

Collection  
21110  
1877

## AMENDMENT

To Senate Bill (S. 129) to provide for the employment of free negroes and slaves to work upon fortifications, and to perform other labor connected with the defenses of the country.

The Committee recommend the following amendments:

- 1 Strike out in the 5th, 6th and 7th lines, 2d Section, the words
- 2 "not to exceed thirty thousand in the States east of the Missis-
- 3 sippi river, and ten thousand in the States west of the Missis-
- 4 sippi river."
- 1 Insert in the 10th line 2d Section, after "upon," the words
- 2 "not to exceed eighteen dollars (\$18) per month."
- 1 Strike out in the 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th lines, Section 3d, the
- 2 words "not at any time to exceed thirty thousand in the States
- 3 east of the Mississippi river, and ten thousand in the States
- 4 west of the Mississippi river."
- 1 Strike out in the 4th Section, the words beginning with "but
- 2 when the slaves," in the 13th line, and ending with "states," in
- 3 19th line, and insert,
- 4 "But no such slaves shall be taken from any owner or estate
- 5 when one-half of the male slaves between the ages of eighteen
- 6 and forty-five, belong to such owner or estate, shall have ab-
- 7 scended to the enemy or been abducted by them."

1 Strike out the last proviso in the 4th Section, beginning with  
2 the 27th line, and insert :

3 "Provided, The Secretary of War shall be authorized to ex-  
4 empt from the operations of this Act, any county, parish or dis-  
5 trict, or parts thereof, in which he may be satisfied that the  
6 labor of the slaves therein is indispensable to the production of  
7 grain, and provisions for the support of soldiers' families and  
8 non-producers in such county, parish or district; and the Sec-  
9 retary of War may exempt from impressment, slaves necessa-  
10 rily employed on works of internal improvement of importance  
11 to the common defence. But nothing contained in this pro-  
12 viso to diminish the quota of slaves in any State authorized to  
13 be impressed under the provisions of this Act."

1 Insert after Section 4:

2 "SEC. 5. If any slave is now held for service who is not lia-  
3 ble thereto under the provisions of this Act, such slave shall be  
4 forthwith returned to the owner on demand and proof of the  
5 fact."

1 Insert after the last Section:

2 "SEC. 8. No slaves shall be hereafter impressed except in  
3 pursuance of the provisions of this Act, and any officer who  
4 may violate the provisions thereof, shall be court martialed  
5 and on conviction cashiered."