

HOUSE...No. 15.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

LAND OFFICE, BOSTON, }
January 9, 1856. }

To His Excellency HENRY J. GARDNER, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts:—

I have the honor to transmit to your Excellency, for the information of the Executive and Legislative Departments of the Government, the following

R E P O R T :

It is to be regretted, that the Commonwealth could not have realized a larger amount in the way of collections the past year from parties who are indebted to her on account of sales of Eastern lands; but owing to a combination of circumstances, it has been impossible to realize a large amount. The truth of the matter is, the disastrous state of business affairs, particularly as regards the lumbering interest of Maine, during the past season, has prevented parties generally from paying to this Commonwealth a larger amount due on lands. It is but justice to these individuals to say, that they have encountered difficulties, by which they have been surrounded, with a

resolution and energy, which alone could have prevented general bankruptcy and ruin. A large portion of the lumber sold from the Penobscot, and St. Johns, during the past season, was cut and hauled two years ago; the operations of last year having been comparatively light, under the disadvantage of almost unparalleled deep snow, and very high price of labor, and supplies (not cheap,) resulting in about fifty per cent. additional cost of operations over and above previous years. In consequence of the drouth in the summer and fall of 1854, this lumber laid back, and has come this season to a falling market; and the result is, instead of a profit, as was hoped, operators are obliged to submit to a *loss* of from three to four dollars on every thousand feet of lumber so cut, hauled and sold; besides, there is probably one hundred and fifty million feet now on hand, lying (in logs) in and about the Penobscot Boom, besides a very considerable amount of manufactured lumber upon the wharves, unsold.

Under these circumstances, it has been impossible to make large collections, without resorting to legal measures, which I did not consider myself authorized to do; knowing that it had been the policy of the Commonwealth, heretofore, to be lenient to this class of debtors. I have endeavored, in all cases where there have been operations on lands, the notes for which were not paid at maturity, to collect the stumpage,—and in most cases I have been successful. There is a large amount of logs now lying in the Penobscot Boom, on which the Land Agent will be able to realize the stumpage next season.

The amount received on Land Notes

during the year 1855, was, for

Principal, \$44,585 77

For Interest, 13,036 99

————— \$57,622 76

The amount of indebtedness of indi-

vidual purchasers on the 31st of

December, 1855, is, for Principal, \$265,645 44

For Interest, 29,536 52

————— \$295,181 96

The amount over due on Land Notes, including interest, on the 31st of December, 1855, was \$134,185.73.

In most cases where the notes are overdue, a portion of the original amount has been paid, thereby reducing the amount due the Commonwealth; and, in case a forfeiture should take place, I am satisfied the lands would sell for enough to cover the balances due on said notes; so that in any event, I do not see that the Commonwealth is in any danger of suffering any loss.

In accordance with a Resolve passed by the General Court, and approved by the Governor the 4th day of May, 1855, I have prepared an advertisement, and I shall proceed in accordance with said Resolve to advertise all tracts and parcels of land in the State of Maine, on which there was an overdue at the time of the passage of said Resolve.

My appointment to this office was on the 11th of May last; consequently a portion of my predecessor's account forms a part of the annual account of this office, which accompanies this Report.

WILLARD A. HARRINGTON,
Land Agent.

Dr.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts in account with E. BRADBURY, Land Agent.

Cr.

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1855.			1855.		
Jan. 2,	To Cash paid S. Warner's expenses, .	\$3 00	Jan. 1,	By balance of account, 1854,	\$190 20
" 24,	" Cash paid Telegraph fee to Augusta, .	72		" Cash of W. T. & H. Peirce, interest on their note (collateral) given as security, on 4 R, 11 C. S. C.,	70 00
" 24,	" Cash to Treasurer,	6,932 10		" Amount of R. Rankin's acceptance in settlement of 13 R. 13, and 12 R. 14, in full, principal and interest on S. Cary's notes,	6,932 10
March 2,	" Cash paid expenses to Augusta, .	33 30	Feb. 12,		
April 30,	" Services of E. A. Snelling, sundry times	7 00			
" 30,	" Do Geo. Bradbury, ass't in office, .	5 50			
" 30,	" Balance to new account,	210 68			
		<u>\$7,192 30</u>			<u>\$7,192 30</u>

EBEN'R BRADBURY.

Land Office, Boston, May 12, 1855.

LAND OFFICE MAY 12, 1855.

This certifies that I have examined the account of E. BRADBURY, Land Agent, and the vouchers for the several items of charge therein stated, and the said account appears to be correctly cast and properly vouched; and I acknowledge the receipt of said Bradbury, of the sum of two hundred and ten $\frac{53}{100}$ dollars—the balance above stated.

WILLARD A. HARRINGTON.

LAND AGENT'S REPORT.

[Jan.

Dr. *Commonwealth of Massachusetts with WILLARD A. HARRINGTON, Land Agent.* Cr.

1855.			1855.		
June 27,	To Cash paid expenses to Bangor, . . .	\$32 63	May 12,	By Cash paid from E. Bradbury, . . .	\$210 68
" 27,	" Cash paid postage stamps, . . .	75	Oct. 11,	" Cash from Treasurer, . . .	390 40
Oct. 30,	" Cash paid postage stamps, . . .	3 00	Dec. 31,	" Cash from Treasurer, . . .	250 00
Dec. 29,	" Cash paid expenses to Maine, . . .	18 10			
" 31,	" Cash paid J. Dexters' bill for services,	12 00			
" 31,	" Cash p'd salary from May 11, '55, to date	640 40			
" 31,	" Balance cash on hand, . . .	144 20			
		\$851 08			\$851 08

