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AN ACT TO REGULATE IMPRESSMENTS.

The following is a copy of the Impressment Act, passed by Congress, and approved by the President.

Be it enacted, etc. That whenever the exigencies of any army in the field are such as to make impressments for forage, articles of subsistence or other property absolutely necessary, then such impressment may be made by the officers whose duties it is to furnish such forage, articles of subsistence or other property for such army. In cases where the owner of such property and the impressing officer cannot agree upon the value thereof, it shall be the duty of such impressing officer, upon an affidavit in writing of the owner of such property or his agent, that such property was grown, raised or produced by said owner, or is held or has been purchased by him not for sale or speculation, but for his own use or consumption, to cause the same to be ascertained or determined by the judgment of two loyal and disinterested citizens of the city, county or parish in which such impressment may be made, one to be selected by the owner, one by the impressing officer and, in the event of their disagreement, these two shall choose an umpire of like qualification, whose decision shall be final. The person thus selected, after taking an oath to appraise the property impressed, fairly and impartially, (which oath as well as the affidavit provided for in this section, the impressing officer is hereby authorized to administer and certify) shall proceed to assess just compensation for the property so impressed, whether the absolute ownership or the temporary use thereof only is required.

Sec. 2. That the officer or person impressing property, as aforesaid, shall, at the time of said taking, pay to the owner, his agent or attorney, the compensation fixed by said appraisers; and shall also give to the owner, or person controlling said property, a certificate over his official signature, specifying the battalion, regiment, brigade, division or corps, to which he belongs; that said property is essential for the use of the army, could not be otherwise procured, and was taken through absolute necessity; setting forth the time and place when and where taken, the amount of compensation fixed by said appraisers, and the name, if any, paid for the same. Said certificate shall be evidence for the owner, as well as the taking of said property for the public use, as the right of the owner to the amount of compensation fixed as aforesaid. And in case said officer or person, taking said property, shall have failed to pay the owner, or his agent, said compensation as hereinbefore required, then said owner shall be entitled to the speedy payment of the same by the proper disbursing officer, which, when so paid, shall be in full satisfaction of all claim against the Government of the Confederate States.

Sec. 3. Whenever the appraisement, provided for in the first section of this act, shall for any reason be impracticable at the time of said impressment, then, in that case, the value of the property impressed shall be assessed as soon as possible by two loyal and disinterested citizens in the city, county or parish, wherein the property was taken, chosen as follows: One by the owner, and one by the commissary, or quartermaster general, or his agent, who in cases of disagreement, shall choose a third citizen of like qualification, as an umpire to decide the matters in dispute, who shall be sworn as aforesaid, who shall hear the proofs adduced by the parties, as to the value of said property, and assess a just compensation therefor, according to the testimony.

Sec. 4. That whenever the Secretary of War shall be of opinion that it is necessary to take private property for public use, by reason of the impracticability of procuring the same by purchase, so as to accumulate necessary supplies for the army, or the good of the service, in any locality, he may, by general order, through the proper subordinate officers, authorize such property to be taken for the public use, the compensation due the owner of the same to be determined and the value found as provided for in the first and second sections of this article.

Sec. 5. That it shall be the duty of the President, as early as practicable after the passage of this act, to appoint a commissioner in each State where property shall be taken for the public use, and request the Governor of such of the States in which the President shall appoint said commissioner, to appoint another commissioner to act in conjunction with the commissioner appointed by the President, who shall receive the compensation of eight dollars per day, and ten cents per mile as mileage, to be paid by the Confederate Government. Said commissioners shall constitute a board, whose duty it shall be to fix upon the prices to be paid by the Government, for all property impressed or taken for the public use, as aforesaid, so as to afford just compensation to the owners thereof. Said commissioners shall agree upon and publish a schedule of prices every two months, or oftener, if they shall deem it proper; and in the event they shall not be able to agree in any matter confided to them in this act, they shall have power to appoint an umpire to decide the matter in dispute, whose decision shall be the decision of the board; and said umpire shall receive the same rate of compensation for the time he shall serve, al-

lowed to said commissioners respectively: *Provided*, That said commissioners shall be residents of the State for which they shall be appointed; and if the Governor of any State shall refuse or neglect to appoint said commissioner within ten days after a request to do so by the President, the President shall appoint both commissioners by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

