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Madison, Wisconsin: Beriah Brown, Printer, 1855

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONERS

OF

SCHOOL & UNIVERSITY LANDS

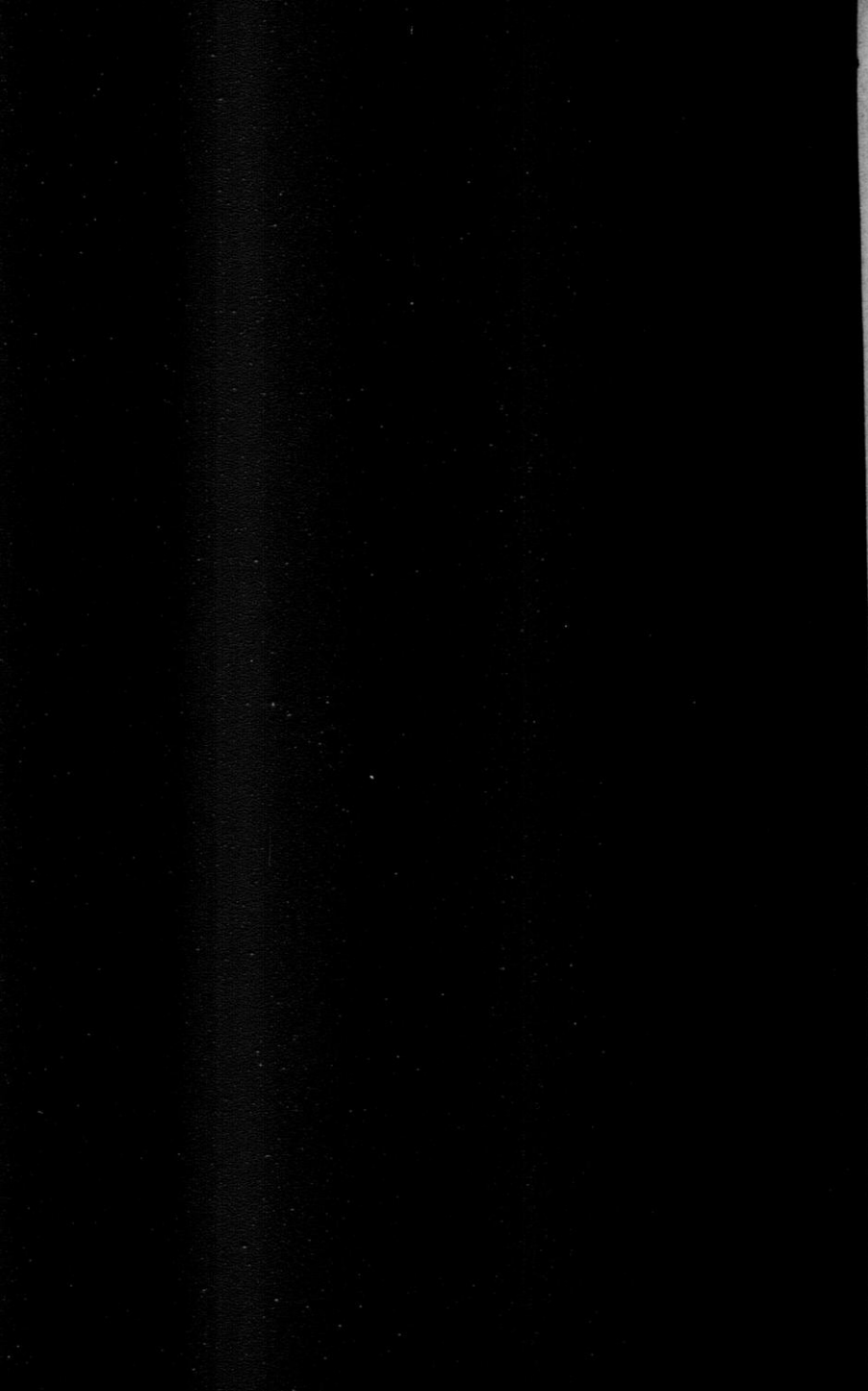
OF THE

STATE OF WISCONSIN,

FOR THE YEAR 1854.

MADISON:
BERIAH BROWN, PRINTER.

1855.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONERS

OF

School and University Lands,

OF THE

STATE OF WISCONSIN,

FOR THE YEAR 1854.

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONERS

School and University Lands

OF THE

STATE OF WISCONSIN

FOR THE YEAR 1884

MADISON:

BENJAMIN BROWN, PRINTER.

1885

OFFICE OF COMMISSIONERS SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY LANDS,

MADISON, JANUARY 1, 1855.

HIS EXCELLENCY, WILLIAM A. BARSTOW,

Governor :

Sir : Herewith we have the honor to transmit, for communication to the Legislature, the Annual Report of the Board of Commissioners of School and University Lands.

Very Respectfully,

Your ob't servants,

ALEXANDER T. GRAY,
Secretary of State,

EDWARD H. JANSSEN,
State Treasurer.

GEO. B. SMITH,
Att'y General.

Office of Commissioners School and University Lands

Madison, January 1, 1855

His Excellency William A. Barstow

Governor

Sir: Herewith we have the honor to transmit, for communication to the Legislature, the Annual Report of the Board of Commissioners of School and University Lands.

Very Respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

ALEXANDER T. GRAY,

Secretary of State

EDWARD H. JANSEN,

State Treasurer

GEO. B. SMITH,

Atty General

REPORT.

OFFICE OF COMMISSIONERS SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY LANDS.

MADISON, Jan. 1, 1855.

To the Legislature:

The Board of Commissioners "for the sale of School and University Lands, and for the investment of the funds arising therefrom," respectfully submit the following

REPORT.

The following tabular statement exhibits the number of acres of School and University Lands, sold in the several counties in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four, the amount sold for, the amount of principal paid, amount of interest paid, and the amount of principal unpaid; and also exhibits the number of acres unsold, of such lands as have been offered at public sale and are now subject to private entry:

Sales of School Lands in 1854.—16th Section.

