

the advertisements that had been generally inserted in the newspapers.¹

In 1855² the office was discontinued, and was not revived until 1867.

Wisconsin's Land Policy.

The established policy of Wisconsin has been to offer the land granted her for school purposes, immediately and at low prices, for the sake of attracting immigration.³ These grants were larger than those made to the older states. In 1838 congress granted to the Territory seventy-two sections for the use and support of a university; and the sixteenth section in each township for common schools. The 500,000 acres employed in other states for internal improvements were added to the endowment for schools. To this was added in 1854, for university use, seventy-two sections as an equivalent for the salt-spring lands, amounting to 92,160 acres. By 1886 swamp lands to the amount of 3,071,459 acres had been patented to the state, fifty per cent. of which were added to the school endowment. Altogether the state has received nearly four million acres of land for school and university purposes, and the greater part of these lands have been offered for sale at the minimum government⁴ price of \$1.25 per acre.⁵ Being selected in remote regions,⁵ they were appraised at low prices; but

¹ The report for 1854 was not printed.

² *Laws of Wis.*, 1855, p. 8.

³ In the preamble to a law making a state-university appropriation, we find the following: "Whereas, It has been the settled policy of the state of Wisconsin to offer for sale and dispose of its lands granted by congress to the state for educational purposes, at such a low price per acre as would induce immigration and location thereon by actual settlers."—*Laws of Wis.*, 1872, p. 114.

⁴ As late as 1871, according to a state immigration pamphlet for that year, 56,000 acres belonging to the state were offered for sale in Adams county at 50 cents an acre; 20,000 in Marathon county at from 50 cents to \$1.25 per acre; 100,000 in Wood county at the same rates; 94,000 in Shawano county at from \$1.25 to \$2.25 per acre.

⁵ The 24,000 acres were selected in 1863 in Chippewa, Clark, Dunn, Marathon, Polk, Oconto, and Shawano counties.—Butterfield's *Hist. Univ. of Wis.*, p. 106.