

## MICHIGAN ROAD.

The Commissioner appointed by the General Assembly, to superintend the construction of the Michigan Road, begs leave to

### REPORT:

That on the 18th day of May last, having previously advertised the same, he commenced at the town of Madison, in letting the improvements at public sale, of such miles and parts of miles as in his opinion, would be most beneficial to the road, and make the whole as near as practicable, equally passable; and continued on the sales from day to day, until the 12th of June, on which day he held the last sale at the Michigan City.

From the situation of the contracts let last year, the work not being in that state of forwardness that was desirable in order to let further contracts, but few contracts were taken north of Logansport.

After arranging the accounts of the public sales, the Commissioner proceeded to further examine the road, and enter into such private contracts as would, in his opinion best forward the work. After putting such parts of the north end of the road under contract, he again returned south to Madison, and on the 22d of August commenced selling such further improvements as the funds at his disposal would seem to justify; and where from the nature of the improvements, they could not be described with sufficient accuracy for public sale, private contracts were entered into, on such miles and parts of miles, as most required to be further improved, between Madison and Logansport; the Commissioner being desirous, if practicable, to have had the whole road made passable the present season, and especially, to have the smaller streams bridged, with good and substantial frame bridges, which he has the pleasure of informing the General Assembly, are generally completed; so that, from Madison to lake Michigan, all the streams that were serious obstructions to travellers, are bridged, with the exception of White river, Wabash, Eel river, and Tippecanoe, and it will be for the General Assembly to determine, whether it will be more conducive to the public interest, to draw on the remaining part of the lands for the bridging of those streams, or to further improve the other parts of the road, by continuing the turnpiking and grading already commenced, and in some places in a state of progress which bids fair, so soon as the same becomes sufficiently settled, to make a good and passable road at all seasons.

From the length of the road, and demand for labour on other public works, together with the unfavourable weather in the latter part of the season for making speedy progress, but few of the contractors have completed their contracts. Many, from the nature of their contracts, through marshes, have been able to make but little progress.

The General Assembly will determine what further indulgence would be proper to extend to contractors.

The Commissioner has been in the practice of issuing the scrip to contractors as their work progressed, to enable them to go on with their contracts as their work progressed, to enable them to go on with their contracts, although by the law and the terms of the contract, he was not bound to issue any until the work was completed; but in many cases the work would have been stopped without such partial issues.

The Commissioner on the first day of November, (on which day the contracts were to have been completed,) commenced at lake Michigan an examination of the road to the Ohio river; and found it necessary to measure the whole road, and ascertain the elevation of the hills, to have them graded with accuracy; and for the further purpose of observing the progress of contractors, and to determine where and what further improvements were most needed for the ensuing year.

From the press of business the Commissioner has had to attend to, in arranging and preparing the materials for his report, he has been unable to transcribe and arrange the field notes and observations then taken and made; but it is confidently believed they will contain much information that will be useful to the Commissioner who may be elected and have the superintendence of the road hereafter.

PAPER A. herewith submitted, shows in tabular form, the amount of contracts entered into at the public sales, from Logansport, with a summary description of the improvements on each mile or contract, the amount retained until the contracts shall have been completed.

PAPER B. is a similar description of the private contracts entered into on the same part of the road.

PAPER C. is a similar description of the public contracts, between Logansport and Michigan City.

PAPER D. is a similar description of private contracts on the same.

By a reference to these papers it will be seen, that contracts were entered into at the public sales between Madison and Logansport, to the amount of \$22,586 50, and at private sales to the amount of \$4,056 75, and that scrip has been issued on the contracts at public sale to the amount of \$18,276 44, and at private sale to the amount of \$3,194 75, leaving a balance on the contracts between Logansport and Madison, to be issued, amounting to \$5,172 06.

PAPERS C. and D. will shew the amount of contracts entered into, between Logansport and Lake Michigan, with the amount of scrip issued thereon, and the amount remaining, &c. By which it will be seen that the whole amount of public and private contracts north of Logansport is \$17,204 50.

Scrip issued thereon, - - - \$11,272 58  
Scrip remaining to be issued, - - - 5,934 92

By a comparison of the amount of contracts entered into, with the law under which the Commissioner acted, it will be seen that he has not contracted for the full amount authorised by law north of that point. He was induced to pursue this course from the anxiety of the public, to have the road made passable at all seasons, and in a state of as much forwardness as possible.