COUNTIES.	No. of Acres sold.	No of Acres unsold.	Amount sold for.	Principal Paid.	Interest Paid.	Balance Due.
Kenosha.....	383	-----	2,494 00	252 00	57 68	2,242 00
Racine.....	40	-----	282 50	28 50	13 68	254 00
Walworth.....	388	60	2,371 95	235 95	115 36	2,133 00
Milwaukee.....	50	-----	4,541 10	454 10	265 56	4,057 00
Rock.....	1320	30	7,172 06	1,115 06	260 21	6,047 00
Washington.....	1240	760	4,892 80	565 80	200 93	4,327 00
Dodge.....	279	40	569 68	58 68	26 44	511 00
Jefferson.....	161	-----	232 02	23 02	12 25	219 00
Sheboygan.....	720	600	1,952 03	197 03	91 47	1,755 00
Fond du Lac.....	1000	160	1,905 00	188 00	83 04	1,716 00
Columbia.....	260	118.64	8,677 93	895 93	275 12	7,782 00
Dane.....	3080	-----	8,150 08	880 08	333 61	7,270 00
Green.....	879	-----	1,464 38	161 38	60 26	1,303 00
La Fayette.....	1230	-----	3,488 44	364 44	166 62	3,124 00
Iowa.....	8193	1520	22,792 64	2,587 64	894 67	20,205 00
Grant.....	8750	840	11,731 40	1,291 40	463 57	10,440 00
Brown.....	3760	2560	6,186 56	2,142 92	99 74	4,043 64
Calumet.....	1740	840	4,574 90	476 90	174 08	4,098 00
Manitowoc.....	4755	240	6,450 36	649 36	3 6 12	5,801 00
Sauk.....	7400	2520	10,689 68	1,328 68	358 93	9,361 00
Marquette.....	5915	1520	9,736 32	1,027 32	410 15	8,729 00
Washara.....	5360	2240	7,332 44	776 44	280 06	6,556 00
Winnebago.....	1950	174	2,173 54	231 54	90 86	1,942 00
Outagamie.....	1880	4404	2,293 04	227 04	59 38	2,066 00
Waupaca.....	5280	5800	5,636 18	585 18	260 46	5,0 0 00
Portage.....	3880	19560	5,704 78	972 78	121 52	4,732 00
Richland.....	8720	280	18,561 35	2,220 35	792 63	16,341 00
Crawford.....	1240	4920	1,847 72	209 72	65 16	1,638 00
La Crosse.....	5121	3640	6,633 53	668 53	222 39	5 965 00
St. Croix.....	8440	640	10,900 20	1,179 20	632 54	9,721 00
Pierce.....	8060	480	10,014 28	1,090 28	567 58	8,924 00
Polk.....	6600	5800	8,492 55	922 55	361 85	7,570 00
Bad Ax.....	12400	7640	14,364 50	1,653 50	542 27	12,711 00
Adams.....	10320	14000	14,115 85	1,866 85	71 10	12,249 00
Door.....	2720	4360	3,764 44	420 44	162 16	3,344 00
Kewaunee.....	2160	3689	4,465 85	479 85	171 07	3,986 00
Total.....	77041	69304.64	106,794 27	12,497 27	4041 12	94,298 64

83435² 64

The following tabular statement shows the number of acres of School and University Lands, sold in several counties in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four, the amount sold for the amount of principal paid, amount of interest paid, and the amount of principal unpaid; and also exhibits the number of acres unsold, of such lands as have been offered at public sale and are now subject to private entry.

Sales of School Lands, 500,000 Acre Tract, 1854.

COUNTIES.	No. of Acres sold.	No. of Acres unsold.	Amount sold for.	Principal Paid.	Interest Paid.	Balance Due.
Outagamie.....	29,775	360	37,531 95	....	171 12	37,431 95
Oconto.....	5 130	---	6,338 40	....	33 48	6,438 00
Shawanaw.....	60,947	---	76,820 90	....	304 60	76,810 90
Sauk.....	3,621	---	4,663 77	....	257 59	4,663 77
Richland.....	3,600	---	5,949 66	....	252 24	5,849 66
Iowa.....	3,152	---	7,971 82	....	448 81	7,971 82
La Crosse.....	2,992	---	3,625 78	....	177 52	3,625 78
St. Croix.....	30,168	---	37,926 00	....	2565 46	37,926 00
Bad Ax.....	18,410.52	120	23,218 74	....	1054 85	23,248 74
Crawford.....	2,986	---	3,954 48	....	177 03	3,954 48
Columbia.....	80	---	101 60	....	6 27	101 60
Fond du Lac.....	120	---	438 75	....	20 47	438 75
Calumet.....	19,600	3,080	27,935 13	....	1314 60	27,935 13
Manitowoc.....	8,320	---	11,343 40	252 80	671 85	11,090 60
Brown.....	8,040	1,000	10,748 04	....	618 17	10,745 04
Dane.....	360	---	920 53	....	54 09	920 53
Jefferson.....	1,497.59	1,856.36	2,014 06	210 05	94 24	1,804 00
Waukesha.....	480	112	520 40	68 40	24 25	551 40
Grant.....	4,444.86	---	5,034 46	....	414 97	6,034 46
Total.....	85,705.97	6,530.36	268,088 27	531 26	8791 72	267,557 01

Sales of University Lands, 1854.

