

REPORT

FROM

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,

17th November, 1828.

The Postmaster General has the honor to submit to the President of the United States, the following statement, showing the gradual increase and present condition of the Post Office Department.

In 1792 there were 195 post offices: A revenue of \$67,444, and 5,612 miles of post roads.						
1797	do	554	do	do	213,998, and 16,180	do
1802	do	1,114	do	do	327,045, and 25,315	do
1807	do	1,848	do	do	478,763, and 33,755	do
1812	do	2,610	do	do	649,298, and 39,378	do
1817	do	3,459	do	do	1,002,973, and 52,089	do
1823	end. 1 July,	4,498	do	do	1,114,344, and 82,763	do
1828	do	7,651	do	do	1,598,134, and 114,536	do

The above exhibit shows an augmentation of annual revenue within five years, ending 1st July, 1828, of \$483,790; a sum exceeding by \$18,655, a similar increase for eleven years preceding 1823, and falling short only \$165,418, of being equal to the total revenue of the Department in 1812.

Within the same time there have been established 3,153 additional Post Offices, being a greater number than was in operation in the United States in the year 1815.

From the most accurate calculation that can be made, for the year ending 1st July, 1823, the mail was transported in stages, four million four hundred and eighty-nine thousand seven hundred and forty-four miles; and on horseback, five million five hundred and eleven thousand four hundred and ninety-six miles, making a total transportation of ten million one hundred thousand two hundred and forty miles, annually. Since that period, there has been added a transportation of one million nine hundred and forty-nine thousand eight hundred and fifty miles, annually, in stages; and on horseback, one million six hundred and fifty-eight thousand nine hundred and forty-nine miles; making an increase of three million six hundred and eight thousand eight hundred and forty-nine miles, which adds two hundred and seventy-five thousand and fifty-three miles—more than one-third—to the mail establishment of the country in 1823. And the augmented stage conveyance falls short only two hundred and ninety-five thousand and twenty-two miles, of being equal to one half the entire stage transportation in the Union at that time.

This extension of the mail has been accompanied by great increase of expedition on almost all the important routes. On many of them it is now conveyed at the rate of one hundred miles a day.

As Congress, at their last session, declined making any appropriation of the surplus funds of the Department, with the expectation, as was believed, that they should be applied in diffusing mail facilities throughout the Union, and

increasing them where required by the public interest, an augmentation to the conveyance of the mail, of five hundred and thirty-seven thousand two hundred and sixty-four miles in stages, and two hundred and sixty-one thousand seven hundred and four miles on horseback, making a total of seven hundred and ninety-eight thousand nine hundred and sixty miles, has been made the past year. This, with the additional compensation to Postmasters, arising from increased receipts, the accumulation of free letters, for which two cents each are paid, and incidental expenses, has added to the expenditures of the Department, within the year, the sum of \$250,094 46. The augmented revenue of the Department, since 1st July, 1823, has been sufficient to meet the annual expense incurred by the increase of mail facilities, and leaves the sum of \$187,302 52 unexpended.

It is believed to be good policy to keep the funds of the Department actively employed in extending its operations, until the reasonable wants of every community shall be supplied. By withdrawing mail accommodations from all unproductive routes, and substituting a horse for a stage transportation on many others, a very large surplus of funds would annually accumulate; but the public convenience would be greatly lessened, and the means of information withheld from districts of country but sparsely inhabited. There is no branch of the government in whose operations the people feel a more lively interest than in those of this Department: its facilities being felt in the various transactions of business, in the pleasures of correspondence, and the general diffusion of information. In the course of every year, no inconsiderable amount of the active capital of the country, in some form or other, passes through the mail. To connect important places by frequent lines of intercourse, combine speed with all the security possible, and extend the mail wherever it may be wanted, constitute the objects which have influenced the policy of the Department.

It may be advantageous to the public and the Department, at some future time, for it to become the insurer of moneys transmitted in the mail, being authorized to charge a higher rate of postage in such cases, to indemnify for the risk incurred. To guard against frauds, this responsibility must necessarily be limited to packets mailed at the principal offices, under such regulations as shall afford the greatest possible security.

Some pains have been taken to ascertain the exact number of persons employed by the Department, including postmasters, assistant postmasters, clerks, contractors, and persons engaged in transporting the mail; and although only partial returns have been received, it is believed the total number is about twenty-six thousand nine hundred and fifty-six. There are about seventeen thousand five hundred and eighty-four horses employed, and two thousand eight hundred and seventy-nine carriages, including two hundred and forty-three sulkeys and wagons.

