SENATE, FEB. 16, 1865.—Laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT.

RICHMOND, VA., Feb. 15, 1865.

To the Senate of the Confederate States:

In partial response to your resolution of the 24th ultimo, I herewith transmit communications from the Secretary of the Navy and the Postmaster General, relative to the number of white men between the ages of 18 and 45, and of negroes, whose services are necessary to their respective Departments.

The Secretary of War has been called on to furnish reports on this subject from the several bureaux specified in your resolution; which will be transmitted when received.

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

COMMUNICATION FROM SECRETARY OF THE NAVY.

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA,
NAVY DEPARTMENT,
Richmond, Feb. 7, 1865.

To the President:

SIR:

In response to the second clause of the following resolution of the Senate, referred by you to this Department for attention—

"Resolved, That the President of the Confederate States of America be respectfully requested to furnish the Senate—

First—With information as to the number of white men between the ages of eighteen and forty-five, and of the number of negroes, who, in addition to their own officers, may be required for the necessary employments and proper discharge of the functions of the Departments of Medicine, of the Commissary General, of the Quartermaster General, of the Engineer, of the Ordnance, and of the Nitre and Mining Bureaux.

Secondly—A like estimate as to the Post Office and Navy Departments.

Thirdly—A like estimate in regard to the rail road transportation of the country, including not only the working, but the equipment, repairs and construction, in his consideration of the number required for such transportation.

Fourthly—To specify the rail roads, if there be any such, whose repairs and construction, in his opinion, will be necessary for military purposes, and ought to be effected, in whole or in part, by appropriations from the confederate treasury"—

I have the honor to submit the accompanying statements of the number of white men, artisans, experts, &c. between the ages of eighteen and forty-five, and of the number of negroes "required for the necessary employments and the proper discharge of the functions of the Departments" of construction and repairs of vessels, boats, &c.; of construction and repairs of steam machinery; of ordnance; of medicine, and of provisions and clothing:

For the Construction and Repairs of Vessels at all Points within the Confederate States.

	White Men between 18 and 45.	Negroes.
Virginia, - - - -	100	120
North Carolina, - - -	75	50
South Carolina, - - -	50	30
Georgia, - - - -	25	20
Alabama, - - - -	80	60
	330	280

For the Construction and Repairs of Steam Machinery.

	White Men between 18 and 45.	Negroes.
Richmond, - - - -	48	43
Columbus, Ga. - - -	95	93
	143	136

ORDNANCE.

	White Men between 18 and 45.	Negroes.
Virginia, - - - -	115	42
North Carolina, - - -	198	139
Alabama, - - - -	150	300
South Carolina, - - -	20	30
Private establishments employed on ordnance work, - - -	49	30
	532	541

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Medical Department.

In Hospitals, at Batteries, on Ship Board, and in the Medical Purveyor's Department.

White men between 18 and 45, - - - -	52
Negroes, - - - - - - - -	56

Department of Provisions and Clothing.

White men between 18 and 45, - - - -	25
Negroes, - - - - - - - -	130

Recapitulation.

	White Men between 18 and 45.	Negroes.
Construction and repairs of vessels,	330	280
Construction and repairs of steam machinery, - - -	143	136
Ordnance, - - -	532	541
Medical Department, - -	52	56
Provisions and clothing, - -	25	130
	1082	1143

The force of mechanics required by this Department will depend much upon the movements of the enemy.

If our works shall be exempt from interruption, a much larger force than estimated for can be very usefully employed. All our white mechanics and workmen are under military organization, armed and equipped for service, and are frequently called into active service.

With great respect,

Your obedient servant,

S. R. MALLORY,
Secretary of the Navy.

COMMUNICATION FROM POSTMASTER GENERAL.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
Richmond, Va., Feb. 8, 1865.

To the President:

SIR:

In answer to your Excellency's reference of so much of the Senate's resolution of January 24th, as applies to the Post Office Department, which is as follows, to wit:

"Resolved, That the President of the Confederate States of America be respectfully requested to furnish the Senate—

First—With information as to the number of white men between the ages of eighteen and forty-five, and of the number of negroes, who, in addition to their own officers, may be required for the necessary employments and the proper discharge of the functions of the * * * * Post Office and Navy Departments"—

I have the honor to say, that this Department has no means of making an explicit answer to the enquiry submitted, by reason of the fact that, though contractors for carrying the mails on routes over ten miles in length, and the necessary drivers of post coaches and hacks, are exempted from the performance of military duty by the act of April 14th, 1863, the number of persons actually exempted, as will be seen from the facts herein after to be stated, does not correspond with the number which might be exempted under the law.