COUNTIES.	No. of Acres sold.	No. of Acres unsold.	Amount sold for.	Principal Paid.	Interest Paid.	Balance Due.
Walworth.....	400	....	1,380 36	139 36	61 73	1,241 00
Rock.....	40	....	310 28	33 28	10 56	278 00
Columbia.....	758	119	3,667 14	445 14	143 57	3,222 00
Dane.....	620	....	2,582 00	262 00	110 52	2,320 00
Green.....	1223	....	3,905 22	411 22	120 30	3,493 00
La Fayette.....	4502	....	13,763 19	1,450 19	431 27	12,313 00
Iowa.....	2134	....	6,203 74	644 74	279 21	5,559 00
Jefferson.....	119.88	54	554 69	55 69	28 55	499 09
Dodge.....	816	....	3,003 14	305 14	120 17	2,698 00
Fond du Lac.....	720	360	3,275 46	329 46	109 91	2,946 00
Winnebago.....	277	1481	1,816 72	282 72	61 95	1,634 00
Calumet.....	520	1240	3,270 62	524 62	87 30	2,746 00
Manitowoc.....	800	640	2,291 90	597 90	63 40	1,694 00
Richland.....	1280	47	5,966 73	607 73	251 03	5,359 00
Grant.....	1280	---	4,508 00	1,301 00	57 84	3,207 00
Total.....	15,489.88	3941	56,499 19	7,290 19	1,987 31	49,209 00

From the foregoing statement it will be seen that since the first day of January last 237,119 87-00 acres of land have been sold, and that of the lands which have been offered at public sale, and are now subject to private entry, there remain unsold of 16th sections, 83,526 64-100 acres; of the five hundred thousand acre grant, 6,530 36-100 acres; and of university lands, 3,941 acres.

Under the five hundred thousand acre grant, there remain about twenty-three thousand acres to be selected, and there are about 10,580 acres of selections in W upacca county, which have not yet been offered at public sale. These are farming lands of first rate quality well watered and timbered, and will, it is believed, produce considerably more than the appraised value.

The selections made under this grant by agents appointed sometimes by the legislature, and sometimes by the governor under the direction of the legislature, should all have been from the choicest lands in the state and in the best localities; but in some instances this duty has been shamefully neglected, and the lands selected have been of the most indifferent character, as appears by the reports of appraisers. Such is the character of most, if not all, of the lands so selected, and remaining unsold, exclusive of those mentioned as lying in the county of Waupacca.

In the latter part of the month of September, two university sections, in Grant county, which had been omitted from former public sales, were offered at Platteville, and all taken, some of the subdivisions bringing an advance upon the appraisal.

On the first day of December, selections forming part of the grant of five hundred thousand acres, were offered in Shawanaw county; on the 4th day of December, in Oconto county; and on the 7th day of December, in Outagamie county. On the ninth of the same month, six 16th sections in Brown county, which had not before been offered at public sale, were so offered at Green Bay, and two of them were taken at the sale.

The amount received on sales of school land effected since the

commencement of such sales, in each year, appears from former reports to be as follows:

In 1849	\$74,476 72
" 1850	444,264 15
" 1851	229,790 80
" 1852	61,026 20
" 1853	363,259 86
" 1854	504,753 35
Total,	\$1,677,571 08

In the two last years the books in this office show a large amount of sales, and in each year large tracts sold to individual purchasers, the fund being thus greatly increased. The lands once offered at public auction are by law subject to private entry, and the amount to be sold at private sale to any one person is not limited. The Governor and the commissioners have the power to withdraw such portion of them from sale as in their discretion "it may not be advantageous to sell or dispose of, and for as long a time as in their opinion will be most beneficial to the university and school fund." The extent of this discretion, thus defined by the law, gives no option on the part of the Governor and commissioners to refuse the sale of lands on account of the quantity applied for by any one person being more than he can occupy for his own use, since the more rapidly sales can be effected, so much sooner will these funds realize the benefit of the endowment of lands bestowed upon the State by the general government. And if in the end only the appraised value is to be obtained, the sooner the lands are sold the better.

It is for the legislature, however, to consider whether there are reasons relating to the promotion of other interests than those of the school fund, and the system of common schools relying upon it for support, sufficient to induce the adoption of a policy limiting and restricting the sales of these lands.

LOANS.

The following statement shows the amounts loaned to individu-

als, and the whole amount loaned in each county, of school and university funds, and also the amount of interest paid in advance upon such loans.

BROWN COUNTY.

	<i>School.</i>	Loan.	Interest.
Dec 31, 1853	M J Mead	500 00	35 10
Jan 26, 1854	John W Colton	440 00	28 57
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		940 00	63 67

CALUMET COUNTY.

	<i>University.</i>		
Jan 9, 1854	James Robinson	125 00	8 52
March 16, 1854	William Fowler	400 00	22 07
do 26, do	Orsamus D Fowler,	300 90	16 56
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		825 00	47 15

COLUMBIA COUNTY.

	<i>School.</i>		
Jan 7, 1854	John A Grand	150	
do 17, do	E K Vaughan	300	20 06
do 20, do	Alfred A West and Thomas West	400	26 50
do 20, do	Horatio T Thomas	200	13 25
do 20, do	John Brickwell	200	13 25
do 20, do	Gorge M W Carey	200	13 25
do 27, do	James Devine	200	12 95
do 28, do	Catherine Hermong	200	12 36
Feb 7, do	William M Drake	500	31 38
do 8, do	Edmund F Lewis	200	12 51
do 8, do	John Irving Jr	150	9 33
do 10, do	Solomon Clark	100	6 21
do 10, do	John Sines	200	11 27
do 10, do	Joel Clark	100	6 21
do 10, do	A C Ketchum	500	30 90
do 11, do	C G McCulloch	500	30 99
do 13, do	William McDonald	250	15 30
do 14, do	L W Barden	300	18 32
do 14, do	M R Keegan	500	30 70
do 14, do	H McFarlane	500	30 70
do 14, do	William Armstrong	500	30 70
do 16, do	Casper F Martin	100	6 12
do 16, do	H B Anderson	500	30 61

			Loan.	Interest.
do 17,	do	Frederick C Curtiss	400	24 33
do 17,	do	N H Wood	500	30 22
do 17,	do	Robert Thompson	150	9 18
do 20,	do	M T Draper	200	10 21
do 21,	do	Merwin Moses	300	18 08
do 21,	do	Edwin N Storms	200	12 05
do 21,	do	James Holloway	200	12 00
do 24,	do	Martin N Peck	200	11 82
do 28,	do	Joseph Hartman	150	8 75
Apr 1,	do	A Thompson	250	13 13
Dec 8,	do	Hugh M Thompson	150	63
			<hr/>	<hr/>
			9450	564 37

University.

