

[HOUSE BILL, No. 25.]

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, May 4, 1864 — Read first and second times, referred to the Committee of Ways and Means, and ordered to be printed.

[By Mr. PERKINS.]

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## A BILL

To be entitled An Act to establish a bureau of foreign supplies in the War Department, with an agency in the trans-Mississippi Department.

1 SECTION 1. *The Congress of the Confederate States of America do*  
2 *enact*, That for the purpose of exporting cotton and other  
3 produce to supply, by imports, the military and other necessities  
4 of the Government during the continuance of the war with the  
5 United States, an independent bureau of the War Department  
6 be established, to be entitled the bureau of foreign supplies.

1 SEC. 2. That the said bureau shall be charged with the  
2 purchase of cotton and other produce for export, and with the  
3 sale of the same, and with all the duties and expenditures  
4 connected with the purchase and import of munitions of war and  
5 such other supplies as may be required by the several depart-  
6 ments of the Government.

1 SEC. 3. That all steamers now owned by any of the depart-

2 ments of the Government, and used to supply their necessities  
3 from abroad, may be continued in that use, but shall be turned  
4 over to the Navy Department, to be officered, manned, equipped  
5 and sailed under direction of the Secretary of the Navy.

1     Sec. 4. That the chief of this bureau shall, under the  
2 Secretary of War, have full power to purchase and contract for  
3 such vessels and steamers, to be owned wholly or in part by the  
4 Government, as may be necessary for the discharge of the duties  
5 imposed upon the bureau, and to obtain the general objects of its  
6 establishment as set forth in the first section of this act: *Provided*,  
7 That in the purchase of such vessels, the chief of said bureau  
8 shall be guided by an officer of the navy, to be designated by the  
9 Secretary of the Navy, and that all vessels in which the Govern-  
10 ment has a controlling interest may be delivered to the Secretary  
11 of the Navy, to be officered, manned, equipped and sailed under  
12 his direction

1     Sec. 5. That all permits or licenses for the exportation of  
2 cotton or other domestic produce on private account that may be  
3 authorized by the acts of Congress, entitled "An act to impose  
4 regulations upon the foreign commerce of the Confederate States,  
5 and to provide for the public defence," shall be issued from this  
6 bureau under such regulations as may be prescribed in the said  
7 act, or under any authority granted therein to the President, the  
8 Secretary of War or other department, and under such conditions

10 as may be effectual to secure the fulfillment of the objects of the  
11 present act: *Provided*, That nothing in the present act shall be  
12 construed to affect the export of any cotton or other produce  
13 under the control of the treasury or other department, to secure  
14 any of the bonds or obligations of the Confederate States.

1 Sec. 6. That the said bureau shall cause to be paid into the  
2 treasury all monies that may accrue from the sales of cotton or  
3 other produce that may be disposed of under its authority, and  
4 that the proceeds shall be apportioned among the several  
5 departments, under instructions of the President, and be drawn  
6 for as in other cases of appropriations.

1 Sec. 7. That the said bureau shall consist of one colonel and  
2 one lieutenant colonel, with the pay and allowances of officers of  
3 artillery of the same grades, and such inferior officers as may be  
4 assigned to that duty, with such agents and clerks as may be  
5 deemed necessary by the President, whose compensation shall  
6 be fixed by the Secretary of War.

1 Sec. 8. That the chief of said bureau may appoint suitable  
2 purchasing agents of known integrity and business capacity,  
3 who shall be charged with the purchase of cotton and other  
4 produce, and the transportation of the same to points for ship-  
5 ment under regulations to be prescribed by the chief of said  
6 bureau, under the approval of the President and Secretary of  
7 War. Each of said agents shall, before entering upon his

8 duties, give bond, with good and sufficient security, to be  
 9 approved by chief of said bureau, conditioned for the faithful  
 10 performance of his duty, and shall also take and subscribe an  
 11 oath, before some officer authorized by law to administer the  
 12 same, that he will not, directly or indirectly, be engaged in the  
 13 purchase or sale on private account, for himself or any other  
 14 person, of any cotton or other produce appertaining to his said  
 15 agency, while so employed as agent of the Government.

1     Sec. 9. That any officer or agent connected with said bureau  
 2 who shall be guilty of buying or selling, directly or indirectly,  
 3 on private account, for himself or any other person, any cotton  
 4 or other produce, of which said bureau is charged with the  
 5 purchase, shall, upon conviction before any court of the Con-  
 6 federate States, having jurisdiction, be fined by the court in a  
 7 sum not exceeding   dollars, and be imprisoned  
 8 for a term not less than   nor more than  
 9 years.

1     Sec. 10. That there shall be established an agency of said  
 2 bureau, and auxiliary thereto, for the States west of the Missis-  
 3 sippi river, the officers of which shall consist of one lieutenant  
 4 colonel of artillery and such inferior officers as may be assigned  
 5 to that duty, with such agents as may be deemed necessary by  
 6 the President, whose compensation shall be fixed by the Secre-  
 7 tary of War. Said agency shall establish its office at such place

8 in the States west of the Mississippi as may be selected by the  
9 chief officer thereof, and shall be charged with the purchase and  
10 exportation of cotton and other produce, and the importation of  
11 munitions of war and other supplies for the army of the  
12 trans-Mississippi department, and such other supplies as may be  
13 needed by the Government, or any of its departments, in said  
14 military department.

1     Sec. 11. Such agency, and the chief officer thereof, shall  
2 possess like power and duties for the States west of the Missis-  
3 sippi river, as are conferred by this act upon said bureau and the  
4 chief officer thereof, but subordinate and subject to said bureau.

1     Sec. 12. That the purchasing agents west of the Mississippi river  
2 shall take the oath and give bond as provided in the eighth sec-  
3 tion of this act; and the officers and agents shall be subject to  
4 the penalties prescribed by the ninth section, if found guilty of  
5 the offences specified therein.

1     Sec. 13. That the said agency shall have power to establish  
2 such interior depots for the receipt of cotton and other produce,  
3 intended for exportation into or through Mexico, as may be  
4 deemed necessary and proper, and may also prescribe rules and  
5 regulations for granting permits to individuals to transport  
6 cotton or other produce to said depots, as well as seaports, and  
7 may impose such terms and conditions, beneficial to the Govern-

8 ment, as a consideration for such permits, as may be deemed just  
9 and proper.

1     **Sec. 14.** That the business of the cotton bureau established  
2 under a special order of Lieutenant General E. Kirby Smith,  
3 commanding the trans-Mississippi department, be, and the same  
4 is hereby, transferred to the said agency of said bureau west of  
5 the Mississippi river, and the operations and transactions of  
6 said bureau, established as aforesaid, not inconsistent with the  
7 provisions of this act, are hereby ratified and confirmed.

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