The receipts of the year ending 1st July, 1828, as above stated, amounted to the sum of - - - - - \$1,598,134 43
Those of the preceding year were - - - - - 1,473,551 00

Making an increase of this sum above the receipts of 1827, 124,583 43
The expenditures of the year ending 1st July last, amounted to the sum of - - - - - 1,623,333 40
Leaving an excess of expenditure beyond the receipts, of 25,199 03

In this excess there is not included the sum of \$12,729 24, which was paid by the Department under a special act of Congress.

By the last annual report there was a surplus sum of money in deposite and due from Postmasters, including judgments obtained on old accounts, amounting to

	-	-	\$ 370,033 37
From this sum deduct the above excess of expenditure	-	-	825,199 03
And the amount paid into the Treasury under the above law	-	-	12,729 24
			<u>37,928 27</u>

Leaving this amount of surplus, \$332,105 10

REPORT

FROM

THE COMMISSIONER OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.**GENERAL LAND OFFICE,**
November 23d, 1828.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report, in relation to this office.

The paper marked A. exhibits the periods to which the quarterly accounts of the respective Receivers have been returned to, and adjusted at, this office, and the balance on hand, agreeably to the last monthly account of the Receivers of Public Moneys, respectively—which exhibits a very favorable view of the regularity with which those officers have rendered their accounts, and of their punctuality, very generally, in depositing the public moneys received by them.

The paper marked B. exhibits the quantity of land sold, and the amount of purchase money for the same, for the year 1827, and the first six months of 1828, and the amounts paid into the Treasury on account of the public lands for those periods respectively.

The paper marked C. exhibits the balances due by individuals for lands purchased at the respective Land Offices, the total amount of which is \$4,174,039. Under the provisions of "An act to revive and continue in force the several acts making provisions for the extinguishment of the debt due the United States by the purchasers of the public lands," approved the 21st of March last, the whole of this amount will have been liquidated by the 4th day of July next, by payments in cash and by relinquishments of the lands originally purchased; or the sums heretofore paid will be forfeited, and the lands will revert to the United States, and thus the whole of the operations under the credit system will be closed at the period above stated.

The act approved the 23d of May last, authorizing the issuing of certificates for the sums heretofore paid for lands which have reverted, or are liable to revert, to the United States, and on which further credit was not taken, will create a demand on the government to an amount that will be upwards of five hundred thousand dollars. The paper marked C. shows that, at the date of the last returns, the certificates issued under the provisions of this law, amounted only to \$53,313 50. It is however probable that certificates for nearly the whole of this claim will be demanded and issued, previous to the 4th of July next, and that a large portion of them will be repaid to the government in the liquidation of the claims for the lands which have been further credited.

Instructions have been issued to carry into effect all those laws passed at the last session of Congress, the execution of which is placed under the immediate superintendence of this office, and they are in due course of execution.

The survey of the public lands in all the surveying districts is duly progressing, and without material embarrassments, except in those districts where there are private claims yet to be located. The locality of such claims is in many instances so vaguely described, that it is impracticable for the deputy surveyors to find them, and lay them down correctly, so that the adjacent public lands may be surveyed; and the claimants in many instances neglect or refuse to furnish that correct information by which the surveyors might be guided. Instructions have, however, been given to the surveyors, that in cases where the descriptions of private claims are so vague that their deputies cannot with due diligence ascertain the locality, or where the claimant, after having been notified by public advertisement of the fact, does not furnish the necessary and satisfactory evidence of the proper location, they cause the public surveys to be closed, without reference to such private claims. I again take the liberty of suggesting the propriety of causing all those lands claimed under confirmations, founded on papers believed to be fraudulent, and the originals of which have been withdrawn from the office in which they were filed, and now withheld from the surveyors, to be surveyed as public lands, and brought into market.

The office of General Coffee having been destroyed by fire, and all the records consumed, it is proposed to furnish copies of all the returns which have been made by him to this office, and which are, fortunately, more complete than the returns which have been generally required of the surveyors. For this purpose an appropriation is necessary, and has been submitted. The State of Ohio having passed an act authorizing the county authorities to obtain certified copies of the surveys of lands within the limits of each county, at the expense of the same, I beg leave to suggest the expediency of authorizing, by law, the surveyors of the United States, to furnish, on application of the State authorities, certified copies of the public surveys and field notes, the State paying the expenses incident to the same. A measure of this kind would not only afford a great accommodation to the citizens of the respective States, but would multiply the authentic copies of the records of the public surveys, and thereby guard against accidents.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

GEO. GRAHAM.