Feb 3, 1854	Thomas Christopher	400	25 09
do 3, do	C H Moore	400	25 09
Mar 15, do	H M Beecroft	200	11 08
		<hr/>	
		1000	63 26

DANE COUNTY.

School.

Dec 30, 1854	John M Dudley	500	35 19
Jan 26, do	John Kershaw	200	12 98
do 7, do	Clara Weed	250	17 16
do 9, do	P & W Butler	500	34 09
do 10, do	Francis Gault	450	20 61
do 11, do	John Collins	200	13 60
do 20, do	Abraham Bradley	200	12 25
do do do	Sylvester B Williams	120	7 95
do do do	Augustus W Dickenson	275	18 18
do 24, do	Frank H Firman	250	16 34
do 25, do	Alexander L Collins	500	32 69
Feb 14, do	W D Bird	200	12 21
do 16, do	Daniel Davidson	240	14 64
do 8, do	Demming Fitch	350	21 76
do 10, do	Benjamin F Denson	420	26 25
do 23, do	Warren K Hawes	450	26 85
do 28, do	George M Oakley	500	30 16
do 13, do	John Parkinson	150	9 12
do 9, do	Andrew Smith	500	31 18
do 6, do	William A Pierce	500	31 28
do 4, do	Daniel McDonald	200	12 79
do 2, do	Algernon S Wood	200	12 79
do 1, do	M L Boyce	225	14 44

		Loan,	Interest.
Mch 4, 1854	William Freeman	200	11 42
do 4, do	Charles S Peasley	300	7 25
do 7, do	Joseph Gray	500	28 46
do 13, do	Jonn Robinson	100	5 64
do 13, do	A C Preus	300	16 81
do 16, do	Alvis Fix	100	5 52
May 15, do	H W Nickerson	200	8 75
Jan 22, do	Adalbert Inaman	400	14 61
Nov 16, do	R F Wilson	200	1 71
Sept 20, do	E Richardson	300	5 83
Total		\$9,705 00	\$573 30

University.

Feb 1, do	Thomas Heeran	350	22 46
do 2, do	Leonard W French	200	12 74
do 3, do	John W Hunt	300	19 05
do 8, do	J R Brigham	500	31 28
Mch 15, do	Harom Jordan	200	11 08
do 16, do	Elisha W Keyes	500	27 59

DODGE COUNTY

School.

Feb 23, 1854	Michael Ames	300	19 42
do 23, do	Lawrence Connor	300	17 90
do 23, do	A Bryant	500	29 36
do 27, do	H E Connit	500	29 36
do 7, do	A B Jones	200	12 55
March 2, 1854	Patrick O'Hara	100	5 75
do 7, do	William Cabkirk	500	28 46
do 8, do	William C Rice	500	28 36
do 8, do	L H Chase	500	38 36
do 21, do	Catharine Hart	200	10 85
do 21, do	Michael Keelly	200	10 85
		3,700	215 77

University.

March 23, 1854	R Cowles	500	32 37
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FOND DU LAC COUNTY.

School.

Jan'y 24, 1854	Rudolph Ebert	500	32 66
Feb 4, do	John Lyons	100	16 33

		Loan.	Interest.
March 4, 1854	Fletcher Fairbank	150	8 63
do 7, do	J H Haight	500	28 46
do 8, do	Cornelius Maugan	280	15 88
do 11, do	E Munger	425	23 96
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		1,955	115 92

University.

March 16, do	W H Walker	300	16 56
	GREEN COUNTY,		
	<i>School.</i>		
Jan'y 12, 1854	Ezra Westcott	500	33 93
Feb 15, do	Thomas Fenton	300	20 06
Feb 24, do	M Briggs	200	11 90
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		1000	65 89

University.

March 6, 1854	James M Seales	400	22 84
	GRANT COUNTY		
	<i>School.</i>		
do 6, do	Henry Correll	500	28 55
do 13, do	Henry Clark	500	28 07
April 1, do	George H Cox	500	26 25
do 1, do	William F Dewey	500	26 25
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		2000	109 12

IOWA COUNTY.

	<i>School.</i>		
Feb 17, do	Ephraim Norton	400	24 33
do 21, do	John B Skinner	500	24 46
do 25, do	John B Skinner, Jr	500	30 13
March 7, do	R D Talford,	500	28 46
do 7, do	M M Cothren	250	14 28
Jan'y 24, do	Charles Wilson	132	4 77
Jan'y 26, do	N B Boyden	500	14 96
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		2,782	146 39

	University.	Loan.	Interest.
March 15, 1854	Joseph Miller	500	17 69
do 16, do	Charles S Millard	300	14 96
		800	44 25

JEFFERSON COUNTY.

School.

Jan'y 21, 1854	Stephen Faville	500	32 94
Feb 15, do	Walter H Besley	300	18 48
do 15, do	D Howell	500	30 13
do 28, do	John E Holmes	300	17 50
March 1, do	Justice Carpenter	440	25 67
do 4, do	James Fraser	250	14 38
do 11, do	A H Waldo	500	28 72
April 15, do	John J Perkins	354 73	17 58
Nov 25, do	E H Benson	500	3 50
		3,644 73	188 35

LA FAYETTE COUNTY.

School.

Jan 20, 1854	E W Hart	150	9 91
do 27, do	Thomas Baty	200	12 95
Feb 1, do	Preserved Ireland	400	25 67
Mar 7, do	J H Earnest	500	28 46
do 8, do	James B Gray	500	28 36
do 20, do	Michael Feirney	300	16 32
do 27, do	J R Rose	300	15 92
Apr 1, do	Peter Parkinson Jr	200	10 50
Mar 3, do	Samuel G Bugh	500	28 07
		3050	176 15

LA CROSSE COUNTY.

