

University of Oklahoma College of Law

University of Oklahoma College of Law Digital Commons

American Indian and Alaskan Native Documents in the Congressional Serial Set: 1817-1899

1-23-1895

Engrossing and Recording of Land Patents

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.law.ou.edu/indianserialset>



Part of the [Indigenous, Indian, and Aboriginal Law Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

S. Rep. No. 808, 53rd Cong., 3rd Sess. (1895)

This Senate Report is brought to you for free and open access by University of Oklahoma College of Law Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in American Indian and Alaskan Native Documents in the Congressional Serial Set: 1817-1899 by an authorized administrator of University of Oklahoma College of Law Digital Commons. For more information, please contact Law-LibraryDigitalCommons@ou.edu.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JANUARY 23, 1895.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. COCKRELL, from the Joint Commission of Congress to Inquire into the Status of Laws Organizing the Executive Departments, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany S. 2636—Same as H. R. 8490.]

The Joint Commission of Congress to Inquire into the Status of Laws Organizing the Executive Departments, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 8490) to regulate the engrossing and recording of patents for public lands and for other purposes, having considered the same, report it back herewith, and recommend its reference to the Committee on Public Lands.

There is submitted herewith, as an Appendix, the report of the experts of the commission concerning the subject matter of said bill.

F. M. COCKRELL,
JAMES K. JONES,

Members on the part of the Senate.

ALEX. M. DOCKERY,
JAMES D. RICHARDSON,
NELSON DINGLEY, Jr.

Members on the part of the House of Representatives.

APPENDIX.

[REPORT NO. 12 (A).]

OFFICE OF THE EXPERTS UNDER THE
COMMISSION TO EXAMINE THE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS,
Washington, D. C., January 11, 1895.

HON. A. M. DOCKERY,
Chairman Joint Commission, etc., Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: Your experts, having made an examination of the laws relating to and the methods of conducting the business in the General Land Office of the Department of the Interior, beg to submit the following report and recommendations thereon:

By the act of May 18, 1796, the sale at public vendue of a part of the public lands was authorized to be made under the direction of the governor or the secretary of the Western Territory and the surveyor-general and of other of the lands of the United States under the direction of the Secretary of the Treasury. On payment of the purchase price of the lands into the Treasury within the time specified, and producing to the Secretary of State a receipt for the same, and a certificate describing the land and stating payments made to be made, the President was authorized to grant patents for the lands. The patents so granted were to be countersigned by the Secretary of State and recorded in his office.

The enactment of May 10, 1800, authorized certain of the lands to be sold under the direction of the Land Office, an office created by this act, the issuance of patents continuing in the same manner as prescribed by the act of May 18, 1796.

By the act of April 25, 1812, Congress created the office of Commissioner of the General Land Office, and established the same under the Treasury Department. Under this act patents were issued from the General Land Office, were signed by the President and countersigned by the Commissioner of said office, in which place they were required to be recorded in books to be kept for the purpose. The Commissioner was authorized, under the direction of the head of the Treasury Department, to superintend, execute, and perform all acts and things touching and respecting the public lands patented or granted by the United States as theretofore had been directed by law to be done or performed in other Departments.

The affairs of the General Land Office were administered in accordance with this organization until the act of July 4, 1836, when the supervision and control of the Commissioner of the General Land Office was placed under the direction of the President, and this arrangement was continued until the act of March 3, 1849, when it was transferred to the supervision and control of the Interior Department, where it has since remained.

The act of July 4, 1836, provided for an officer in the General Land Office to be called the recorder, for a principal clerk of the public lands, for a principal clerk of private land claims, and for a principal clerk of surveys. The recorder and the three clerks have in later years supervised the divisions bearing the same names. Although specially constituted by Congress and appointed by the President, with the advice and consent of the Senate, the three principal clerks have practically borne the same relation to the Commissioner and the affairs of the Land Office generally as any other chiefs of divisions.

When Congress authorized the supervision and control of the Commissioner of the General Land Office directly by the President, in 1836, the President was authorized to appoint a secretary to sign patents in his stead. The act of 1848 authorized the appointment of an assistant secretary to sign patents, which arrangement was continued until 1878, when the President was authorized to appoint an executive clerk to sign patents; and in 1884 authority was granted the President to appoint a female clerk for the purpose of signing patents, which arrangement has continued until the present time. The clerk who does this work has quarters in the General Land Office and merely writes, in the most perfunctory way, the President's name and her own.