Sec. 6. That all property impressed or taken for the public use, as aforesaid, in the hands of any person other than the persons who have raised, grown or produced the same, or persons holding the same for their own use and consumption, and who shall make the affidavit hereinafter required, shall be paid for according to the schedule of prices fixed by the commissioners aforesaid. But if the officer impressing or taking for the public use, said property, and the owner shall differ as to the quality of the article or property impressed or taken as aforesaid, thereby making it fall within a higher or lower price named in the schedule, then the owner or agent and the officer impressing or taking, as aforesaid, may select each, a loyal and disinterested citizen, of the qualification as aforesaid, to determine the quality of said article or property, who shall, in case of disagreement, appoint an umpire of like qualifications, and his decision, if approved by the impressing officer, shall be final. But if not approved, the impressing officer shall send the award to the commissioners of the State where the property is impressed, with his reasons for disapproving the same, and said commissioners may hear such proofs as the parties may respectively adduce, and their decision shall be final: *Provided*, That the owner may receive the price offered by the impressing officer, without prejudice to his claim to receive higher compensation.

Sec. 7. That the property necessary for the support of the owner and his family, and to carry on his ordinary agricultural and mechanical business, to be ascertained by the appraisers, to be appointed as provided in the first section of this act, under oath, shall not be taken or impressed for the public use; and when the impressing officer and the owner cannot agree as to the quantity of property necessary as aforesaid, then the decisions of the appraisers shall be binding on the officer and all other persons.

Sec. 8. Where the property has been impressed for temporary use, and is lost or destroyed, without the default of the officer, the Government of the Confederate States shall pay a just compensation therefor, to be ascertained by appraisers, appointed and qualified as provided in the third section of this act. If such property when returned has, in the opinion of the owner been injured whilst in the public use, the amount of damage thereby sustained shall be determined in the manner described in the third section of this act, the officer returning the property being authorized to act on behalf of the Government; and upon inquiry, the certificate of the value of property when originally impressed shall be received as *prima facie* evidence of the value thereof.

Sec. 9. Where slaves are impressed by the Confederate Government to labor on fortifications or other public works, the impressment shall be made by said government according to the rules and regulations prescribed in the laws of the State wherein they are impressed; and in the absence of such law in accordance with such rules and regulations not inconsistent with the provisions of this act, as the Secretary of War shall from time to time prescribe: *Provided*, That no impressment of slaves shall be made when they can be hired or procured by the consent of the owner or agent.

Sec. 10. That previous to the first day of December next, no slave laboring on a farm or plantation exclusively devoted to the production of grain and provisions shall be taken for the public use, without the consent of the owner, except in case of urgent necessity.

Sec. 11. That any commissioned or non-commissioned officer or private who shall violate the provisions of this act, shall be tried before the military court of the corps to which he is attached, on complaint made by the owner or other person, and on conviction, if an officer, he shall be cashiered and put into the ranks as a private, and if a non-commissioned officer or private, he shall suffer such punishment not inconsistent with military law, as the court may direct.

Impressment.—The Richmond papers contain the act to regulate impressments just passed by Congress, which we shall publish in full in our next. This law is probably as well guarded, and is as good a one as could have been enacted on the subject; but with the Richmond Whig we think—*Rail Standard 21st.*

It would be, in the last degree, unwise in the government to rely on impressment for the regular supply of the army. That as a system is the very worst that could be possibly devised. Experience teaches that an invading army in a hostile country can better, more safely, and more cheaply supply itself by purchase than by plunder. If this be true, in case of an invading army in a hostile country, how much stronger must it be where the property seized is that of citizens by its own government! The danger is, and it is great and imminent, that it will demoralize the people, and starve the army. We have already seen some of its disastrous effects. If persisted in we may expect to see more of them."

INDISCRETIONS OF THE PRESS.

There are many things that ought not to be printed. An Editor of a newspaper deserves more credit for what he keeps out of his paper than for what he puts in it. We have very often of late had occasion, we regret to say, to apply these Editorial maxims, not only on account of most unfortunate and ill-timed crimination and recrimination of a portion of the North Carolina press, involving charges of wholesale disloyalty, but also on account of information given to the enemy calculated to encourage them as a great victory would do. We allude particularly to the publication of and comments upon recent unfortunate occurrences at High Point and Salisbury, in this State, and Atlanta, Ga. Can any possible good come of such publications? We cannot perceive it. But they will be sweet morsels to the yankees, feeding their only hope of subjugating us.

We appeal to our brethren of the press, of all old parties, for the sake of the great cause, and for the sake also of their own personal and political standing and influence, to cease wrangling, to forbear from making charges of unfaithfulness, against individuals or classes, and to turn their thoughts towards the encouragement of the public mind, and strengthening of the public heart, the unity of all Southern in favor of the South, and the prosecution of a war only against the common enemy.—There is no yankee party at the South, no union party, no reconstruction party. It is dreadfully unjust to say that there is. It is inconceivably encouraging to the yankees to say so. Pray, therefore, do not thus encourage them. There will be time when we achieve our independence to indulge in all that sort of vituperation; and then it can only hurt him who charges it, and possibly him or them charged. Now it hurts the whole Confederacy, damages its prospects, of success, and serves nobody but the yankees any good purpose.