As the nearest approximation to an answer in relation to contractors and drivers, which the Department is enabled to give, I submit the following table, which shows the number of routes under contract east of the Mississippi river; the number of routes discontinued; the number under ten miles in length, on which no exemptions are allowed; the number of routes which have been transferred from the original contractors, on which exemptions are not allowed; and the number of routes let to persons who are contractors on other routes, and are only entitled to exemption on one route—with a column showing the total number of routes on which no exemptions can be allowed, and another showing the total number of routes on which exemptions might be made, given by States and in the aggregate:

STATES.	Total No. of Routes under contract	No. of Routes Discontinued.	No. of Routes under 10 miles in length.	No. of Transferred Routes.	No. of Routes let to Contractors having more than one route	Total No. of Routes which do not exempt Contractors.	Total No. of Routes on which Contractors might be exempted.
Virginia,	253	–	19	6	19	44	209
North Carolina,	298	1	8	15	10	34	264
South Carolina,	124	1	5	17	18	41	83
Georgia,	184	–	12	8	23	43	141
Florida,	36	–	2	–	–	2	34
Alabama,	175	–	5	16	33	54	121
Mississippi,	139	–	3	4	51	58	81
TOTALS,	1209	2	54	66	154	276	933

With this table, I submit the following copy of a communication from the Bureau of Conscription, showing the number of persons now actually exempted as mail contractors and as drivers of post coaches and hacks:

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA,
WAR DEPARTMENT,
BUREAU OF CONSCRIPTION,
Richmond, Va., Feb. 3, 1865.

HON. JOHN H. REAGAN, *Postmaster General:*

SIR:

I have the honor, in the absence of Brig. Gen. Preston, to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of this date, requesting to be informed of the number of mail contractors and drivers exempted, and I enclose herewith, a tabulated statement conveying the information desired.

I am, sir, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) C. B. DUFFIELD,
A. A. G. & Acting Supt.

Number of Persons Exempted as Mail Contractors, Drivers of Post Coaches and Hacks.

	Mail Contractors.	Drivers.	Total.
Virginia. - - - -	138	72	210
North Carolina, - - -	99	47	146
South Carolina, - - -	47	10	57
Georgia, - - - -	106	11	117
Mississippi, - - - -	29	–	29
Alabama, - - - -	46	19	65
Florida. - - - -	8	1	9
East Louisiana, - - -	2	–	2
East Tennessee, - - -	2	–	2
TOTALS, -	477	160	637

There are in this Department twenty clerks and one messenger between the ages of eighteen and forty-five years. Of this number, eight have been wounded and so disabled in battle as to be rendered unfit for military duty, and have been discharged, or otherwise honorably retired from the military service. Seven have been declared unfit for military duty by the proper military authorities, in consequence of permanent physical disability; and six would be able to perform military duty, but have been detailed, by the proper military authorities, at the request of the Postmaster General, on account of their long experience and special skill in the performance of their

respective duties in this Department. The remainder of the clerks of this Department are men over fifty years of age, and women.

There are in the Post Office of this city thirty-four clerks. Of these, fifteen are women; four are unfit for military duty, and recommended by the military board for light duty; four are under the age of eighteen, and two are over the age of forty-five, leaving only nine clerks fit for active service in the field. These are all experienced clerks, whose places cannot be supplied, and who are absolutely necessary to the proper management of the office.

Those clerks in the Richmond Post Office, who are between the ages of eighteen and forty-five, have been detailed, upon application by the Postmaster General, made in pursuance of General Orders, No. 77, of the Adjutant and Inspector General's office, on the ground of their services being "absolutely indispensable." Similar applications have been made for the detail of certain clerks, between those ages, in the larger post offices in the States east of the Mississippi river, who have been certified by the postmasters to be experts, and necessary to the efficiency of their offices. The Department is not aware whether all of these details have been granted, nor has it any means of knowing how many of those for whom they have been asked, are able-bodied men, or how many are unfit for military duty. Care has been taken, however, in applying for these details, to limit them to the smallest number consistent with the efficient management of the important interests connected with the distribution and delivery of the mails in the larger post offices.

The following is a statement of the number of clerks, for whose details application has been made by this Department, and of the post offices in which they are employed, viz:

Virginia.—In the Post Office at Lynchburg, one clerk. In the Post Office at Petersburg, two clerks.

North Carolina.—Fayetteville, one clerk; Raleigh, two clerks; and Wilmington, three clerks.

South Carolina.—Charleston, two clerks; Columbia, three clerks.

Georgia.—Columbus, one clerk; Macon, one clerk; and Augusta, six clerks.

Alabama.—Mobile, one clerk; and Montgomery, one clerk.

Mississippi.—For the Post Office at Jackson, one clerk; and at Brandon, one clerk.