ENGROSSING AND RECORDING OF LAND PATENTS.

The recorder of the General Land Office was authorized by the act of July 4, 1836, in pursuance of instructions from the Commissioner, to certify and affix the seal of the General Land Office to all patents for public lands, and to attend to the correct engrossing, recording, and transmission of such patents. Further provision was made for keeping records of the issuance of patents and alphabetical indexes of the names of patentees.

This is a brief reference to the laws authorizing the existence of the General Land Office and its relations to the Executive Departments.

PRESENT ORGANIZATION OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

1 Commissioner	\$5,000
1 Assistant Commissioner	3,500
1 chief clerk	2,250
2 law clerks, at \$2,200	4,400
3 inspectors of surveyors-general, district land offices, at \$2,000	6,000
1 recorder	2,000
3 principal clerks, at \$2,000	6,000
8 chiefs of division, at \$2,000	16,000
2 law examiners, at \$2,000	4,000
10 principal examiners of land claims and contests, at \$2,000	20,000
30 clerks class 4, at \$1,800	54,000
56 clerks class 3, at \$1,600	89,600
58 clerks class 2, at \$1,400	81,200
58 clerks class 1, at \$1,200	69,600
40 clerks class E, at \$1,000	40,000
45 clerks class D, at \$900	40,500
2 messengers, at \$840	1,680
9 assistant messengers, at \$720	6,480
6 packers, at \$720	4,320
12 laborers, at \$660	7,920
<hr/>	<hr/>
348 Total	464,450
For transcribers of records, at \$600 each (the number varies according to conditions).....	5,000
	<hr/>
	469,450

The arrangement of the General Land Office, by divisions, and the number of clerks of the various classes therein, is approximately as follows:

GENERAL AND MISCELLANEOUS.

1 Commissioner	\$5,000
1 Assistant Commissioner	3,500
3 inspectors, at \$2,000	6,000
2 messengers, at \$840	1,680
9 assistant messengers, at \$720	6,480
12 laborers, at \$660	7,920
6 packers, at \$720	4,320
34 —	<hr/>
	\$34,900

DIVISION A.—Chief clerk.

1 chief clerk	2,250
2 law clerks, at \$2,200	4,400
2 law examiners, at \$2,000	4,000
4 clerks class 4, at \$1,800	7,200
2 clerks class 3, at \$1,600	3,200
2 clerks class 2, at \$1,400	2,800
1 clerk class 1, at \$1,200	1,200
3 clerks class E, at \$1,000	3,000
1 copyist class D, at \$900	900
18 —	<hr/>
	28,950

DIVISION B.—Recorder.

1 recorder	2,000
1 clerk class 4, at \$1,800	1,800
5 clerks class 2, at \$1,400	7,000
11 clerks class 1, at \$1,200	13,200
4 clerks class E, at \$1,000	4,000
12 clerks class D, at \$900	10,800
34 —	<hr/>
	38,800

2 detailed from other offices.
2 transcribers, at \$600 each.

DIVISION C—Public lands.

1 principal clerk	\$2,000	
5 clerks class 4, at \$1,800	9,000	
8 clerks class 3, at \$1,600	12,800	
11 clerks class 2, at \$1,400	15,400	
17 clerks class 1, at \$1,200	20,400	
14 clerks class E, at \$1,000	14,000	
12 copyists class D, at \$900	10,800	
68 —		\$84,400
15 detailed from other offices.		
2 transcribers, at \$600 each.		

DIVISION D—Private land claims.

1 principal clerk	2,000	
1 clerk class 4, at \$1,800	1,800	
2 clerks class 3, at \$1,600	3,200	
1 clerk class 2, \$1,400	1,400	
1 clerk class 1, \$1,200	1,200	
1 clerk class E, at \$1,000	1,000	
7 —		10,600

DIVISION E—Surveying.

1 principal clerk	2,000	
2 clerks class 4, at \$1,800	3,600	
4 clerks class 3, at \$1,600	6,400	
4 clerks class 2, at \$1,400	5,600	
1 clerk class 1, at \$1,200	1,200	
1 clerk class E, at \$1,000	1,000	
1 copyist class D, at \$900	900	
14 —		20,700

DIVISION F—Railroads.