From failure of the completion of last year's contracts, it was found impracticable to have more done this year than has been done; but the Commissioner has the satisfaction of informing the General Assembly, that the contracts of last year are in such a state of forwardness, that the northern part of the road is opened throughout its entire length; and from the rapid improvements on the north end, can be advantageously prosecuted, and are much needed.

PAPER E. is a register of the scrip yet remaining to be issued on the contracts of last year.

The \$134 00 on miles 76,48, and 96, North Madison, was on contracts rescinded with the con-

sents of contractors, and more beneficial contracts were entered into on said miles the present year.

By the 4th section of the supplemental act, approved January 30th, 1833, the N. E. quarter and N. E. fraction of each section were directed to be sold for cash only, until the full amount be fully paid. In the month of July, the Treasurer of State notified the Commissioner, that the State debt was fully paid; and in order to render due justice to all the citizens of the State, he had a notice published in each newspaper printed in the State of Indiana, that on the 2d day of September ensuing, all lands could be purchased with scrip, thereby giving an opportunity of applying for those lots which had been reserved for cash only.

The sales of the lands at the office opened by the Commissioner, for the entry of the Michigan road lands, have exceeded his most sanguine expectations.

By a reference to each quarter's return it will be seen that sales have been gradually increasing, through each successive quarter, until the commencement of the inclement weather, a few past.

PAPER F. will shew the number of acres sold in each quarter, by which it will be seen there have been sold since the last report, to wit:—29 November 1832, up to the 3d December 1833,—36,495 acres, amounting to \$15,610 75. By deducting the number of acres sold, from the quantity unsold at the time of last year's report, it will leave a balance of 65,004 33-100 acres for the further improvement of the road, subject however to the scrip unredeemed, and some few outstanding claims of Printer's bills &c. and the pay of the Commissioner, and Secretary, Auditor and Treasurer of State, which are to be paid from the road fund.

PAPER G. will show the amount of expenses incurred and paid this year, for stationary, clerk's hire, printers bills, surveyors and other incidental and unavoidable expenses.

From the nature and extent of his public duties, requiring the whole of his time and attention on the road he has been under the necessity of having a clerk constantly at the office, to attend to the sale of lands, and making out and forwarding the quarterly returns of the register of certificates, to the Auditor, Treasurer and Secretary of State, which by law is made his duty.

He has issued scrip for clerks services at the office to the amount of \$194, up to the last day of September; since which time he has made no charge for clerk's hire at the office. This subject he respectfully refers to the attention of the General Assembly, as the \$750, allowed by the existing laws for clerk's hire and other incidental expenses, has been found insufficient to meet the unavoidable expenses which the Commissioner has been compelled to incur in the discharge of the various and complicated duties of his office.

There yet remains to be selected two sections of land, to complete the entire Road Grant. The Commissioner opened a correspondence with the Surveyor General of the U. S. for the States of Ohio, Indiana and Michigan Territory, who replied, that the business was not under his control, but suggested the propriety of waiting until the surveys of the U. S. land were completed in the district from which the selections were to be made; with which view of the subject the Commissioner con-

curred. In conclusion, the Commissioner would respectfully call the attention of the General Assembly to that part of said road that lies between the towns of Indianapolis and Greensburgh, in Decatur county, which was established on what was then called the Lawrenceburgh state road, without giving the Board of Commissioners who were organized for the remaining part of said road, any authority to take relinquishments from the proprietors of lands through which the road passed, to the extent of one hundred feet in width, as they were authorized between Greensburgh and Madison. And as the Lawrenceburgh state road was only 60 feet wide many are unwilling to leave open more than that width, to the injury of other parts of the road; and in one instance, objections were made to erecting a bridge, on the ground of its not being at the proper place, which produced a suspension of the work, and on examination of the records of Decatur county for the change of said state road it was ascertained, that no order for a change from the old Lawrenceburgh state road had been made, by the Board doing county business in Decatur county. The old road of course was the proper route which was not opened. The Commissioner employed the County Surveyor of Decatur county, to survey the different routes, and by virtue of the discretionary power vested in him by the proviso at the close of section 17, of the act relative to the Michigan road, approved February 2, 1822; under which act he established the road as it was opened, by Solomon Turnip's house, and caused the bridge to be erected across Clifty at that place, as by the return, it was on the best ground and nine rods shorter than either of the other routes.—The papers connected with this business, are recorded in the Commissioner's office, and a copy deposited in the Clerk's office in Decatur county. The originals will be filed in the office of the Secretary of State, to be preserved with the other papers concerning the Michigan road.