The Hon. RICHARD RUSH,
Secretary of the Treasury.

A.

EXHIBIT of the periods to which the monthly returns of the Registers and Receivers of the several Land Offices have been rendered, and the periods to which the Quarterly accounts of the Receivers have been rendered to, and adjusted at, the General Land Office; and showing the balances in the hands of Receivers, at the date of the latest monthly returns.

Land Offices.	Register's monthly returns, periods to which rendered.	Receiver's monthly returns, periods to which rendered.	Receiver's quarterly returns, periods to which rendered.	Receiver's quarterly returns, periods to which adjusted.	Balance of cash in the hands of Receivers, as shown by the last monthly accounts.	
Marietta	October 31, 1828,	October 31, 1828,	Sept. 30, 1828,	Sept. 30, 1828,	\$1,607 61	
Zanesville	Sept. 30, 1828,	Sept. 30, 1828,	do	do	852 45	
Steubenville	October 31, 1828,	do	do	do		
Chillicothe	do	October 31, 1828,	do	do	1,456 19	
Cincinnati	Sept. 30, 1828,	do	do	do	98 40	
Wooster	October 31, 1828,	do	do	do	1,605 39	
Piqua	do	do	do	do	394 21	
Tiffin	do	Sept. 30, 1828,	do	do	2,973 89	
Jeffersonville	do	do	do	do	5,708 89	
Vincennes	do	do	do	do	29,568 90	
Indianapolis	Sept. 30, 1828,	October 31, 1828,	do	do	12,956 96	Received in Oct
Crawfordsville	do	Sept. 30, 1828,	do	do	10,669 75	
Fort Wayne	do	do	do	do	1,397 60	
Shawneetown	do	October 31, 1828,	do	do	442 53	
Kaskaskia	do	Sept. 30, 1828,	do	do	172 51	
Edwardsville	do	do	do	do	3,128 22	
Vandalia	do	October 31, 1828,	do	do	2,261 67	
Palestine	do	Sept. 30, 1828,	do	do	5,703 76	
Springfield	do	do	do	do	8,113 04	
St. Louis	October 31, 1828,	October 31, 1828,	do	do	9,805 86	
Franklin (a)	Sept. 30, 1828,	do	do	do	(a) 18,638 03	
Jackson	do	Sept. 30, 1828,	do	do	4,926 89	
Palmyra	do	do	do	do	3,849 38	
Lexington	do	do	do	do	5,663 41	

St. Stephens	do	do	do	do	do	24,484 85	\$25,210 deposited in October.
Cabala	do	do	do	do	do	357 67	
Huntsville	do	October 31, 1828,	do	do	do	1,057 16	
Tuscaloosa	do	Sept. 30, 1828,	do	do	do		
Sparta (b)	do	} No return from present Receiver,	} Sept. 30, 1827.	Sept. 30, 1827.	(b)	1,869 15	
Washington	do			Sept. 30, 1828,	do	do	838 17
Mount Salus	do	do	do	do	do	19,629 34	
Augusta	August 31, 1828,	August 31, 1828,	June 30, 1828,	June 30, 1828,	do	5 06	
New Orleans	Sept. 30, 1828,	Sept. 30, 1828,	Sept. 30, 1828,	Sept. 30, 1828,	do	4,951 35	
Opelousas	do	do	do	do	do	961 05	
Ouchita	Sept. 30, 1828,	do	do	do	do	880 24	
Detroit	do	October 31, 1828,	do	do	do	2,121 52	
Monroe	October 31, 1828,	do	do	do	do	4,895 08	
Little Rock	Sept. 30, 1828,	August 31, 1828,	June 30, 1828,	June 30, 1828,	do	2,117 63	
Ratesville	do	Sept. 31, 1828,	Sept. 30, 1828,	Sept. 30, 1828,	do	1,502 77	
Palladium	do	do	June 30, 1828,	June 30, 1828,	do	5,295 96	
						\$ 205,294 34	

- a.) Receiver states that \$ 14,000 were sent to Louisville for deposits in October.
 b.) This balance ascertained from the vouchers received.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

GENERAL LAND OFFICE, November 22d, 1828.

GEO: GRAHAM, Commissioner of the General Land Office

B.