1 chief	2,000	
5 clerks class 4, at \$1,800	9,000	
9 clerks class 3, at \$1,600	14,400	
3 clerks class 2, at \$1,400	4,200	
6 clerks class 1, at \$1,200	7,200	
3 clerks class E, at \$1,000	3,000	
3 copyists class D, at \$900	2,700	
30 —		42,500
5 detailed from other offices.		
1 transcriber, at \$600.		

DIVISION G—Preemption.

1 chief	2,000	
4 principal examiners, at \$2,000	8,000	
1 clerk class 4, at \$1,800	1,800	
5 clerks class 3, at \$1,600	8,000	
9 clerks class 2, at \$1,400	12,600	
6 clerks class 1, at \$1,200	7,200	
2 clerks class E, at \$1,000	2,000	
4 copyists class D, at \$900	3,600	
32 —		45,200

DIVISION H—Contests.

1 chief	2,000	
4 principal examiners, at \$2,000	8,000	
3 clerks class 4, at \$1,800	5,400	
6 clerks class 3, at \$1,600	9,600	
3 clerks class 2, at \$1,400	4,200	
3 clerks class 1, at \$1,200	3,600	
2 clerks class E, at \$1,000	2,000	
4 copyists class D, at \$900	3,600	
26 —		38,400

DIVISION K—Swamp lands.

1 chief	2,000	
4 clerks class 3, at \$1,600	6,400	
2 clerks class 2, at \$1,400	2,800	
1 clerk class 1, at \$1,200	1,200	
1 clerk class E, at \$1,000	1,000	
1 copyist class D, at \$900	900	
10 —		14,300

ENGROSSING AND RECORDING OF LAND PATENTS.

DIVISION L—*Drafting.*

1 chief	\$2,000	
2 clerks class 4, at \$1,800	3,600	
3 clerks class 3, at \$1,600	4,800	
3 clerks class 2, at \$1,400	4,200	
1 clerk class 1, at \$1,200	1,200	
1 clerk class E, at \$1,000	1,000	
11 —		\$16,800

DIVISION M—*Accounts.*

1 chief	2,000	
2 clerks class 4, at \$1,800	3,600	
4 clerks class 3, at \$1,600	6,400	
5 clerks class 2, at \$1,400	7,000	
3 clerks class 1, at \$1,200	3,600	
2 clerks class E, at \$1,000	2,000	
2 copyists class D, at \$900	1,800	
19 —		26,400

DIVISION N—*Mineral lands.*

1 chief	2,000	
1 principal examiner	2,000	
1 clerk class 4, at \$1,800	1,800	
3 clerks class 3, at \$1,600	4,800	
4 clerks class 2, at \$1,400	5,600	
4 clerks class 1, at \$1,200	4,800	
4 clerks class E, at \$1,000	4,000	
3 copyists class D, at \$900	2,700	
21 —		27,700
1 detailed from other offices.		

DIVISION P—*Special agents.*

1 chief	2,000	
1 principal examiner	2,000	
1 clerk class 4, at \$1,800	1,800	
6 clerks class 3, at \$1,600	9,600	
4 clerks class 2, at \$1,400	5,600	
1 clerk class 1, at \$1,200	1,200	
2 clerks class E, at \$1,000	2,000	
2 copyists class D, at \$900	1,800	
18 —		26,000

DETAILED TO OTHER OFFICES.

2 clerks class 4, at \$1,800	3,600	
2 clerks class 2, at \$1,400	2,800	
2 clerks class 1, at \$1,200	2,400	
6 —		8,800
348 Total		464,450

The character of the work, briefly stated, in each of the divisions is as follows:

DIVISION A—*Chief clerk.*

Supervises the arrangement of the forces and stationery for the office; also the contingent expenses of the local offices. Makes a record of all communications received, keeping special and separate account of inclosures of money. The law clerks review decisions on contested cases, and the law examiners review the general correspondence—letters written in the office.

DIVISION B—*Recorder.*

Prepares, issues, and records all patents, except those for private land and mineral claims, railroad, swamp, and school grants. Keeps files of final entries on which patents are issued in this division, and keeps a record of land warrants. The recorder signs all patents.