All of which is respectfully submitted.  
Dec. 23d, 1833. WM. POLKE, C. M. R.  
The details of the papers in reference, in the foregoing report, are uninteresting; we therefore omit their publication, and in lieu thereof, subjoin the following:

Paper A. shows an aggregate of \$18,276 44 worth of scrip issued; and \$4,310 06 as the balances due when the contracts shall be completed; which two sums added, give the amount of contracts entered into at public sales.

B. shows that \$4,056 75 worth of private contracts had been entered into, and that \$3,194 75 worth of scrip had been issued, and that \$562 00 had been held back until the completion of the same.

C. exhibits \$7,600 00 worth of contracts; scrip issued, \$5,477 72; held in reserve, \$2,122 78.

D. shows the amount of contracts to be \$9,604 00; scrip issued, \$5,794 86; in reserve, \$3,507 14.

E. Amount of contracts, \$954 28. No scrip issued.

F. is satisfactorily explained in the report.

G. shows the aggregate amount of the incidental expenses to be \$2,149 88—salary of the Commissioner included.

The above brief, from the tabular statements, shows the amount of contracts to be \$43,775 75; scrip issued \$33,673 77; to be issued \$11,101 98; incidental expenses \$1,149 88.

From the Indiana Democrat of Jan. 11.

### GLORIOUS EIGHTH OF JANUARY.

The anniversary of the victory of New Orleans, was celebrated on Wednesday last, by the citizens of Indianapolis and vicinity, and many members of the legislature, without distinction to party.

At 12 o'clock, according to arrangement, a procession was formed by the Marshals, in front of the Mansion House and proceeded to the Methodist church, where, after an able prayer by the Rev. Mr. RUFER, an eloquent and interesting oration was delivered by RICHARD M. JOHNSON, Jr. Esq.—a copy of which has been procured for publication, and handed to us by the committee of arrangement; which will be given in our next.

After the exercise at the church, the procession was again formed, and proceeded to the Mansion House where a sumptuous dinner had been provided.

After the cloth had been removed, the following toasts were drank accompanied with hearty cheerings:

1. The day we celebrate—Its glory is the common property of our common country. 3 cheers.

2. Washington—

“Though no imperial mausoleum rise,  
To point the stranger where the Hero lies,  
He sleeps in glory.”

Drank standing in silence.

3. La Fayette—He was the companion of Washington.—4 cheers.

4. The memory of the patriot soldiers whose ashes repose on the Battle Ground of Tippecanoe.—Drank standing and in silence.

The Federal Judiciary—a pillar of strength and of safety. 3 cheers.

The victory of New Orleans—the brilliant finale, of a glorious war. 6 cheers.

7. The President and Vice President of the United States.

8. The army and Navy of the United States. 3 cheers.

The Signers of the Declaration of Independence—the last of those patriots has gone to his rest. When the heavens shall pass away, their fame will perish. Drank standing and in silence.

10. The memory of De Witt Clinton—until the waters he has taught to flow, shall cease to bear upon their bosom the fruits of industry, his name will be dear to the friends of national prosperity. Drank in silence.

11. Internal Improvements, both State and National—the growth and prosperity of Indiana, and her rank among the States of this Union, depend upon the efforts now being made to give vigor and energy to these works. 5 cheers.

12. Gen. Andrew Jackson, the Hero of New Orleans—he has been nobly rewarded for his toils as a soldier, by the highest office in the gift of freemen. 6 cheers.

13. Indiana—may her motto be, “our country, our whole country, and nothing but our country,” 3 cheers.

14. The American Flag—may it float forever, over the land and over the sea.

15. Poland—may she yet assume her rank among the nations of the earth, as a free and independent Republic. 3 cheers.

16. The Federal Union—it must be preserved. 6 cheers.

17. The surviving soldiers of the Revolution—they are sacred monuments of another age—Long may they live, to enjoy the blessings which their patriotism purchased. 3 cheers.

18. The memory of Adams, Jefferson and Monroe.—Drank standing and in silence.

19. James Madison—his name is a rebuke upon sedition, his life is an example of real greatness 3 cheers.

20. The Battle of Thames—it was a hard fight, and it was nobly won. 6 cheers.

21. The Fair—when they are for the union, who will be nullifiers? 9 cheers.

By the President of the day—West Point Academy—May it, like a rock on the ocean, be able to resist all the waves of its opposition.

