Department of the Interior,

GENERAL LAND OFFICE,

Washington, D. C., May 17, 1877.

Registers and Receivers, U. S. Land Offices.

GENTLEMEN: The Honorable Secretary of the Interior, under date of 10th March, 1877, authorizes the modification of the circular instructions of 22d May, 1876, respecting soldiers' additional homesteads—his decision being as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, D. C., March 10, 1877.

SIR: I have considered your report of the 17th ultimo, in relation to soldiers' additional homestead entries, and in view of the facts therein stated I have determined to modify my decision of May 17, 1876, so as to permit entries to be made in the following cases, viz:

1st. Those presented prior to the order of March 20, 1876, suspending all entries of this kind, and rejected for reasons insufficient in law to bar their reception, but kept alive by appeal, which by such rejection were postponed beyond the date of the order and so lost.

2d. Those actually in the hands of agents or attorneys at the date of the promulgation of your instructions of May 22d last, in execution of my decision of the 17th of the same month, which under said instructions have not been recognized, and which will still remain in the hands of such agents or attorneys; and

3d. To allow entries to be made by the agents or attorneys of the party originally entitled to the entry, but only after the claim has been presented to you and certified as valid and that the party is entitled to the amount of land claimed, under such instructions and regulations as you may prescribe.

I herewith return the papers accompanying your report.

Very respectfully,

Z. CHANDLER,
Secretary.

The Commissioner of the General Land Office.

Respecting the first of these classes, I have to advise you that they may be admitted without further formality when again presented at the district office after the settlement of the question upon which they were originally refused. The right of the applicant to make the entry will be fully inquired into by this Office in adjudicating the claim, and proper action will be taken in its final disposition.