School.

Jan 1, 1854	William M Young	350	24 50
do 1, do	David McConnell	150	10 50
do 28, do	William McConnell	200	12 95
Feb 9, do	Robert Looney	500	31 09
do 22, do	Cyrus K Lord	500	29 94
Mar 7, do	D M West	500	28 46
do 8, do	A J Ellis	500	28 36
do 13, do	David Wright	500	27 88
		3,200	193 68

MILWAUKEE COUNTY.

	<i>School.</i>	<i>Loan.</i>	<i>Interest.</i>
Feb 17, 1854	Haven Powers	500	30 22
Mar 21, do	John Carmody	500	35 00
do 21, do	Edward O'Neil	400	21 70
		<hr/> 1,400	<hr/> 86 92

MANITOWOC COUNTY.

	<i>School.</i>		
Mar 2, 1854	D B Knapp	300	17 44
do 9, do	Fredrick Solomon	150	14 00
Oct 12, do	Henry Bom	181	2 73
		<hr/> 631	<hr/> 34 17

MARQUETTE COUNTY.

	<i>School.</i>		
Jan 13, do	William L McKenzie	500	33 81
do 13, do	W H Gleason	500	33 81
do 30, do	A D Wright	450	28 97
Feb 16, do	E B Craig	500	33 42
do 21, do	A W Stow	500	30 03
do 23, do	M W Seely	400	23 87
do 28, do	W P Bowman	300	17 56
do 28, do	George H Chamberlain	250	14 63
Mch 4, do	Sylvester Wade	200	11 50
do 4, do	Royal T Wells	200	11 50
Apl 13, do	A C Beuham	158	7 79

Total 3,958 00 246 89

OUTAGAMIE COUNTY.

	<i>School.</i>		
Dec 31, do	David P Mead	500	35 10

PIERCE COUNTY.

	<i>School.</i>		
Jne 17, do	James M Bailey	500	18 75

RICHLAND COUNTY.

	<i>University.</i>		
Mch 13, do	Albert C Daily	250	13 71
do 18, do	David B Young	500	27 42

Total 750 41 13

RACINE COUNTY.

School.

		Loan.	Interest.
Feb 16, 1854	W Spaford	500	30 50
do 24, do	Thomas Moyle	250	14 78
		<hr/> 750	<hr/> 45 28

ROCK COUNTY.

School.

Jan'y 20, 1854	A G Felt	200	13 25
Feb 6, do	John L Thomas	500	31 28
do 14, do	John Ferrine	500	30 70
do 24, do	Isaac F Smith	500	29 75
do 25, do	Chancey I King	500	29 46
March 2, do	Cyrus Curtice	200	11 63
do 10, do	Thomas R Wooliscroft	500	28 17
Nov 16, do	F Whittaker	200	1 71
Dec 20, do	H O Wilson	500	96
July 6, do	S C Willett	500	16 88
do 6, do	W Wigginton & Co	500	16 88
do 22, do	Isaac Woodell	500	15 85
		<hr/> 5,100	<hr/> 228 02

University.

Feb 2, do	Levi Alden	500	31 85
March 6, do	George B Ely	500	28 55
do 24, do	G W Bunce	500	27 21
		<hr/> 1,500	<hr/> 87 61

SAUK COUNTY

School.

Feb 18, do	E H McLaughlin	100	6 06
March 5, do	E G Wheeler	150	8 66
Oct 9, do	Charles E Jenkins	500	7 84
		<hr/> 750	<hr/> 22 56

ST. CROIX COUNTY.

School.

Feb 27, do	Dexter B Bailey	200	11 79
do 27, do	O D Gray	218	12 85
		<hr/> 418	<hr/> 24 64

CSHEBOYGAN COUNTY.

	School.	Loan.	Interest.
Jan'y 16, 1854	H C Hobert	300	20 11
Feb 9, do	Frederick Stacks	500	31 18
March 7, do	James Baldwin	200	11 40
do 13, do	L W Wright	100	5 58
do 13, do	Elijah Dawley	250	13 95
		<hr/> 1,350	<hr/> 82 22

WALWORTH COUNTY.

	School.	Loan.	Interest.
Dec 27, do	Eleazer Wakely	300	21 17
Jan'y 3, do	E Estabrook	500	34 81
Feb 4, do	John M Evans	200	12 79
Feb 14, do	Albon H Perry	500	30 79
Feb 13, do	W P Allen	500	30 80
March 4, do	Thomas Gage	500	28 74
Nov 9, do	Augustine W Dickinson	275	2 65
		<hr/> 2,775	<hr/> 161 75

WAUKESHA COUNTY.

	School.	Loan.	Interest.
Jan 17, 1854	Anson H Taylor	300	20 00
do 20, do	Robert Weir	500	33 04
do 24, do	Henry O Wright	500	32 66
do 24, do	Jacob Hern	400	26 21
Feb 10, do	Benedict A Bovee	500	31 09
do 10, do	Ransom Kesler	350	21 76
do 10, do	Thomas W Pitman	500	31 09
do 13, do	Stephen Platy	150	9 24
do 15, do	J U Hilliard	500	30 61
do 21, do	Robert Rogers	500	30 03
do 21, do	John A Rice	500	30 03
do 22, do	Isaac Kate	500	29 94
do 23, do	Robert H. McCarter	500	29 84
do 25, do	John Williams	400	23 71
do 27, do	O N Cole	350	20 55
Mch 6, do	Homer Hurd	500	28 75
do 6, do	Israel McCanwell	500	23 75
do 15, do	A L Castleman	500	27 89
do 15, do	L B Seymour	500	27 89
do 15, do	W H Thomas	500	26 25
Apr 11, do	James O Riely	200	10 06
May 26, do	F McNaughton	500	5 48
		<hr/> 9,650	<hr/> 554 47

WAUKESHA COUNTY.

