

Classification
no.

Y3. COMMISSIONS AND BOARDS—Continued

Y3.P96¹: Public Land Commission, 1879-80—Continued

- R29 Report. [Preliminary] report relating to public lands in western portion of United States and to operation of existing land laws [with letters and testimony taken by commission]. 1880. [1923-46] [See, for final report, Existing laws of general and permanent character relating to survey and disposition of public domain, note following entry under Y3.P96¹:G28¹ and the entry under Y3.P96¹:G28².]

Y3.P96²: Public Lands Commission, 1903-05

[Appointed by President Roosevelt, Oct. 22, 1903, to report upon the condition, operation, and effect of existing land laws, and to recommend needed changes. The commission was composed of W. A. Richards, commissioner of General Land Office, F. H. Newell, chief engineer in charge of the Reclamation Service, and Gifford Pinchot, chief forester. Partial reports were transmitted by the President to Congress, Mar. 7, 1904, and Feb. 13, 1905; the appendix to the report was transmitted Mar. 2, 1905; the whole being finally issued in one volume. See Y3.P96²:R29².]

- R29¹ Report. Preliminary report upon condition, operation, and effect of present land laws, and to recommend changes; 2d partial report upon condition, operation, and effect of present land laws. [1905.] [Made up of 58th Congress, 2d session, Senate document 188, serial no. 4591, and 58th Congress, 3d session, Senate document 154, serial no. 4765.]

- R29² Report, with appendix. 1905. (58th Cong. 3d sess. S. doc. 189; serial no. 4766.) [Consists of the commission's preliminary report, Senate document 188, 58th Congress, 2d session, and 2d partial report, Senate document 154, 58th Congress, 3d session, and appendix.]

Y3.P96^{2a}: Public Lands Commission, 1903-05 (separates)

(CT)

Y3.R32: Revision of Statutes Commission

See, for Revised statutes, S7.10.; and for Commission to Revise Laws of United States, appointed under act approved June 4, 1897, Y3.L44:

[As early as 1848 the bulk of the Statutes at large, then filling 9 volumes, led to a desire for a revision, excluding private and obsolete enactments and including the whole body of permanent general laws of the United States in one volume. In 1848 there was a strong report from the House Judiciary Committee in favor of such a revision, and other similar reports followed, with the result that an act approved June 27, 1866 (Stat. L. v. 14, p. 74), was passed by Congress. The commissioners appointed under this act were Caleb Cushing, Charles P. James, and William Johnson. The first appropriation to carry out this law was in an act approved Mar. 2, 1867 (Stat. L. v. 14, p. 455, 456), and it is not probable that the commissioners began work before the appropriation became available. Cushing was sent to Bogota in 1868 to adjust a diplomatic dispute, and it does not appear that he acted further with the commission. The Official register of 1869 contains only the names of James and Johnson as commissioners. By act approved May 4, 1870 (Stat. L. v. 16, p. 96), the law of June 1866, was extended three years longer, and the names of the commissioners given in the Official register were Charles P. James, Benj. Vaughan Abbott, and Victor C. Barringer. Several reports were made by the commissioners in which it appeared that they had made many minor changes in the wording of the statutes, though such changes were noted in the margins. Their work was not acceptable for the reason that it was regarded as impossible to enact a revision of the statutes proposing so many changes. An act approved Mar. 3, 1873 (Stat. L. v. 17, p. 579), was passed putting the work under the control of a joint committee of the House and Senate, composed of Members and Senators appointed from the Committees on the Revision of the Laws of the Senate and House respectively, which was authorized to receive from the commissioners whatever reports they should make, and discharge them when their term of service expired, which was May 4, 1873. The joint committee was also authorized to contract with some person or persons, learned in the law, to complete the work of revising the statutes of the United States, and Thomas Jefferson Durant was selected to continue and finish the work. Durant revised the commissioners' work, and his revision was introduced in the House as a bill of the 43d Congress, 1st session, Dec. 10, 1873, by Benjamin F. Butler, being given the number H. 1215. The copy of this bill in the Public Documents Library is without title-page, bill number, or heading, the lines being numbered by sections as bills usually are, bound in leather, with back title: Proposed revision of laws, 1873 (see Y3.R32:P94). This bill was referred to the Committee on Revision of the Laws, and copies sent to many distinguished lawyers throughout the United States, that it might be examined and made as perfect as possible when reported to the House. The title given to the bill on