in this office during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1886, for revision, proof-reading, &c., in co-operation with the office of the Public Printer while the remaining volumes of the report are being published.

THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

In the work of the Geological Survey there has been a material increase in comparison with preceding years. The work of this Bureau is greatly varied in character, but may be said to consist of two principal divisions, one of topography and one of geology. The topographical work has during the past year been prosecuted with vigor in many portions of the United States, both East and West, and its principal extensions have been in the New England and South Atlantic States. The State of Massachusetts has appropriated the sum of \$40,000 to be available for the period of three years, for the purpose of co-operating with the United States in the preparation of a map of that State which shall be suitable for the economic and political purposes of the Commonwealth, and also suitable for geological purposes. Rapid progress has also been made in the topographical survey of the Southern Appalachian region, which has hitherto been comparatively little known in respect to its topographical and economic features. The total area surveyed during the year in the Southern Appalachians was about 19,750 square miles. In Northwestern New Mexico and Northeastern Arizona an area was surveyed aggregating about 22,000 square miles, a large portion of which has been found to contain important deposits of good coal, while other portions are heavily timbered and others suitable for pasturage. Topographical surveys have been conducted also in California, Oregon, Montana, and Nevada, all subsidiary to a general economic and geological map of the United States, and of special importance in relation to certain geological investigations of an economic character.

The purely geological work of the Survey now employs a large number of distinguished scientific specialists, and the range of investigation is very wide. These investigations consist of surveys in structural geology and the distribution of geological formations, together with the minerals and ores contained in the formations. A division has been organized for the study of the volcanic rocks of the United States, especially in relation to the occurrence of gold and silver ores. Another has been organized for the study of metamorphic rocks, in which a large part of the iron and copper ores of the United States are found. Other divisions have been organized for the general study of the sedimentary rocks, embracing the great coal-fields of the country. Special economic studies are also prosecuted in important mining districts, as at the Leadville, Silver Cliff, and Gunnison districts in Colorado, the quicksilver districts in California at New Idria, Knoxville, Sulphur Bank, and elsewhere, and also in Nevada in the Washoe and Eureka districts. Another division has been organized for the purpose of study-

ing the glacial formations extending in northern latitudes from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

In addition to the above investigations, the Survey has prosecuted research in many subjects essential to the progress of geological science, especially relating to the succession and distribution of fossils, the chemical constitution and microscopical structure of rocks, minerals, and ores, and the occurrence and characteristics of mineral springs, hot springs, and geysers. In connection with all this work, large quantities of fossils, rocks, ores, minerals, and mineral waters have been collected for examination, all of which will be finally placed in the National Museum.

Through the courtesy of Prof. Spencer F. Baird, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, rooms in the National Museum have been placed under the control of the Geological Survey, and in them the laboratories essential for prosecuting these researches have been organized and equipped. This is believed to be especially advantageous to the Survey, from the fact that its collections are deposited in the Museum, and the laboratories in which the researches are conducted are conveniently arranged in respect to the materials to be studied.

An important work inaugurated by the Survey is the collection of statistics, showing the mineral resources of the United States, which is designed to give annually as accurate a summary as possible of the production of all metals and minerals within the United States. The collection of statistics relating to gold and silver is not directly made by the Geological Survey, as that work is performed by the Director of the Mint. The importance of the collection of statistics of mines and mining cannot be overestimated, and the large demand for the first published volume shows the general interest which is felt in the subject.

In the operations of the Geological Survey, extending as they do over a wide field of scientific research, it has been found necessary to have a library of the publications of the world relating to the subject of research prosecuted by the members of the Survey. Good progress has been made in the collection of such a library, chiefly by exchanging the publications of the Survey for those of other scientific institutions.

The report of the Director is accompanied by a map on which are indicated the districts in which surveys have been prosecuted through the year, and the character and extent of the work accomplished are clearly set forth therein.

BUREAU OF EDUCATION.

The Commissioner of Education reports that the demands upon his office have been greater than in any previous year.

Much additional labor has arisen from the increased number of school officers and teachers visiting the office to consult the pedagogical library and museum. The number of volumes in the library has risen to 16,500 and the number of pamphlets to 42,100. In consideration of the want

which the library meets, as indicated in the incessant call for information, the Commissioner is surprised that the appropriation for the purchase of books for the ensuing year has been cut down \$500. The work on the card catalogue so necessary for effective administration has been delayed by the necessity of employing the assistants in other departments of office labor. It has been impossible to answer the many demands for the printing of this catalogue. Considerable additions have been made to the pedagogical museum, taking into account the small sum of \$2,000 appropriated. The resources of the museum are entirely unequal to the loans demanded of it. In answer to most urgent solicitations, a small exhibit of educational appliances and conditions was furnished, without expense to the office, to the Louisville Exposition; most emphatic evidence has been afforded that many teachers and school officers gained from this exhibit valuable ideas of improved methods of instruction. In all countries the exhibition of appliances has been found the most effective means of promoting their adoption and improvement. Our schools generally suffer from the lack of these material aids, and it is important that the office should be supported in the endeavor to create among the school authorities an intelligent appreciation of their use and value. The clerical force of the office is not sufficient for progress to be made in cataloguing the collection of the museum.