University.

Mch 9, 1854
do 21, do

Andrew E Elmore
Nelson P Hawks

Loan.

300
500
800

Interest.

16 96
26 58
43 54

WAUPACCA COUNTY.

School.

Feb 27, do
do 27, do
Mch 13, do

P G Chase
B F Phillips
John M Vaughan

500
500
500

29 36
29 36
28 07

1,500

86 79

WINNEBAGO COUNTY.

School.

Feb 9, do
do 11, do
do 23, do
do 23, do
April 3, do
May 15, do
do 15, do
Sept 21, do

A A Austin
Charles Brady
J Murdock
Richard P Eighme
W L Williams
A F Larrabee
H W Nickison
A Lippen

190
500
500
340
500
150
200
500

11 85
30 80
30 52
20 29
25 92
6 56
7 58
11 24

2,880

144 76

University.

March 31, do

S L Brooks

200

10 50

Total Loans from School Fund

73,663 73

" " "

University

9,125 00

By virtue of an act approved April 1, 1854, entitled "An act to authorize a loan to the University of Wisconsin," the Commissioners have also loaned to that institution the sum of twelve thousand, seven hundred, and thirty-five dollars and thirty-three cents, (\$12,735 33) out of the principal of the University Fund.

With the exception of the loan last mentioned, to the State University, it will be seen that these moneys have been loaned to individuals in sums varying from five hundred dollars, the largest amount allowed to be loaned to any one person, to the least sum,

which is one hundred dollars. For these loans we have taken mortgage security in conformity with law, and the mortgages have all been recorded. These, together with the evidences of title in each case and of its freedom from incumbrance, are on file in the office of the Secretary of State, subject to the inspection and examination of the Legislature.

The law upon this subject requires, that all persons applying for a loan shall produce to the Commissioners, for their inspection, the title papers, showing a clear and valid title in fee simple, without incumbrance, to the property offered in pledge, and not derived through any executor or administrator's sale, or sale on execution. Sec. 65, Chap. 24, Revised Statutes. It is also provided in this section that the Commissioners shall duly inform themselves of the value of real estate offered in pledge as aforesaid, and shall judge of the validity of the title thereof.

Sections 74 and 71 provide that no greater sum than five hundred dollars, nor less than one hundred, shall be loaned to any one person, and that no loan shall be made for a longer period than five years.

Section 76 provides that the sum loaned shall not exceed one half of the appraised value clear of all perishable improvements, and the commissioners may reduce the amount to be loaned, &c.

Section 79 requires the person applying for a loan to produce a and file with the commissioners a complete chain of title to the land offered to be mortgaged, and the certificate of the clerk of the circuit court, and register of deeds of the county in which the land lies, showing that there is no conveyance of, nor incumbrance on, said land, in either of their offices.

By section 80, the applicant, before he receives the money to be loaned, must make oath to the truth of an abstract of title to his land, and that there is no incumbrance, or better claim in law or equity that he knows or believes, upon, or to said land.

These are the guards that the law has thrown around the loaning of the School and University Fund, and it is the duty of the commissioners to see that every provision of law above cited is

complied with, before they part with the money. Notwithstanding all these precautions the law is deficient, and if public officers had not been more mindful of the interests of this fund, than the legislature has been, it might have suffered in consequence of such defect. Several defects of the law were pointed out by the commissioners in their annual reports, in the years 1851 and 1852, but no amendment has yet been made. The commissioners, however, did their duty, and supplied what was wanting by rules requiring applicants to produce a certificate of the clerk of the board of supervisors of the county, that the land offered as security is clear from taxes or out standing tax titles, and, in some cases, the certificate of the clerk of the district court of the United States, that there are no judgments of that court affecting the title. These, together with other rules calculated to ensure greater certainty of the sufficiency of securities offered, we have adopted; and, except the certificate of the clerk of the United States district court, which we only require when we deem it proper to do so, evidences of security in accordance therewith will be found with the papers relating to every loan made by us. With such precautions strictly observed, and with due investigation of title, we have great confidence that the fund will not be likely to incur even inconsiderable losses. The loans being small in amount are generally applied for by persons who need a little money, at a reasonable rate of interest, to improve their farms, or to retain possession of them, and with the rise in the value of real estate, the security being every year enhanced, the failures to make payment of interest or of principal, now but few, will be proportionally lessened.

The law, providing in Sec. 74. Chap. 21, Revised Statutes, that no loan shall be made for a longer period than five years, provides also, "That any person obtaining a loan may have the privilege of extending the time of payment of the principal from year to year, on payment annually in advance of the interest on the sum due, at the rate of interest specified in the original mortgage, and the legislature may hereafter change the law so as to require payment of such loaned money at any time after one year from the time when the original credit shall have expired." By this provision while

the borrower has the privilege of extending the time of paying the principal of the loan made to him, upon performance of the condition named, he is left to the uncertainty of the action of the legislature, which may, in its discretion, at any time after one year from the date of the loan call in the whole amount. Instead of this we are of the opinion, and we respectfully suggest, the amendment of the law to that effect, that the interest being paid annually, the period for which loans are made should be extended to ten years, or even a longer time. To require the payment of the principal in any shorter period, is only to incur the trouble of making a new investment, which would be useless when the security for one already made stands good. While the interests of the fund would in no wise suffer from such a provision, the accommodation to the class of persons, who are in general the borrowers, would be very greatly increased.

TOTAL OF LOANS.

Whole amount due from individuals in the several counties on account of loans from the school and University funds, on the thirty first day of December, 1853,

\$154,886 51

Amount of loans made to individuals in 1854

82,788 73

do do do university, 1854

12,735 33

Deduct

\$250,410 57

do paid on loans in 1854

4,866 00

Total due on loans

\$245,544 57

SCHOOL FUND.

Amount received on account of School Fund during the year 1854.