DIVISION C—*Public land.*

Keeps tract books in which are recorded the subdivisions of the surveyed portion of the public domain and enters therein transactions affecting titles to the surveyed land. Examines the abstracts of the registers and receivers in connection with the entry and final proof papers on homesteads, the latter being certified to the recorder's division for patent, when proper for such action.

DIVISION D.—*Private land claims.*

Adjusts claims for private lands in the States where concessions were made by a foreign government before their acquisition by the United States. Prepares lists for lands to be patented and issues patents to the Indians for the lands allotted to them. Examines contests on private and Indian land claims.

The patents made are recorded and sent to the recorder for signature only.

DIVISION E.—*Surveying.*

Issues instructions to surveyors-general in regard to the method of conducting the surveying. Examines all contracts made with the U. S. deputy surveyors; prepares the same for approval by the Commissioner before being sent to the surveyors-general for action thereon. Examines all reports made through the office of the surveyors-general relating to surveys, embracing the field notes and plats.

DIVISION F.—*Railroads.*

Prepares lists and patents for the lands selected by railroads, wagon roads, canals, etc., and makes a record thereof, and sends the patents to the recorder for signature only. Examines contests on lands within the granted districts. Receives and examines maps and descriptions of rights of way granted over the public domain to railroads, canals, etc.

DIVISION G.—*Preemption.*

Examines the original and final entry papers relating to preemption, desert land timber culture, town site, and town lots, and the contests for preemption and town-site cases.

DIVISION H.—*Contests.*

Examines the contest cases relating to homestead, timber culture, desert land, timber, and stone appealed from the registers and receivers, and also reviews the cases that are not appealed from the registers and receivers.

DIVISION K.—*Swamp land.*

Prepares lists of swamp lands to be allotted to the States, and lists of school lands to be allotted to the States and Territories, and examines contested cases arising on these lands. Makes and records the patents and sends them to the recorder for signature only.

DIVISION L.—*Drafting.*

Prepares the maps from the plats and field notes filed in this division received from the surveyors-general through the surveying division, the plats and notes being filed in this division.

DIVISION M.—*Accounts.*

Examines all accounts from the registers and receivers and surveyors-general. Keeps accounts of advances to disbursing agents in the land service.

DIVISION N.—*Mineral.*

Examines abstracts from registers and receivers of mineral entries, together with the papers relating thereto. Issues and records patents for mineral claims, which are sent to the recorder for signature only. Examines all contests on mineral claims, and all applications for other lands for the purpose of certifying that they are not mineral. There is filed in this division the usual entry papers, together with the plat of each mineral claim surveyed and applied for.

DIVISION P.—*Special service.*

Examines reports made by special agents in the public-land service relating to violations of law by entrymen, and depredations. Prepares cases for suits. Examines contests arising in cases reported by special agents.

CONSOLIDATION OF DIVISIONS.

The character of the work done in the Preemption Division is such that it could easily be consolidated with the Private Land Claims Division, and one chief over all of the work would be sufficient for the requirements, especially as there is no reason for maintaining a division which requires the services of but six clerks besides the chief, as the work performed in the Railroad Division and in the Swamp Lands Division is similar, and as that performed in both is decreasing very fast, and all relate to land grants, they could well be consolidated.

A part of the clerks in the Recorder's Division are on the first floor of the Interior Department and a part of them are located on the top floor, being two stories apart and in a portion of the building where there is no elevator. Some of the clerks attached to the Drafting Division are located a long distance apart.

It is recommended that the Private Land Claims Division and the Preemption Division be consolidated as a Miscellaneous Land Claims Division; and that the Railroad Division and the Swamp Lands Division be consolidated as the Land Grants Division, and that those employed in each division be located on the same floor, in reasonably close proximity to each other.

RECORDER'S DIVISION.

The organization of the recorder's office is provided for in section 459 of the Revised Statutes, which reads as follows:

SEC. 459. It shall be the duty of the recorder of the General Land Office, in pursuance of instructions from the Commissioner, to certify and affix the seal of the office to all patents for public lands, and to attend to the correct engrossing, recording, and transmission of such patents. He shall prepare alphabetical indexes of the names of patentees, and of persons entitled to patents; and he shall prepare such copies and exemplifications of matters on file or recorded in the General Land Office as the Commissioner may from time to time direct. Whenever the office of recorder shall become vacant, or in case of his sickness or absence, the duties of his office shall be performed ad interim by the principal clerk on private land claims.