By D. V. Culley Esq.—The newspaper press of Indiana—Divided as to men and domestic policy, but united in all the great essentials that give strength and ability to our republican institutions.

By A. F. Morrison Esq.—The State Bank of Indiana—Give our people means, and they will show their enterprise.

By R. M. Johnson Jr. Esq.—The American Union—A “stream of many tides,” against all who would wish to dissever it.

By W. B. Slaughter Esq.—The valley of the Mississippi—the theatre on which the glory of this day was achieved. Her civic worth has not been eclipsed, by her military fame.

By Henry Brady Esq.—The day we celebrate, with that of our Independence—may they be held in greatful remembrance until the empires of the world, shall be lost in undistinguished ruin.

By T. J. Evans Esq.—The Union of parties—When opinions not principles, divide us, it requires nothing but charity to bring us together.

By J. Livingston.—The Eagle—the stamp of American Liberty, and American Coin; the one a protection against tyranny, the other against poverty.

Georgetown, Del. Dec. 20, 1833.

### TREMENDOUS STORMS.

It becomes our duty to record two of the most tremendous storms that, with one or two exceptions, are on record:—one on Saturday night last, and the other on Monday night, supposed to have been the most severe on the latter night:—much more damage was done to the buildings in this vicinity. The tide is said to have been within six inches of the unprecedent high tide three years ago. Great damage has been done to shipping in the Bay, and fatal consequences to seamen, and many of those residing near the beach. The tide rose several feet above the Delaware Breakwater, sweeping off several houses that had been erected thereon and carried them completely over the beach, by which several lives were lost, beside five or six dead bodies that have come ashore on the beach since the storm. There are said to be eleven vessels on the beach, among which is a ship and two brigs, all of which lay under the Breakwater in supposed security, but the tide rising above it, they were entirely at the mercy of the tempest. What extent of damage they sustained, we do not know.

Two vessels, we understand, were lost in the Indian river, one belonging to Mr. Mire Burton, commanded by Haslet Streets, a colored man, who was drowned, together with all on board.

The vessel sunk with 600 bushels of corn on board. The other vessel belonged to Mr. Vent, Captain

Morris—whether the crew were lost or not we have not ascertained. Among the distresses that

have come to our knowledge from residing adjacent to the shore, is that of a black family residing in Slaughter neck, consisting of a man, his wife, grandmother and five children, all of whom were drowned but the man. His statement is truly distressing; he could not speak for several hours after his arrival at the nearest house, about a mile and a quarter distant from his residence. Upon the water breaking into the house, he and his family became alarmed, got out of their beds and left the house without even dressing themselves. He said he first took up his grandmother and proceeded some distance through the water which was nearly breast high, when he found his wife was about to give out, he left his grandmother and four children, but had proceeded only a short distance, when he felt himself sinking, and shook them off to die, when he succeeded

with great difficulty in reaching the upland, having only strength left to crawl to the nearest house. Considerable loss has been sustained in Cattle and Sheep, several farmers losing their entire stock. The furnace at Millsborough was put out on Saturday night, this being the third time that the fire has been thus put out.

We understand that the Delaware Breakwater will have to be raised six feet higher than was anticipated, and before they will again venture to erect buildings on it.

From the Louisville Advertiser.

Down to our last dates nothing of importance had been done in either House of Congress—except the reference of the Memorial of the Government Directors, and that of the Bank, to the Committee of Ways and Means of the House of Representatives. Mr. Taney's Report on the removal of the reposites, having been referred to the Committee of the Whole, on the 19th, Mr. Polk

moved to reconsider the vote, and a debate of two days ensued. The friends of the Bank wished to keep the Report before the Committee of the Whole, in order to obtain an opportunity to give vent to their spleen, without risking a full and fair inquiry into the conduct of the institution. The friends of the administration advocated a reference to the Committee of Ways and Means, with a view to insure a satisfactory investigation of the conduct of the Bank. The motion to reconsider was carried by a vote of 124 to 102. Mr. Polk then moved to refer the Report of Mr. Taney to the Committee of Ways and Means, when Mr. M'Duffie offered an amendment, proposing to instruct a Committee to report a joint resolution, “providing that the public revenue hereafter collected shall be deposited in the Bank of the United States, in compliance with the public faith, pledged by the charter of the said Bank.”