

PROGRESS OF SURVEYS NORTHWEST OF THE OHIO.

COMMUNICATED TO THE SENATE, MAY 3, 1798.

The Secretary of the Treasury, in obedience to the order of the Senate, passed on the 17th day of April, 1798, respectfully submits the following report:

1st. In March, 1797, soon after an appropriation was made for defraying the expenses incident to the office of the Surveyor General, instructions were issued to that officer to take measures for ascertaining the outlines of the lands to which the Indian titles were extinguished by the treaty of Greenville, in August, 1795. In consequence, an agreement was made for running the line from Fort Recovery to Loraine's Stone, and from thence to the Tuskarawas branch of the Muskingum river. Information has been received that the line from the Tuskarawas river to the point mentioned in the treaty near Loraine's Stone, has been actually run and marked, with only a deviation of about twenty-three chains, near the latter place. As the error has happened to be disadvantageous to the Indians, measures for correcting it have been recommended, especially if the Indians shall appear to be dissatisfied.

2d. No contracts have been yet made for surveying the lands below the Great Miami, or between the Scioto, and the purchase made by the Ohio Company, or the lands between the Connecticut claim, and the seven ranges of townships surveyed under the ordinance of May 20th, 1785. Surveys in one or more of the above mentioned tracts are, however, expected to be commenced during the ensuing session.

3d. The tract allotted for satisfying the military land warrants, by the act passed on the 1st of June, 1796, entitled "An act for regulating the grants of land appropriated for military services, and for the Society of the United Brethren for propagating the Gospel among the Heathen, has been principally surveyed. It was expected that the surveys and returns would have been completed before this time.

The delay is to be attributed to the sickness of some of the surveyors, and to the severity of the last winter. Whenever it shall be ascertained that the surveys are finished, the notification required by the second section of the aforesaid act will be immediately published.

4th. The tracts granted to the Moravian Society at Schoenbrunn, Gnadenhutzen, and Salem, have been surveyed, and the necessary returns made to the Departments of State.

The Secretary respectfully suggests that inconveniences are experienced from the direction contained in the fifth section of the act of May 5, 1796, which requires that the time of commencing sales shall be previously notified for two months in all the States, and in the Northwestern territory. If the law should be so modified as to authorize sales at certain *stated periods* it is believed that the good effects of the existing regulation would be secured, while, at the same time, the disadvantages, delay, and expense, incident to repeated notifications would be avoided.

It appears necessary that the Senate should be informed that John Cleves Symmes, Esq. has requested that a survey may be made, and a map furnished, of the remainder of a tract of one million of acres of land, mentioned in a contract made with the late Board of Treasury, and not included in the patents granted, pursuant to the acts passed on the 12th day of April, and the 5th day of May, 1792, and that notice has been given of an intention to make a tender at the Treasury under the said contract. No measures have been taken for effecting a survey as requested, nor has the proposed tender been yet made.

All which is respectfully submitted.

OLIVER WOLCOTT, *Secretary of the Treasury.*

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, *Feb. 2, 1798.*