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A bill requirin
Conf Pam #270

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#270

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, January 20, 1865.—Read first and second times and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. March 2, 1865.—Reported back with amendment, laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

[By Mr. HERBERT.]

A BILL

Requiring suit to be brought against persons connected with the Cotton Bureau and Cotton Office in Texas.

1 WHEREAS, It is represented that certain persons conducting
2 or connected with the business of a cotton bureau and a cotton
3 office, so called in the State of Texas, claiming to act under au-
4 thority derived from this government, or from the general com-
5 manding the Trans-Mississippi Military Department, or from
6 some other officer of the government, have, by themselves or
7 their agents, purchased or obtained large amounts of cotton
8 under color of such authority, and by the use of the money, prop-
9 erty, transportation and name of the government: made great
10 gains, and have illegally exacted and procured from sundry per-
11 sons large amounts of cotton and large sums of money, by
12 threatening impressments, and by selling permits of exporta-
13 tion, and by other improper means :

1 *The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact,*
2 That it shall be the duty of the District Attorney of the Con-

3 federate States, for the western district of Texas, if it shall ap-
4 pear that a case has arisen to which the judicial power of the
5 Confederate States extends, to institute a suit or suits in the
6 Confederate District Court for that district against such parties
7 as he may deem proper, who have been connected with any
8 such business or transactions; which suit or suits may be in the
9 nature of an information in the name of the Attorney General,
10 or bill in equity in the name of the Confederate States, or any
11 other appropriate proceeding, either in behalf of the Confed-
12 erate States alone, or in behalf of the Confederate States and
13 such persons as shall come in and prove their claims in such
14 form and on such terms as the Court shall prescribe; and in
15 such suit or suits the Court shall render judgment or decree
16 against any parties who may appear to be liable, according to
17 the principles of law or equity, in favor of the Confederate
18 States or any party who shall come in as aforesaid, for all mon-
19 eys, property, profits and damages to which the Confederate
20 States or any party coming in as aforesaid, shall appear to be
21 entitled, by reason of any thing done or omitted in the transac-
22 tions, business or affairs of the said cotton bureau or cotton
23 office, or by any officer, agent or other person when acting by
24 virtue or under color or pretext of any authority claimed as
25 aforesaid, including all property and moneys illegally exacted,
26 obtained, received or detained, and all property, monyes, gains

27 and profits acquired, converted, appropriated or held contrary
28 to law or equity, whether in the name of the Confederate States
29 or of said cotton bureau or cotton office, or otherwise.

1 Sec. 2. Neither this Act nor any suit brought in pursuance of
2 it shall (except as to claims adjudicated or pending for adjudi-
3 cation in any such suit) preclude any party from bringing any
4 other suit or action.

1 Sec. 3. The District Attorney for prosecuting any suit here-
2 by authorized to be brought, shall be entitled to a commission
3 of per centum of the money recovered therein
4 and collected for the Confederate States.

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