On sales previously made

\$12,024 90

On sales of land during the year 1854

42,920 07

On loans paid

4,866 00

On fines and forfeitures

2,872 20

5 per cent. penalty on forfeited lands

2,150 07

Total Receipts

\$94,833 27

Amount paid out on same account.

On loans

For other purposes

\$73,663 73

11,332 33

Total Disbursements

\$84,996 06

SCHOOL FUND INCOME.

Receipts

Disbursements, moneys apportioned to counties

\$106,235 03

97,188 88

UNIVERSITY FUND.

Amount received on account of university fund.

On sales previously made

On sales of lands during the year 1854

On loans paid

5 per cent. penalty on forfeited lands

\$2,597 47

6,959 72

250 00

138 40

\$9,945 59

Amount paid out on same account.

On loans

For other purposes

\$21,860 33

38 60

\$21,898 93

UNIVERSITY FUND INCOME.

Receipts

Disbursements to university

\$8,775 08

10,640 00

For a complete and detailed statement of the receipts and disbursements of these funds, we refer to the report of the Secretary of State, for the year ending December 31st, 1854; and for information in relation to the amount of school and university funds now in the treasury, subject to loan, we refer to the report of the State Treasurer.

The capital of the school fund amounts, at this time, to the sum of \$1,670,258 77, being an increase since December 31st, 1853, of \$528,454 49.

This capital consists of the following items:

Due on sales of land, heretofore made

Due on school fund loans

In the treasury

\$1,415,262 50

220,314 24

34,682 03

\$1,670,258 77

The capital of the university fund to this date, amounts to the sum of **\$161,146 61**

And consists of the following items:

Due on sales of land	135,916 28
Due on loans	25,230 33
	\$161,146 61

The following statement exhibits the number of acres of school and university lands forfeited in the different counties during the year 1854, the number of acres sold and the number of acres unsold, together with the amount sold for, and the amount of five per cent. penalty realized to the school fund on that account:

Forfeited Lands, Sixteenth Section.

COUNTIES.	No. of Acres Forfeited	No. of Acres sold.	No. of Acres unsold.	Amount Due.	Amount sold for
Bad Ax.....	40	40	--	51 00	57 62
Brown.....	200	200	--	393 00	459 67
Columbia.....	353.80	330.42	23.38	1,009 00	920 44
Calumet.....	79	76	--	121 00	136 52
Crawford.....	120	--	120	162 00	--
Dane.....	320	320	--	1,485 09	1,800 13
Dodge.....	278.4	278.4	--	531 00	649 95
Fond du Lac.....	490	490	--	1,467 00	1,737 11
Grant.....	220	220	--	338 00	411 80
Iowa.....	560	560	40	1,260 00	1,075 43
Jefferson.....	40	40	--	164 00	184 18
Kenosha.....	9.92	9.92	--	100 00	119 50
La Fayette.....	50	50	--	225 00	250 25
La Crosse.....	280	280	--	549 00	618 33
Milwaukee.....	80	80	--	838 00	939 54
Manitowoc.....	512.20	472.20	40	1,410 00	1,540 61
Marquette.....	340.74	182.24	158.50	701 00	252 96
Outagamie.....	120	80	40	161 00	181 82
Portage.....	40	40	--	54 00	60 98
Rock.....	534.25	518.75	15.50	4,451 00	4,931 82
Racine.....	40.18	--	40.18	302 00	--
Richland.....	160	160	--	198 00	224 76
Sheboygan.....	240	160	80	716 00	601 62
Walworth.....	259.74	259.74	--	1,086 00	1,346 35
Waukesha.....	380	380	--	661 56	786 97
Washington.....	289.95	249.95	40	1,600 00	1,254 11
Winnebago.....	160	160	--	364 00	442 44
Waushara.....	200	200	--	344 00	275 78
Total.....	6,437.89	5,840.55	597.56	20,641 56	21,262 79

397.81

Forfeited Lands in the 500,000 Acre Tract.

COUNTIES.	No. of Acres Forfeited	No. of Acres Sold.	No. of Acres Unsold.	Amount due before Sale.	Amount of Penalty.	Cost of Interest & cost of Adverm't	Amount sold for.
Bad Ax.....	760	760		949 17	47 46	95 77	1092 40
Brown.....	120	120		212 04	10 60	31 19	253 83
Calumet.....	2,516 73	2,516 73		4336 60	216 83	346 73	4900 16
Columbia.....	160	160		203 20	10 16	19 75	233 11
Crawford.....	40	40		50 73	2 54	4 04	57 31
Dane.....	200	200		515 85	25 79	38 57	580 21
Grant.....	280	280		417 56	20 88	32 66	471 10
Iowa.....	40	40		80 42	4 02	6 12	90 56
Jefferson.....	248 50	208 50	40	320 00	16 00	20 60	311 34
La Crosse.....	3,959 50	2,959 50		5136 01	256 80	702 64	5895 45
La Fayette.....	1,040	1,040		1302 08	65 10	102 90	1470 05
Manitowoc.....	3,080	3,080		4031 68	204 00	359 86	4645 54
Outagamie.....	183 75	183 75		410 38	20 52	31 17	462 07
Richland.....	200	200		254 15	12 71	20 24	287 10
Sauk.....	320	320		480 20	24 01	38 59	542 80
St. Croix.....	4,769 10	4,769 10		6027 09	301 35	487 98	6816 42
Waukesha.....	180	180		186 00	9 30	15 02	210 32
Total.....	18,097 58	18,057 58	40	24963 03	1248 15	2363 83	28319 80

University Lands Forfeited.