The patents are prepared from the final entries. The most of this work, representing the patents for the homestead, timber-culture, preemption, timber, and stone entries, is done in the Recorder's Division, where the patents are engrossed by hand, read for comparison with the papers, recorded in registers for that purpose, and then reread for the purpose of comparing the papers, the patent, and the record. Practically the same operation is gone through with in other divisions where patents are prepared.

The patents relating to railroad lands, swamp and school lands, mineral lands, and private land claims, are all written in their respective divisions. They are not only written, but they are examined and proved by the papers and recorded, so that the Recorder, who by law is required to do this work, does not, in fact, have anything to do with the preparation of these patents excepting to sign them. This was not contemplated by section 459 of the Revised Statutes.

In order to provide uniform methods, to concentrate the records, and comply with statutory provisions,

It is recommended that all patents be prepared and recorded under the direction of the Recorder.

PATENTS AND LISTS.

The preparation by handwriting of patents and lists of lands selected is very slow, and, together with making copies of the lists and records of the patents, and comparing them by reading back, involves the time of about 36 clerks, divided between divisions as follows:

Recorder's Division (B)	22
Private Land Claims (D)	1
Railroad Division (F)	4
Swamp Land Division (K)	2
Mineral Division (N)	7

 36

The lists and patents could much better be prepared by the use of typewriters.

Tests of inks used on typewriter ribbons have been made, and it has been proved that typewriter inks composed mainly of carbon are much more durable than the best of those prepared for use with a pen. It is necessary to require a proper test of typewriter inks before they are accepted for use.

There could be produced three copies, or more, if necessary, at the same writing. One should be sent to the entryman, or other applicant, another should be signed at the

same time and bound in volumes for the permanent record of the office, and the remaining one should be used in the office while the second is being bound, and then filed with the papers relating to the case. The typewriter work would be done with much more rapidity and legibility than the work is now done by hand, and the work of recording patents with a pen, and the comparing of one copy and making copies of lists, would be saved. It would result in the saving of the time of at least twenty clerks, and the possibility of errors in transcribing to the records would be removed.

It is recommended that the patents and the lists be prepared by the use of typewriting machines, and, by the use of carbon paper, at least three copies for patents be made, one for the applicant, one for the record, and one for use in the office and to be filed with the papers.

PRINCIPAL CLERKS.

The laws requiring principal clerks in the General Land Office to be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, are anomalous, as said principal clerks are practically chiefs of divisions. There is no reason why all chiefs of divisions under the Commissioner of the General Land Office should not be appointed as other chiefs of divisions are.

It is recommended that these three chiefs be put upon the same basis as other chiefs in the General Land Office, and that sections 448 and 449 of the Revised Statutes, requiring these chiefs to be appointed by the President, be repealed; and that the function of the principal clerk of Private Land Claims, in so far as it relates to his acting as Recorder ad interim, be transferred to the Assistant Commissioner of the General Land Office.

REGISTERS AND RECEIVERS' ABSTRACTS.

The abstracts of all entries sent to the General Land Office from the registers and receivers are identical in all respects, excepting as to the arrangement of the columns.

For example:

Form 4-031, used by the register for reporting original applications, has a printed heading as follows:

REGISTER OF HOMESTEAD ENTRIES.

Register of land entries made at the land office at ——— under the homestead laws, from — day of ———, 189—, to the — day of ——— the same month, inclusive;

subdivided into columns which read:

- No. of application.
- Date of application.
- Tract entered, section or part of section.
- No. of section.
- No. of township.
- No. of range.
- Quantity { Acres.
- { 100ths.
- Name of applicant.
- Residence.
- Fees.
- Commissions.
- Remarks.

Form 4-111, used by the receiver for reporting the receipts paid in at the time of making the original entry, has printed heading as follows:

Register of receipts issued by the receiver of public moneys at ———, for lands entered under the homestead laws, from the — day of ———, to the — day of the same month, inclusive;

subdivided into columns which read:

- Date of receipt.
- No. of receipt.
- By whom purchased { Name.
- { Residence.
- Tract purchased { Section, or part of section.
- { No. section.
- { No. of township.
- { No. of range.
- Quantity { Acres.
- { 100ths.
- Price per acre { Dollars.
- { Cents.
- Fees { Dollars.
- { Cents.
- Commissions { Dollars.
- { Cents.