The following article from a late Richmond Whig is timely, and worthy of serious thought. Other papers besides one or two in Richmond might be included among those thus thoughtlessly giving aid and comfort to the enemy.—*Fay. Ob.*

DELUSIVE HOPES OF THE ENEMY.

To the Editor of the Whig:—I have just had a conversation with a very intelligent gentleman from Washington; from this and other sources, which I regard as entirely trust-worthy, I learn that the North are building their hopes on their ability to starve out the Confederacy.—They really believe that this is possible, and are shaping their measures accordingly. This we know to be simply ridiculous; for however the presence of large armies and the abundance of money may result in the enhancement of prices at certain points, there is not the slightest danger that our enemies will be gratified by witnessing a famine, or any approach to it, in any of the Southern States. There are, even now, supplies enough—and the approaching harvest will give us an abundance of everything. Still it is the duty of every farmer to do his utmost by cultivating bread-stuffs and raising cattle, sheep and hogs, to render that abundance certain, and place beyond a peradventure the question of subsistence. The man who cannot serve in the army is doing the next best thing when he aids to sustain those who are piling their lives on the battle ground.

But my main design in addressing you this note is to call attention to two important facts in this connection. The first is as I gather from the source to which I have referred above, that the Northern people lay great stress on certain articles which have recently appeared in one of the Richmond papers, (and need not be more specific,) in whose declarations respecting the difficulties and dangers of the South on the subject of supplies, they profess to derive great encouragement; and openly declare that "if they cannot whip us they can starve us!"

The other point to which I wish to advert is, the assurance, I am credibly informed, which is felt by the Commissary Department, of its entire ability to supply our armies with all that is necessary. This assurance is confidently expressed, and ought to be sufficient to allay apprehension, if any is really entertained on that point.

Will it not, therefore, be much better if

some of our Editors, instead of indulging in speculations which are idle except in their evil tendency, would address themselves to the better task of convincing our humane and philanthropic neighbors that they can neither beat nor starve us into submission—that we can and will, at all times, be able to take care of ourselves to the rest of the world, so to them, we will be, in the words of Jefferson—"enemies in war, in peace friends!"

VERBUM SAP.

EYES OPENING.

The Chicago Times says: "Those of our farmers who suppose the opening of the Mississippi—if it be opened this winter—will prove of immediate benefit to them in sending their produce to market, are preparing for a great disappointment. The market along the river has been almost destroyed, while the operations of Butler at New Orleans and its vicinity have left the inhabitants nothing to purchase with." This is literally true. The Mississippi opened, and though it may swarm with steamboats and other water craft, laden with Western produce, there will be no trade along its banks, for the simple reason that there will be nothing "to purchase it with." The Northwest will have to open its eyes to this fact, and to the additional one that, if the stealing of negroes continue to be the successful pursuit of the Yankee abolitionists, it will be many long years, even after peace shall be declared, when the cereals and bacon of the Northwest will find market along the banks of the majestic Mississippi.

But the eyes of the Northwest are opening to other and important considerations connected with this unholy war. Mr. Cox, of Ohio, in one of his recent speeches, says:—"The Western farmer, who is selling his corn for ten cents a bushel, if he does not use it for firewood, is not easily satisfied that there does not exist somewhere a way through which those who act for him at Washington, may afford him relief. At least he will, if the relief cannot be prospective. He is perfectly aware that, while New England is getting the benefits, the West is suffering the burthens of this war. In New England the merchants and manufacturers have accumulated fortunes with Aladdin like rapidity. Their wages are higher, and contracts abundant; while the West, with the Mississippi sealed, is charged extortionate rates in the transportation of its produce, and in the price of its purchases. Its people are robbed by tariff, and robbed on what they sell and what they buy. Mr. Beecher has boasted that God has given the Yankee that intelligence that knows how to turn to gold all it touches. [Laughter.]