COUNTIES.	No. of Acres Forfeited	No. of Acres Sold.	No. of Acres Unsold.	Amount Due.	Amount Sold for.
Green.....	42 22	42 22		47 00	53 14
Green.....	39 38	39 38		106 00	119 22
Fond du Lac.....	40	40		163 00	183 06
Fond du Lac.....	40	40		212 00	237 94
Fond du Lac.....	40	40		208 00	233 46
Winnebago.....	40	40		253 00	319 28
Winnebago.....	40	40		253 00	283 86
Winnebago.....	40	40		253 00	283 86
Rock.....	Fract'al.	Fract'al.		27 00	30 74
Rock.....	"	"		18 00	20 66
Rock.....	"	"		18 00	21 92
Rock.....	40	40		235 00	263 70
Manitowoc.....	40	40	40	108 00	
Richland.....	40	40		107 00	120 34
Total.....	401 60	401 60	40	2,008 00	2,171 18

The preceding statement shows that nearly all of the lands so forfeited, amounting to about twenty-five thousand acres, have been re-sold during the present year, at the appraised value with costs

and charges of sale, and five per cent. penalty added. By section 3 of an "act in relation to school land," approved March 19, 1853, it is made the 'duty of the commissioners, whenever any of the school or university lands shall have been forfeited for the space of six months by reason of the nonpayment of principal or interest, to advertise in some newspaper published in the county in which such lands lie, &c., that such forfeited lands are subject to private entry by any person applying therefor, and the minimum price for such tracts or parcels of land so forfeited, shall be the amount due thereon at the time of such re-sale, together with the costs of sale."

Under this section the lands are subject to private entry as soon as they advertised on the terms stated in the section.

We are of the opinion, that this law disregards both the interest of the original purchaser and of the school fund.

The law upon this subject, before it was repealed by the foregoing section, was much the best; it provided that all forfeited lands should be offered at public sale, before they could be subjected to private entry. Sec. 27, chap. 24, revised statutes. By this provision the purchaser has abundant time and opportunity to redeem his land, and in case it should not be redeemed, the fund could realize the increased value thereof. Besides, the failure to pay interest is often the result of mistake, and in many cases while the purchaser supposed his interest was paid, and while he was in the quiet possession and enjoyment of his property, it has been sold.

This law should, at least, be so amended as not to allow such lands to be sold until the delinquent list has been advertised for the period of three months at least. By this means an opportunity would be afforded to correct errors and mistakes, and to pay the interest, in most cases, where parties interested desire to do so.

Under the power given to us by section 101, of chapter 24, revised statute, we have, in several instances, when we were satisfied that the failure to pay interest was in consequence of some mistake or misunderstanding, recalled the certificate issued on the resale of forfeited lands, and allowed the original purchaser to retain his land by paying the costs of advertising and the five per cent. penalty.

By an Act approved April 1, 1854, the governor and commissioners of the school and university lands were authorized and empowered to reorganize the manner of conducting the sale of these lands, and of keeping the accounts of the funds arising therefrom. Accordingly about the first of July, a chief clerk, Walter H. Besley, and a sufficient number of subordinate clerks were appointed for the transaction of the business. The re-organization contemplated by the act, which was commenced as soon as practicable after providing the books required for the purpose and additional office room, had become absolutely necessary for the proper management of the multiplied and continually increasing transactions growing out of the sales of land and the investment of funds, and there was a large arrearage of work to be brought up from the transactions of former years—an arrearage occasioned by the want of sufficient clerical force to do the duty required by law. An examination of the affairs of this office will show the necessity for the provision made by the act referred to, and will further show, we hope, that the intention of the legislature has thus far been faithfully and successfully answered. We earnestly recommend that permanent provision be made for the expense of a competent number of clerks, and that appropriation be made at as early a period of the session as possible, to meet the expenses already incurred.

The number of subordinate clerks may be reduced, after a short time, without inconvenience, a larger number being requisite at present than will be needed when the work for which they have been employed, shall be further advanced, and the press of the business in the first months of the year shall be over. We also suggest that these expenses are properly chargeable to the school and university fund income, and that their payment be directed accordingly.

SEC. 52, of chap. 24 R. S., vests in the commissioners "the general care and supervision of all lands belonging to this state, and of all the lands in which the state has an interest, or which are or may be held in trust by the state unless the superintendence thereof is vested in some other officer or board."

SEC. 49, of chap. 134, makes it "the special duty of the superintendent of schools in each town, who may have knowledge of, or who may receive information of" trespassers upon school or university lands, "to forthwith inform the district attorney of the county in which he shall reside of the trespass committed, of the name of the trespasser or trespassers, and of the name of the witness or witnesses," and then directs the district attorney to prosecute.

Under the power given by the first cited section, the commissioners have the care and superintendence of the swamp lands belonging to the state, and they have received letters at various times within the last three months, informing them that trespasses were daily being committed on such lands, and, particularly as to those lying near the Mississippi, that preparations were on foot for extensive trespasses during the present season, in the cutting and carrying away of timber. We have been urged from different sources to appoint agents to attend to the interests of the state, and prevent, if possible, the commission of such depredations.

The provision made by section 49, chap. 134 R. S., above cited, is evidently altogether inadequate to affect any good result in sparsely settled counties, and in those it is, chiefly, that such trespasses are committed. A more effective mode of prosecution should also be provided than that indicated in section 47 of the same chap. for the prosecution of trespassers upon school and university lands, and should embrace in its operation cases of trespass upon every description of lands belonging to the state.

In conclusion we feel it to be our duty to press upon the attention of the legislature the fact, that during the five years that this vast fund, amounting now to nearly two millions of dollars, has been under the management of commissioners, the representatives of the people have never made it matter of investigation whether the business relating to it has been done prudently, honestly, and according to law. The people are entitled to know whether it has been so managed or not, and a thorough investigation is especially due to the officers who have had charge of it, that their honor and

integrity may be vindicated. Moreover, in a business so extensive and complicated, involving accounts, and dealings with so many individuals, it would be singular, indeed, if errors should not have occurred, and the more speedily such investigation is had, the more readily errors may be corrected. We ask such investigation, to be made as promptly and fully as possible, both for ourselves, and those who have preceded us in the position we hold, and will afford every facility in our power for its due and faithful prosecution.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

ALEXANDER T. GRAY.

E. H. JANSSEN.

GEO. B. SMITH.