STATEMENT of Public Lands sold, and of Moneys received in payment for, during the year 1827, and the first and second quarters of the year 1828; showing, also, the incidental expense of the Land Offices during the same periods, and payments by Receivers into the Treasury.

Periods.	Lands sold.	Purchase money.	Amount received under the credit system.	Aggregate receipts.	Incidental expenses, salaries and commissions.	Payments into the Treasury.
	Dolls.	Dolls. Cts.	Dolls. Cts.	Dolls. Cts.	Dolls. Cts.	Dolls. Cts.
During the year 1827, - - -	926,727.76	1,318,006 36	313,132 87	1,631,138 79	121,281 45	1,497,053 82
From 1st January to 30th June, 1828,	311,599.75	427,110 16	2,824 54	429,934 70	47,652 14	413,752 60
Totals,	1,268,327.51	1,715,116 52	315,956 91	2,061,073 43	168,933 59	1,940,806 42

NOTE.—The column of "Incidental Expenses," in the foregoing Statement, is greatly increased in consequence of the operation of the act of 22d May, 1826, providing for the allowance to Registers and Receivers of the amount of Clerk hire, incurred in the execution of the laws for the relief of the purchasers of Public Lands, passed in the years 1821, 1822, and 1823, and allowing the one-half of one per cent. on the payments made by relinquishment, and discounts allowed under those laws; and, also, in consequence of allowances made to Receivers for depositing public moneys since the 30th April, 1818, in pursuance of the provisions of the act to that effect, passed on the 22d May, 1826.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, GENERAL LAND OFFICE, 29d November, 1828.

GEO: GRAHAM,
Commissioner of General Land Office

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C.

STATEMENT showing the amount of balances due by purchasers of the Public Lands, under the credit system, on the 30th September, 1828; showing, also, the amount of forfeited land stock, issued under the act of 23d May, 1828.

Lands Offices.	State or Territory.	Amount of balances due from Individuals issued on lands on account of Public Lands purchased prior to the 1st July, 1829.		Amount of Stock forfeited to United States under the act of 23d May, 1828.	
		Dolls.	Cts.	Dolls.	Cts.
Marietta, - - -	Ohio,	11,512	92	1,557	35
Zanesville, - - -	do	51,060	63	2,103	97
Steubenville, - - -	do	36,499	61	6,760	77
Chillicothe, - - -	do	38,795	42	7,274	56
Cincinnati, - - -	do	162,252	28	12,665	75
Wooster, - - -	do	68,147	38	792	78
Jeffersonville, - - -	Indiana,	200,232	03	1,531	37
Vincennes, - - -	do	214,146	03	4,267	67
Shawneetown, - - -	Illinois,	108,853	63	730	04
Kaskaskia, - - -	do	58,570	77	268	66
Edwardsville, - - -	do	22,237	42	715	83
St. Louis, - - -	Missouri,	57,587	39	575	63
Franklin, - - -	do	48,585	02		
Opelousas, - - -	Louisiana,	38,028	66		
St. Stephens, - - -	Alabama,	263,054	83	1,729	50
Cahaba, - - -	do	642,273	02	3,199	15
Huntsville, - - -	do	1,748,158	14	8,895	06
Washington, - - -	Mississippi,	375,291	82		
Detroit, - - -	Mich. Territory,	25,721	71	214	91
	Aggregates,	4,174,039	01	53,313	30

NOTE.—The amount of forfeited land stock is stated to the date of the latest returns received.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

GENERAL LAND OFFICE, November 22d, 1828.

GEO: GRAHAM,

Commissioner of the General Land Office.

REPORT.

FROM

THE COMMISSIONER OF THE PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

*To the President of the United States.*WASHINGTON, *November 29th*, 1828.

SIR: I have the honor to report that the expenditures for the current year, on the public buildings in this City, have been, as far as is now ascertained, as follows:

Capitol and grounds,	-	-	-	\$ 59,020 09
Penitentiary,	-	-	-	20,094 55
Engine House,	-	-	-	2,191 43

These buildings are now completed to the extent authorized by existing appropriations, with the exception of a small portion of paving in the corridors of the Capitol, the material for which could not be procured in due season, and the ornamenting the ground around that building, necessarily a progressive work.

The Penitentiary is ready for occupancy, and consists of one hundred and fifty cells, ten being of large dimensions, designed as wards for convalescents; a house for the warden; an hospital; kitchens; and a yard enclosed by a wall twenty feet high, including an area of about four acres.

I have the honor to remain, with the highest respect, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

J. ELGAR.