An abstract could be arranged to read:

Register of homestead entries made and receipts issued by the register and receiver at the land office at _____ under the homestead laws from the _____ day of _____ to the _____ day of _____ the same month, inclusive:

subdivided into columns as follows:

- No. of application and receipt.
- Date of application and receipt.
- Tract entered, section or part of **section**.
- No. of section.
- No. of township.
- No. of range.
- Quantity } Acres.
- } 100ths.
- Name of applicant.
- Residence.
- Fees.
- Commissions.
- Price per acre.
- Remarks.

Other of the abstracts, namely, No. 4-032, used for the final certificates, and No. 4-112, used by the receiver for the register of final receipts, are also identical. The same is also true of form 4-023, used by the register, and 4-110, used by the receiver.

A single abstract signed by both officers would save the useless work of making two that are practically identical and dispense with the work of checking one against the other in the General Land Office, and avoid burdening the files with useless matter. The two abstracts being made in the same office always, of course, correspond with each other, and the check in the Land Office amounts to nothing.

It is recommended that the abstracts from registers and receivers be consolidated and that one abstract signed by both officers be substituted.

After making the consolidations of divisions and other changes referred to herein, the arrangement of the General Land Office by divisions and the number of clerks of the various classes therein would be approximately as follows:

GENERAL AND MISCELLANEOUS.		
1	Commissioner	\$5,000
1	Assistant Commissioner	3,500
3	inspectors, at \$2,000	6,000
2	messengers, at \$840	1,680
9	assistant messengers, at \$720	6,480
12	laborers, at \$660	7,920
6	packers, at \$720	4,320
34	—	\$34,900
CHIEF CLERK'S DIVISION.		
1	chief clerk	2,250
2	law clerks, at \$2,200	4,400
2	law examiners, at \$2,000	4,000
4	clerks class 4, at \$1,800	7,200
2	clerks class 3, at \$1,600	3,200
2	clerks class 2, at \$1,400	2,800
1	clerk class 1, at \$1,200	1,200
3	clerks class E, at \$1,000	3,000
1	copyist class D, at \$900	900
18	—	28,950
RECORDER'S DIVISION.		
1	recorder	2,000
1	clerk class 4, at \$1,800	1,800
5	clerks class 2, at \$1,400	7,000
11	clerks class 1, at \$1,200	13,200
3	clerks class D, at \$900	2,700
21	—	26,700
2	detailed from other offices.	
2	transcribers, at \$600 each.	
PUBLIC LANDS DIVISION.		
1	principal clerk	2,000
5	clerks class 4, at \$1,800	9,000
8	clerks class 3, at \$1,600	12,800
11	clerks class 2, at \$1,400	15,400
17	clerks class 1, at \$1,200	20,400
14	clerks class E, at \$1,000	14,000
12	copyists class D, at \$900	10,800
68	—	84,400
15	detailed from other offices.	
2	transcribers, at \$600 each.	

SURVEYING DIVISION.

1 principal clerk.....	\$2,000	
2 clerks class 4, at \$1,800.....	3,600	
4 clerks class 3, at \$1,600.....	6,400	
4 clerks class 2, at \$1,400.....	5,600	
1 clerk class 1, at \$1,200.....	1,200	
1 clerk class E, at \$1,000.....	1,000	
1 copyist class D, at \$900.....	900	
14 —		\$20,700

LAND GRANTS DIVISION.

1 chief.....	2,000	
5 clerks class 4, at \$1,800.....	9,000	
13 clerks class 3, at \$1,600.....	20,800	
5 clerks class 2, at \$1,400.....	7,000	
7 clerks class 1, at \$1,200.....	8,400	
2 clerks class E, at \$1,000.....	2,000	
3 clerks class D, at \$900.....	2,700	
36 —		51,900
5 detailed from other offices.		
1 transcriber, at \$600.		

DRAFTING DIVISION.

1 chief.....	2,000	
2 clerks class 4, at \$1,800.....	3,600	
3 clerks class 3, at \$1,600.....	4,800	
3 clerks class 2, at \$1,400.....	4,200	
1 clerk class 1, at \$1,200.....	1,200	
1 clerk class E, at \$1,000.....	1,000	
11 —		16,800

ACCOUNTS DIVISION.

