

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

By the laws relating to the survey and sale of the public lands, one thirty-sixth part of them has been reserved and appropriated in perpetuity for the support of common schools. The public lands are laid off into townships, six miles square, by lines running with the cardinal points: these townships are then divided into thirty-six sections, each a mile square, and containing 640 acres, which are designated by numbers. Section No. 16, which is always a central section, has invariably been appropriated, (and provision has been made by law for the like appropriations in future surveys,) for the support of common schools in each township.

In Tennessee, in addition to the appropriation of a section in each township for common schools, 200,000 acres have been assigned for the endowment of colleges and academies. Large appropriations have also been made in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, Missouri, Michigan, and the North Western Territory, for the erection and maintenance of seminaries of learning of a higher grade than common schools. Your committee have not had an opportunity of ascertaining the exact amount of those appropriations, but from such examination as they have been able to make, it is believed, that they bear a smaller proportion to those for common schools, than in Tennessee. Tennessee, in Seybert's Statistical Annals, is stated to contain 40,000 square miles, which are equal to 25,600,000 acres. One 36th part of this number of acres, which is the amount of appropriation for common schools, is 711,111. The appropriation for colleges and academies in that state, is, as above stated, 200,000 acres, being something less than two 7ths of the common school appropriation. It is believed, that the appropriations in the other states and territories for seminaries of a higher grade, do not amount to more than two 10ths or one 5th of the appropriations for common schools. Your committee think they will not be far from the truth in estimating them at that proportion.

The states and territories east of the Mississippi, which have had appropriations made in their favour for the support of literary institutions; that is to say, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Mississippi, Alabama, Michigan, and the North Western Territory, are estimated, in Seybert's Statistical Annals, to contain of unsold lands,

Of lands sold,	200,000,000 acres.
To which add Tennessee,	11,697,125
	25,600,000

And the aggregate number of acres in those states and territories will be	237,297,125
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One 36th part of that aggregate number, being the amount of appropriation for common schools, is	6,591,586 acres.
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Add one 5th part of the common school appropriation as the appropriation for Colleges and Academies,	1,318,317 acres.
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And the aggregate number of acres appropriated for the purposes of education in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Michigan, and the North Western Territory, will be	7,909,903
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At \$2 per acre, which is less, according to Seybert's Statistical Annals, than the average price of all the public lands, which have heretofore been sold, the amount in money will be	\$15,819,806.
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Seybert estimates the lands purchased of France by the United States in 1803, at	200,000,000 acres.
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By the laws relating to the survey and sales of lands in Louisiana, Missouri and Arkansas, appropriations of land for the purposes of education have been made after the same ratio, as in the new states and territories on the east of the Mississippi, and it is presumed the same policy will be adhered to in relation to the whole of the public lands on the west of that river. On that supposition the appropriations for common schools, that is, one 36th part of 200,000,000 acres, will be	5,555,555 acres.
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Add for Colleges and Academies one 5th part of the appropriation for common schools	1,111,111 acres.
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And the aggregate number of acres will be	6,666,666 2-3
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At \$2 per acre, the amount in money will be	13,333,333 1-3
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To the aggregate number of acres appropriated for the support of literary institutions on the east side of the Mississippi,	7,909,903
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Add the aggregate number of acres, which if the system heretofore followed, should be, (as it ought to be) adhered to, will ultimately be appropriated to literary purposes on the west of the Mississippi	6,666,666 2-3
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And the total of literary appropriation in the new states and territories will be	14,576,569 2-3 acres
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At \$2 per acre, the amount in money will be	\$29,153,139 1-3
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Such is the vast amount of property, destined for the support and encouragement of learning in the states and territories, carved out of the public lands. These large appropriations of land, the common property of the union, will enure to the *exclusive* benefit of those states and territories. They are appropriations for STATE, and not for NATIONAL purposes;—they are of such a nature, that they might have been extended to all the states;—they therefore ought to have been thus extended. All the other states paid their full share for the purchase of the region west of the Mississippi, and for the extinguishment of the Indian title, on both sides of that river. Massachusetts, Connecticut, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia, besides paying their proportion of those expenses, ceded all their vacant territory on the east side of the Mississippi. All these states, therefore, might with great propriety complain of partiality and injustice, if their applications to Congress for similar appropriations for like purposes should be refused. But of this refusal they need have no apprehension, if they are true to their own interests, and are united in asserting them; for, if contrary to all reasonable expectation the states, which have already received the benefit of literary appropriations, should be opposed to the extension of them to their sister states, the latter are more than two thirds in number of all the United