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## INSTRUCTIONS TO DISTRICT AND COUNTY AGENTS.

PRODUCE LOAN OFFICE, COLUMBUS, MISS., APRIL 4, 1864.

SIR:

You are requested to examine carefully into the condition of Government Cottons in your County, a list of which is enclosed, and report to this office the facts.

Should the cotton be found inscenrely sheltered or otherwise neglected or in bad condition, it is expected that you will notify the parties having charge of it to give the same immediate attention, under their contract to "take due and proper care of the cotton."

Should the said parties after reasonable notice, not take the necessary steps for the preservation of the cotton, you are empowered to have the matter attended to at the expense of the Government, and your duplicate vouchers will be paid by me. In such cases the parties will be held liable for the cost, except under circumstances of a very peculiar character.

What the Government expects is, that its cotton shall be sheltered from the weather and from eattle, and where the bagging or rope have been removed by unauthorized parties or depredators, that the party in charge of it shall replace the same with boards and hoops, and where buildings are injured cause them to be repaired.

Agents are requested to ascertain and report all the facts connected with alledged loss of cotton from fire or any other cause, and in rebaling will use boards and hoops.

In cases where cotton is left upon abandoned estates, the Agent will, if no arrangement can be made to place it in charge of some neighbor, cause the cotton to be removed to a secure location, taking the receipt of a responsible party who will undertake its custody.

Agents will report to me at least twice a month in detail.

J. D. B. DEBOW, Gen'l Agent Produce-Loan Cohy of Report

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