1 chief.....	2,000	
2 clerks class 4, at \$1,800.....	3,600	
4 clerks class 3, at \$1,600.....	6,400	
5 clerks class 2, at \$1,400.....	7,000	
3 clerks class 1, at \$1,200.....	3,600	
2 clerks class E, at \$1,000.....	2,000	
2 copyists class D, at \$900.....	1,800	
19 —		26,400

MINERAL DIVISION.

1 chief.....	2,000	
1 principal examiner.....	2,000	
1 clerk class 4, at \$1,800.....	1,800	
3 clerks class 3, at \$1,600.....	4,800	
4 clerks class 2, at \$1,400.....	5,600	
4 clerks class 1, at \$1,200.....	4,800	
4 clerks class E, at \$1,000.....	4,000	
18 —		25,000
1 detailed from other offices.		

SPECIAL AGENT'S DIVISION.

1 chief.....	2,000	
1 principal examiner.....	2,000	
1 clerk class 4, at \$1,800.....	1,800	
6 clerks class 3, at \$1,600.....	9,600	
4 clerks class 2, at \$1,400.....	5,600	
1 clerk class 1, at \$1,200.....	1,200	
2 clerks class E, at \$1,000.....	2,000	
2 copyists class D, at \$900.....	1,800	
18 —		26,000

MISCELLANEOUS LAND CLAIMS DIVISION.

1 chief.....	2,000	
4 principal examiners at \$2,000.....	8,000	
2 clerks class 4, at \$1,800.....	3,600	
7 clerks class 3, at \$1,600.....	11,200	
10 clerks class 2, at \$1,400.....	14,000	
7 clerks class 1, at \$1,200.....	8,400	
2 clerks class E, at \$1,000.....	2,000	
4 clerks class D, at \$900.....	3,600	
37 —		52,800

CONTEST DIVISION.

1 chief	\$2,000
4 principal examiners, at \$2,000	8,000
3 clerks class 4, at \$1,800	5,400
6 clerks class 3, at \$1,600	9,600
3 clerks class 2, at \$1,400	4,200
3 clerks class 1, at \$1,200	3,600
2 clerks class E, at \$1,000	2,000
4 copyists class D, at \$900	3,600
26 —	<u>\$38,400</u>

DETAILED TO OTHER OFFICES.

2 clerks class 4, at \$1,800	3,600
2 clerks class 2, at \$1,400	2,800
2 clerks class 1, at \$1,200	2,400
6 —	<u>8,800</u>
326 Total	441,750

REPORTS OF THE BOARD OF EQUITABLE ADJUDICATION.

Under the provisions of section 2450 to and including 2457 of the Revised Statutes, certain entries suspended are considered by a board of equitable adjudication, consisting of the Commissioner of the General Land Office, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Attorney-General, and upon their joint approval patents are issued. Abstracts of these cases are made in the General Land Office and a copy is sent to Congress and annually printed.

A statement of the cases and an estimate of the cost of printing for the last five years is as follows:

Year.	Number of cases.	Number of pages of printed matter.	Estimate of cost of printing.
1888	1,397	62	\$471.20
1889	4,321	174	1,322.40
1890	7,841	295	2,242.00
1891	2,734	92	699.20
1892	4,354	154	1,170.40
Total	20,647	777	5,905.20
Average per annum	4,129	155	1,181.04

By reference to these printed reports it will be seen that they could not possibly be used for any practical purpose, and any information that may be required by Congress can readily be obtained by application to the Department; therefore,

It is recommended that section 2452 of the Revised Statutes requiring such reports be repealed.

SUMMARY OF ESTIMATED SAVING.

By consolidating the Swamp Lands with the Railroad Division, and the Preemption with the Private Land Claims Division: 2 chiefs, at \$2,000	\$4,000
By dispensing with the handwriting of patents and copying them into records:	
7 clerks class E, at \$1,000	\$7,000
13 clerks class D, at \$900	11,700
20 —	<u>18,700</u>
By dispensing with the report of cases passed upon by the Board of Equitable Adjudication, saving the cost of printing the same	1,181
Total estimated saving	<u>23,881</u>

Respectfully submitted.

C. W. HASKINS,
E. W. SELLS,
Experts.