The work on the report of 1881 was completed during the first part of the fiscal year, and by a most strenuous effort the report for 1882-'83 was substantially finished before the close of the same period. This concentration of the force of the office upon the preparation of the report curtailed the efforts of the office in other directions so much that the communications sent out show a falling off of nearly 9,000. He reports that it is utterly impossible to do the work required by law without an increase in the clerical force. The documents sent out numbered 258,340. These covered a variety of important topics, and to a considerable extent were placed in the hands of teachers in attendance upon normal institutes. The Commissioner notes the fact that there has been no considerable improvement in methods or progress of education in any quarter of the country in respect to which the aid of the office has not been invoked.

The communications addressed to the office, personal visits of teachers and school officers, the Commissioner's travels, and the requests for criticism and suggestion sent to every one receiving documents have promoted the closest sympathy between the office and those actively engaged in advancing the intelligence of the people and dealing with questions of instruction, whether public or private.

Clearer views and more intelligent counsels are observable with respect to the most critical problems that have been under consideration for several years past. The forces that control education are better organized than formerly, the discussions in the meetings of teachers are

characterized by greater breadth, and the teachers in different parts of the country are brought into closer sympathy, and greater national demonstrations are foreshadowed. During the year legislation has been secured in several States, increasing the efficiency of the school systems.

The colleges of agriculture and the mechanic arts endowed by the national land grant, together with similar institutions supported by private benefactions, have taken a leading part in the advance that has been made in respect to industrial education.

Under both public and private auspices this department of training has been greatly extended during the year in several cities.

As in former years, private benefactions to education have been liberal. The claims of higher education have not been overlooked. The standards of collegiate instruction have been very generally raised and the facilities for extended study in special directions noticeably increased. Professional schools have shared in the general progress. It is particularly gratifying to note the efforts made to improve the standards of our medical schools and thus secure the health of the people against malpractice.

The provision made by Congress for the establishment of government and the enforcement of law in Alaska and the small appropriation of money for the support of schools for the children of that country make it possible to establish schools there with some hope of success. The Commissioner believes that not less than \$50,000 should be appropriated for general school purposes for Alaska. In his judgment, no event connected with education during the year has excited so much approving attention or produced so profound an impression as the debate in the United States Senate upon the subject of granting aid from the national Treasury. He believes that there is the most abundant evidence that the intelligence and patriotism of the country have rarely been so united in urging any measure of legislation.

The Commissioner again renews his recommendation that some measures of Federal aid be extended to public primary education, based on the number of illiterates in the various States, as shown by the Tenth Census. I fully concur in this recommendation, and, as I have in former reports, urge the necessity of immediate and substantial aid on the part of the General Government. I am of the opinion that the school system of the several States should not be interfered with by such aid, and that it is not wise for the General Government to attempt to build up a school system of its own, but that all national appropriations for school purposes should be placed under the control of the States, with only such guards as shall secure its faithful application to the purpose for which it was appropriated. Such material aid should be temporary in its character, to cease when the States shall have perfected a system and made suitable appropriation for the education of all children of school age. The ability of the State to do this will increase as its number of illiterates disappear and their places are taken by educated people.

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK.

During the year additional leases of ground within the Park for hotel purposes have been granted; one site at the Lower Geyser Basin, to G. W. Marshall, and the other to John F. Yancy, at what is known as Pleasant Valley on the mail route from Mammoth Hot Springs to Cooke, Mont. Houses at these places, together with the hotel at Mammoth Hot Springs and temporary camps at other points of interest, were open for the entertainment of visitors during the past season.

In granting leases no exclusive privileges have been given to any person or company, either in terms or in effect, and in all cases conditions have been imposed intended to secure suitable provision for the comfort of tourists, and at the same time by reserving to the Department the right to regulate the charges for such service, to prevent any overcharge. No complaint of violation of such conditions on the part of the lessees has been received. The legislature of Wyoming at its last session made provision for justices of the peace and constables for duty in the Park, whose presence and aid will contribute materially toward preventing infractions of law, and of the regulations for the protection of the game and objects of interest in the Park.

HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS.

The work in the improvement of the Hot Springs Creek adjacent to the reservation, according to the plan outlined in my last annual report, has been substantially completed. The creek has been straightened and confined within arched walls of masonry throughout the whole length of the reservation, and the old bed of the creek has been filled, giving a roadway 100 feet in width on Central avenue where, before the improvement, it was impossible in some places for vehicles to pass. Iron pipes have been laid along the course of the walls for the purpose of collecting the hot water from the springs, and conveying it to a proposed common reservoir for distribution to the bath-houses.

