

[HOUSE BILL, No. 242 ]

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, Dec. 1, 1864.—Read first and second times, made special order for Saturday morning, and ordered to be printed.

[By Mr. RUSSELL, from Judiciary Committee.]

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A BILL

To be entitled An Act to provide for sequestering the property of persons liable to military service, who have departed, or shall depart, from the Confederate States without permission.

1     SECTION 1. *The Congress of the Confederate States of America*  
2     *do enact*, That if any person shall voluntarily depart from the  
3     Confederate States without the permission of the President or  
4     of the General officer commanding the trans-Mississippi depart-  
5     ment, or of an officer by one of them authorized to grant such  
6     permission, and if such person, at the time of such departure,  
7     shall be liable to military service, according to the laws of the  
8     Confederate States, he shall, from the time of his departure, be  
9     treated, for the purposes of this act, as an alien enemy, and  
10    his property shall be liable to sequestration and sale in like  
11    manner as the property of other alien enemies. But all pro-  
12    ceedings, for the sequestration and sale of his property shall  
13    cease, and he shall cease to be treated as an alien enemy by

14 reason of such departure, if, during the present war, and before  
 14 a decree of sequestration shall be pronounced against his  
 15 property, he shall return and enter upon the performance  
 16 of military service, according to law. But this act shall not  
 17 apply to persons who, at the time of their departure, shall  
 18 *bona fide* reside within the lines of the enemy, or in a part of  
 19 the Confederacy in the military occupation of the enemy.

1 SEC. 2. If any person to whom the preceding section ap-  
 2 plies, shall voluntarily, and without such permission, go within  
 3 the military lines of the enemy, and remain there more than  
 4 sixty days, he shall be presumed to have departed from the Con-  
 5 federate States within the meaning of this act.

1 SEC. 3. If any person has heretofore voluntarily, and with-  
 2 out such permission, departed from the Confederate States, or  
 3 gone within the military lines of the enemy for the purpose  
 4 of avoiding military service, being, at the time, liable to mili-  
 5 tary service, according to law, or being now liable to military  
 6 service according to law, such person shall be also treated as  
 7 an alien enemy, and his property shall be liable to sequestra-  
 8 tion and sale according to all the preceding provisions, unless  
 9 such person shall return and enter upon military service  
 11 according to law, within six months after the passage of this  
 12 act.

1 SEC. 4. All grants, conveyances, sales, gifts and transfers

2 of property hereafter made by any person who shall be liable  
3 to military service, at the time of making the same, and whose  
4 property shall become liable to sequestration under this act, and  
5 all liens and incumbrances hereafter created on his property,  
6 when he is liable to military service, shall be void as against the  
7 claim of sequestration.

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The first of these is the fact that the  
British authorities have been unable to  
obtain any reliable information as to  
the whereabouts of the German submarines  
which are reported to be operating in  
the Atlantic. This is due to the fact  
that the German submarines are very  
careful to keep their movements secret  
and to avoid any contact with the  
British forces. The second of these  
factors is the fact that the British  
forces are not yet strong enough to  
be able to deal with the German  
submarine force. The third of these  
factors is the fact that the German  
submarine force is very well equipped  
and is able to operate for long periods  
of time without being detected. The  
fourth of these factors is the fact  
that the German submarine force is  
able to operate in the Atlantic for  
long periods of time without being  
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