

land State alone for a single quarter shows that the timber entries increased over the preceding quarter to the number of 852, embracing an area of nearly 130,000 acres.

Many lands which the Government disposed of a few years ago for \$2.50 an acre, are now worth \$100 an acre or even more. Under this law the Government has disposed of more than five hundred million acres of valuable timber land, receiving therefore about \$13,000,000.

Individuals without funds of their own have been employed to make entries for others with large capital, who have paid the expenses, and some wealthy speculators have made enormous fortunes.

Considering the forests simply as property whose only use is to be converted into lumber and other materials of commercial value, the Government has disposed of them at an actual loss of considerably more than \$100,000,000.

In other words, through the operations of this law public property worth more than \$130,000,000 has been disposed of for about \$13,000,000.

THE MOST SERIOUS INJURY.

The fact that so large a part of the nation's resources has gone into the control of a few individuals or companies is not the most serious effect of the law. The principal injury consists in the loss of control of millions of acres of timber land to which future generations of American citizens must look not only for their supply of timber and timber products, but for protection to the supply of water, upon which will depend the fertile and most of the agricultural lands of the west.

The Desert Land Act was placed upon the statute books in the first instance to enable a few wealthy men to acquire vast bodies of land in California. The facilities it gave to rich men to obtain land on an extensive scale resulted in