There are now in operation upon the reservation seven private bath-houses, built upon sites leased under authority conferred upon the Secretary of the Interior by the act of December 16, 1878. These leases were granted for five years, the term prescribed by the statute, commencing from the date of approval of the act. They therefore expired December 16, 1883. A doubt having arisen as to the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to renew these leases, the attention of Congress was invited to the subject in a communication dated January 11, 1884 (Senate Ex. Doc. 60). No legislative action was taken in the direction of defining the scope of the authority of the Department in the matter. The leases have not been renewed, but the lessees have been permitted to remain in possession under the terms of the expired leases. Two sites were leased during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1883, and three have

been leased during the past year. The dates of commencement of the terms of these leases conform nearly to the dates they were granted. The erection of bath-houses upon these sites has been retarded by the work upon the contiguous creek improvement. The Superintendent reports 35,058 free baths given during the year, an average of 97 per day. One hundred and fifty lots upon the reservation sold at auction in Little Rock, in May last, brought \$29,803.

FREEDMEN'S HOSPITAL.

The surgeon in charge of the Freedmen's Hospital reports the whole number of patients admitted during the year as 1,509, being an average admission of 125 per month. Of those admitted 649 were white and 860 colored. About 215 ex-soldiers have been admitted and treated. A greater number of the patients of this class came from distant sections of the country to look after their pension claims and becoming sick were admitted to the hospital. The majority of the patients were admitted upon the recommendation of the chief of police of the District of Columbia. No distinction is made in favor of any class, race, or sex, and patients are admitted for treatment for any disease except small-pox.

In the dispensary of the hospital 2,456 persons have been prescribed for during the year. Supplies for the hospital during the year were purchased under contract, and the articles were fully equal in quality to those heretofore purchased in open market, at prices very much less. This system has resulted in a saving of at least \$2,000 in subsistence alone.

COLUMBIA INSTITUTION FOR THE DEAF AND DUMB.

The number of pupils instructed during the year was 126; males 107, females 19. Of these 54 were in the collegiate department. No deaths have occurred among the pupils, and general good health has prevailed.

Four students of the college were graduated with the degree of bachelor of arts, and the several departments of instruction have been carried on with gratifying results.

Prof. Samuel Porter, who has been an instructor of deaf-mutes in the United States for more than fifty years, eighteen of which have been spent in connection with the college, has been made emeritus professor.

The current expenses of the Institution for the year amounted to \$60,610.23, of which sum \$55,000 were appropriated by Congress. The \$3,000 also appropriated by Congress for the improvement of grounds and the repairs of buildings were used for the purposes designated.

The amounts asked by the directors for the next fiscal year are: For current expenses, \$55,000; for the extension of the buildings for the purpose of providing additional school room for the instruction of the pupils in industrial labor, \$25,000.

The need for the appropriation of this last amount is very strongly urged by the directors.

The report calls attention to the fact that during the past year public interest in the cause of deaf-mute instruction has been greatly increased by the discussion of the subject before several scientific associations and in two conventions of officers and instructors of institutions for the education of the deaf.

GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE.

The board of visitors of the hospital report that the building designed to provide for patients received from the Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers has been completed and occupied during the year, affording accommodations for 150 patients, about one-fourth of that number in single rooms. The building has been well and carefully built of fire-proof materials, and neatly furnished throughout. The completion of the new wing of the main hospital affords accommodation for about 70 of the most refractory and noisy of the female patients. A new kitchen, 65 by 45 feet, has also been added, relieving the main building from the heat and odor of the cooking.

The estimate for the support, clothing, and treatment of patients for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1886, is \$270,000, and for buildings, grounds, general repairs, &c., \$10,000. The board of visitors also recommend appropriations for certain additional buildings and improvements, and for the purchase of a tract of land of 45 acres adjoining the hospital farm, the necessity for which, as set forth in the report, would seem to commend the subject to the favorable attention of Congress.

The number of patients under treatment June 30, 1883, was 994; admitted during the fiscal year 1884, 347; discharged, 128; died, 67; number remaining June 30, 1884, 1,146. Of those remaining in the hospital, 884 are males and 262 females; from the Army, 550; Navy, 61; Revenue Marine Service, 19; civil life, 516. Those from civil life are classed as follows:

	Males.	Females.
District of Columbia:		
Transient.....	25	11
Resident indigent.....	208	242
Convicts and criminals.....	10	.....
United States:		
Convicts and criminals.....	9	.....
Private patients.....	5	6

The total amount expended for all purposes of the hospital during the year was \$359,128.41. The products of the farm and garden were valued at \$34,220.21.

ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL.

The Architect reports that changes which have been made in the designation of rooms for committees of Congress in the Capitol building have occasioned an unusual amount of refitting and repairing to provide satisfactory accommodations. The Senate post-office has been removed from the principal story to the large hall in the northeastern part of the basement. The appliances for heating the central and south portions of the building have been thoroughly repaired and improved and the exterior of the central building newly painted.

At the City Hall steam coils have been extended from the boilers in the new portion of the building to a part of the old building. The Architect recommends, as a measure of economy and comfort, that provision be made for extending the heating apparatus throughout the whole of the old building and for preparing the rooms in the upper and basement stories of the building for occupancy. Appended to Architect's report is an interesting statement showing the results of the removal and replanting (in 1875-'76) of trees in the Capitol grounds.

NEW PENSION BUILDING.

Since my last report considerable work has been done on the new pension building, which has been raised on the south and west fronts 64½ feet above the site. Three vaulted floors are entirely completed, supporting 107 rooms. The expenditures to October 27, 1884, have been \$447,436.22, leaving a balance available for the building and heating apparatus of \$259,123.40.

RECONSTRUCTION OF THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BUILDING.

The work of reconstructing the south wing of the building occupied by the Interior Department has steadily progressed, and will probably be completed within the next four months.

The additional room which will then be available can be occupied in part by the clerical force of the Department, and in a measure relieve some of the offices which are now seriously overcrowded.

It was estimated that the sum of \$151,000 would be required to complete the reconstruction of this wing, and that the sum of \$18,000 would be necessary for supplying a new heating apparatus. The first amount was appropriated in full, but in place of the second amount only \$2,000 was provided. In the course of the work the heating apparatus was found to be so corroded as to be beyond the possibility of a mere repair; this, together with the increase in the cost of labor during the past season, has made it impossible to keep within the appropriation, and, in order to complete the work thoroughly, a deficiency of \$18,849 remains

to be provided for, the urgency of which should receive the early attention of Congress. This being provided for, the south wing will not only soon be completed, but the galleries will be nearly all furnished with wrought-iron model-cases, and with an appropriation of \$7,000 the additional model-cases which will be necessary can be provided.

After the completion of the south wing, the fire-proof reconstruction of this building should be continued by extending the work over the east wing, and for this an estimate has been laid before Congress.

THE CIVIL SERVICE ACT.

At the time of the passage of the act entitled "An act to regulate and improve the civil service of the United States," it was urged as an objection to it that the examinations would be of such technical character as to exclude from the public service all except those who have had the advantages of a liberal education. The experience of nearly one year and a half has demonstrated that these fears were groundless, and that the examinations have been conducted on a sound and business-like basis, calculated to secure efficient clerks for the various grades of the public service. Quite a number of the employés of the Government, occupying grades below the classified service, have been found qualified for higher grades by the examinations of the Commission. No call was made from the Interior Department on the Civil Service Commission to fill vacancies occurring in the clerical force until May, 1884, because at the time of the passage of the act there were employed in the Census Office a large number of trained and experienced clerks from which I considered it a duty to the public service to select to fill the vacancies occurring in other bureaus of the Department.

Originally the force of the Census Office consisted of about eighteen hundred persons; as the work of that office advanced towards completion there was a necessary reduction in the force; some were discharged, others transferred to other Bureaus until the 16th of July, 1883, when the force had decreased to about one hundred and seventy-five. In making transfers and discharges the most efficient and valuable clerks had been retained, and it is doubtful whether there could have been found in the employment of this or any other Government more trustworthy and capable clerks than constituted this force. I did not think it advisable to allow a disciplined force of this character to be lost to the Government, and when any portion of this force could be spared from the work of the Census Office I filled the vacancies occurring in the several Bureaus of the Department from such force. This was done with the approval of the Board of Civil Service Commissioners.

Since the 23d of May last there have been appointed in the several Bureaus of the Department through the Civil Service Commission a total of two hundred and thirteen clerks, copyists, and special examiners. All persons engaged in clerical work have been brought within

the classified service, save only those especially excepted by the statute and rules made thereunder. Thus the classified service in the Interior Department includes all clerks of class one, two, three, and four, clerks receiving a salary of \$1,000, and all copyists receiving a salary of \$900 and \$720.

Of the number appointed I believe the most have proved themselves efficient and valuable clerks, but the length of their service has been too short to speak with confidence as to their general fitness for the work assigned to them. The law has in a great measure relieved the Department of the importunities of applicants and their friends for positions, and will, I think, when it is fully understood, save the heads of the Departments much time heretofore lost in listening to appeals for positions when it was impossible to comply with such requests. I think the system a valuable one, and one that should have the hearty support of both executive and legislative departments of the Government.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

H. M. TELLER,

Secretary.

The PRESIDENT.