It is his insatiable cupidity, with his Puritanism, which is now making men study the new Census; which makes New York wonder why, with a less population, New England has twelve Senators to her two. Ohio too, ponders the fact that her population is greater by 435,294, than five New England States, yet they have ten Senators while she has two! The West is beginning to ask whether this political equality among the States made for a wise reason is to be used for her oppression; whether to that source is attributable the partial legislation which fosters manufacture and burdens the consumer; which hampers the free interchange and enterprise of this great empire; which shuts off the competition of the world, and gives to New England fabrics the monopoly among ten millions of Western farmers.—Why are we to pay fifty per cent. more for goods and lose fifty per cent. on wheat and corn, and pork? Fifty per cent. I should say ninety per cent., adding the cost of gold, in which the tariffs is paid, to the custom duties, which the consumer at last pays."

This is a picture for the Northwest to view. That its eyes are opening to the burdens imposed upon it, as well as to the colossal fortunes being made in New England through the odious war, we have evidence daily in extracts from the Northwestern papers that reach us, and it has now become, or will soon become the question to be solved, "whether fanaticism shall prevail over interest with the people there?" Should it, then the war must be prolonged for yet a number of years, its horrors only to be increased. For this the South stands prepared. But, should the Northwest consult, at an early day, its true interests, of which we have only a faint hope, then will come peace, with a restoration of its prosperity, based upon such favorable commercial treaties as will give to it the trade along the banks of the Mississippi, down to New Orleans, and into the Gulf, from whence its produce may reach every mart in the civilized world.—

Time will soon tell to what conclusion the Northwest will come—whether it will remain the slave of New England or free itself from the bondage imposed upon it by fanaticism and puritanism.

Transportation of Goods in Domestic Speculation, &c. Railroad Men.—The Columbus (Miss.) Republic has the following:

"A little incident came to our knowledge of a certain party, who had purchased a large amount of wool and a trifle over one thousand dollars' worth of sugar. The wool was especially valuable and the sugar was also to be got through. After some manoeuvre on the part of the owner, he got a car and loaded it up, paying handsomely for the same, putting the sugar in sacks. When the car came to be switched on the track, the switchman demanded his part, and received, we believe, \$40. Soon after the engineer came along and declared that he would never take that wool through without half the sugar. It was given him. Soon after the conductor came along, and stated that the wool could go, but he must have the other half of the sugar. There was no appeal, and the other half followed the first. The wool came through. The owner had also paid freight in advance for both wool and sugar."

"So we go. Our people may suffer for the necessities of life—our soldiers are put on half rations for the want of supplies, that speculators and railroad men may make a fortune."

The Fayetteville Observer thus explains "The Monroe Doctrine."

Briefly, it was a position taken by President Monroe, in his annual Message to Congress of Dec. 2d, 1823, that the powers of Europe would not be permitted to interfere by force with the affairs of any nation on this continent. The declaration was regarded at the time by foreign nations as bold and even impudent; and many in the United States regarded it as imprudent, since it committed their country to an armed resistance of any such European attempt. But years after years it was affirmed, especially by politicians of the "spread eagle" order, until the whole world came to regard it as a settled and remissible policy. It is completely exploded now by the French invasion of Mexico, which, if the United States had not already had its hands full in the war with "the rebels," it would have been bound by every pledge made for the last forty years to resist. But Napoleon has exploded the doctrine, and the U. States has not even manifested any concern thereat, much less gone to war about it.

A Northern Picture of Memphis.—

The Yankees are getting disgusted with Memphis. A Northern correspondent gives the following picture of it:

It is hoped Memphis will be better governed by Gen. Veach than it was by Hurlburt, who for weeks before his departure from the city was a daily spectacle of disgusting drunkenness.

There is no change in the town since I was here a few weeks since. It is as disagreeable, as muddy, as desolate, as Hebrew invested, as courtesan cursed, as blackleg-crowded as then.

It has the same abominable hotels, where dirt can be had in abundance at twenty-five to thirty dollars per week; the same swindling hackmen, the same crew of pimps, sharpers and pickpockets that then composed the principal portion of its male population.

An immense number of fugitive negroes, estimated at ten or twelve thousand, are in and about the city. They have come in from various parts of the South, and many are now in a fair way to starve unless some provision is made for them.—A large portion are children and old men and women, and these of course, are helpless. Much sickness has prevailed among them, and hundreds have died.

It is becoming a matter of grave consideration, says the Augusta Chronicle, how our railroads shall be kept up. The building of locomotives does not appear to be as difficult as the making of rails—nor does the procurement of other rolling stock. To an inexperienced mind, either the building of a locomotive or the founding of a cannon appears a much more difficult task. Yet we believe that the first iron rail has yet to be made in the South.—Cannot some of our ingenious mechanics, assisted by our millionaire capitalists, relieve us from the dangerous dilemma, without compelling resort to the temporary make-shop of taking up the iron from some roads to repair others?