Application has also been made, under General Orders, No. 77, above referred to, for the details of the route agents of this Department, between the ages of eighteen and forty-five, engaged in its service on certain rail roads in the States herein after to be named. It is probable, although the Department has no knowledge of the fact in all cases, that all of these details have been made by the proper military authorities. Upon the faithful discharge of the duties entrusted to these officers, depend greatly the efficient distribution and delivery of the mails along the most important rail road lines in the country; and it is necessary, in addition to intelligence and business qualifications, that they should be, as far as practicable, skilled and experienced in those duties. It may be well to add, that many

of them are old and reliable agents, who have been in the employment of this and the old government for many years. No route agents have been appointed since the passage of the first law of conscription, except such as have been found for light duty by competent boards, or who have been able to present satisfactory evidence that they were unfit for active service in the field.

The number of route agents, whose details have been asked for by this Department, is as follows, viz:

For Virginia, 10; for North Carolina, 9; for South Carolina, 2; for Georgia, 15—Total 36.

Recapitulation.

No. of employees of Post Office Department proper, whose details have been applied for under General Orders, No. 77, A. & I. G. O., twenty clerks and one messenger, -	21
No. of clerks in larger post offices, - - -	39
No. of route agents, - - - - -	36
	96
From this total of 96 must be taken fifteen clerks in this Department, who have been declared by the military boards unfit for military duty, by reason of wounds, disability, &c., and four clerks in the Richmond Post Office—making in all, - - - - - - -	19
Leaving number of men detailed, as above stated, who may be, so far as is known to this Department, liable to military service, - - - - - - -	77

This number would doubtless be materially decreased, for the reasons already given, if the Department were in possession of such accurate information with regard to the liability of these parties, as it would be proper to embody in a report of this kind.

I also submit the following extracts from the report of Dr. James H. Starr, Agent of the Post Office Department for the States west of the Mississippi river, as the only approximation to the information called for by the resolution, which it is in my power to give, as to the country beyond the Mississippi. And I beg to call especial attention to it, as showing the indispensable necessity of preserving the exemption from military duty to contractors for carrying the mails there, as the only means of keeping in operation the postal service. The mails on the great trunk routes west of the Mississippi are carried mainly in post coaches and hacks, and not on rail roads, as on this side of that river. I need not call attention to the calamitous consequences which would necessarily flow from depriving a people, so remote from the capital, of the means of postal communication.

Extract from the Report of James H. Starr, Agent of the Post Office Department, Trans-Mississippi, to the Postmaster General, October 31st, 1864.

"Prior to the organization of the Agency, the occupation by the enemy of a portion of the States west of the Mississippi river, and the devastating effects of their various expeditions into the interior, had broken up mail communications in large portions of Arkansas and Louisiana and a small part of Texas, resulting in the suspension of service on about 115 of 138 of the routes in the State of Arkansas; on about 150 of the 170 routes in the State of Louisiana; and about 42 of the 213 routes in the State of Texas. Some portion of these results were attributable to the want of forage in the vicinity of our own armies, and the presence of banditti near the enemy's lines, and in sparsely populated and unprotected localities.

"In addition to these facts, and owing to the embarrassing interruption of mail communication with the Department at Richmond, which has existed from the time when the enemy obtained possession of the Mississippi river, and consequent inability of the Department to obtain evidence upon which the accounts of contractors could be adjusted and the amounts due to them paid, many contractors, in regions not molested by the enemy, had been compelled, for want of means, to abandon their undertakings; and others, who were not dependent upon mail contracts for exemption from military conscription, finding that the reduced value of the currency rendered their contracts unprofitable, availed themselves of the excuse furnished by the failure of the Department to pay them at the periods stipulated, to abandon their routes.

"Thus had the mail transportation west of the Mississippi been reduced to a most serious extent."

* * * * * *

"It will be observed that but little was done in Arkansas and Louisiana in restoring mail transportation during the quarter. This results partly from the fact that the proximity of the enemy had caused many contractors to remove with their property and means of transportation farther into the interior, and partly from the scarcity of forage and supplies occasioned by the presence of our own armies."

* * * * * *

"I will remark, however, that the success of the Agency, in renewing and continuing mail service, except upon a few prominent stage lines, depends entirely upon the exemption from military service which the law secures to mail contractors. Without this exemption during this period of depreciated currency and great scarcity of horses, mules and carriages suitable for mail transportation, and the uncertainty, and in some regions, constant scarcity of provisions and forage, any efforts to furnish mail facilities would prove unavailing."

I will add, that it is not probable any contract for carrying the

mail east or west of the Mississippi, other than on rail roads, on which exemptions are allowed for other reasons, can now be made, which does not involve exemption from military duty. And this applies equally to the mail messenger service, by which the mails are carried between post offices and rail road depots, and without which they cannot be carried even on the rail roads.

This response to the resolution of the Senate has been delayed, on account of the amount of labor which the ascertainment of the facts presented involved.

With great respect,

Your Excellency's obed't serv't,

JOHN H. REAGAN,
Postmaster General.

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