

[HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.]

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, June 7th, 1864.—Ordered to be printed.

MR. SIMPSON'S AMENDMENT TO IMPRESSMENT BILL.

A BILL

To provide for furnishing domestic supplies to the Government.

1 SECTION 1. *The Congress of the Confederate States of America*
2 *do enact*, That private property shall not be impressed for the
3 public use, except as hereinafter provided, and in all other cases
4 the Government shall be furnished with all necessary supplies
5 by purchase; and for this purpose there shall be established in
6 each State a department known as the Purchasing Department.
7 This department in each State shall consist of one chief officer,
8 with the pay and allowances of a major of infantry, with as many
9 subordinate officers as may be necessary, not, however, exceeding
10 one for each county or district, with the pay and allowances of a
11 captain of infantry; and as many clerks and agents as the neces-
12 sities of the department may require, with the pay and allow-
13 ances of privates of infantry, with commutation of quarters.

1 SEC. 2. The officers in this department shall be over the age
2 of forty-five years; shall be resident freeholders of the district
3 or county for which they may be appointed, with the exception
4 of the chief officer who shall be a resident freeholder of the
5 State and they shall be appointed by the Secretary of War. The
6 clerks and agents shall be appointed by the subordinate officers,
7 with the concurrence of the chief officer in each State, and shall
8 be appointed from those who are either over conscript age, or
9 have been declared by a medical board as unfit for field service.

1 SEC. 3. These departments shall be authorized and charged
2 with the duty of purchasing at the gold value thereof, from pro-
3 ducers, the *entire* surplus, in each State, of all such articles as
4 may be needed by the Government—under instructions from the
5 Quartermaster and Commissary Generals—to be paid for in cer-
6 tificates, which, upon their face the Government shall promise to
7 redeem in gold, six months after the ratification of peace; and
8 which certificates shall be receivable in payment of all public
9 dues, at a gold standard, compared with treasury notes; and
10 these departments shall be authorized, under rules to be pre-
11 scribed by the Secretary of War, to resell to the families of sol-
12 diers and to all other persons desiring to purchase for their own
13 consumption, so much of the produce purchased by them as the
14 Government may need for its own use, at original cost, with a
15 sufficient per cent. added to cover waste—to be paid for in the

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16 certificates aforesaid, or in treasury notes, at the market value of
17 the property, therein,

18 SEC. 4. That each officer appointed under this act, shall, be-
19 fore entering upon his duties, give bond with good and sufficient
20 security, conditioned for the faithful performance of his duty,
21 and that he will not, directly or indirectly, be engaged in the
22 purchase or sale, on private account, either for himself or any
23 other person, of any articles of the character to be purchased by
24 him on Government account.

25 SEC. 5. That any officer or agent connected with said depart-
26 ment who shall be guilty of violating the requirements set forth
27 in the previous section, except such as may be authorized to
28 purchase for their own consumption—as other citizens—in
29 addition to being liable on their bond shall, upon conviction
30 before any court of the Confederate States having competent
31 jurisdiction, be fined by said court in a sum not exceeding
32 dollars, and be imprisoned for a term of years
33 not less than years, nor more than years.

34 SEC. 6. These departments shall be authorized to impress all
35 supplies of food or forage, or other products which the Govern-
36 ment may require, in the following cases, viz:

- 37 First. In all cases where such articles are in second hands,
- 38 and held for resale and not for consumption. Second. In all cases
- 39 of surplus in the hands of producers, where the holder and the

7 Government agent or officers cannot agree as to the gold price—
8 or where, from any other course, the holders refuses to sell to
9 the Government—and in such cases the question of surplus and
10 price, which shall be estimated at the gold standard, shall be
11 determined by three disinterested free-holders of the vicinage,
12 to be chosen one by the producer, one by the officer, and the
13 third by these two, who shall act under oath to do justice both
14 to the Government and to the producer; and thirdly. In all cases
15 where the necessities of the army, or any portion of it, may
16 require a more prompt and speedy supply than can be furnished
17 by purchase—which necessity shall be determined by the general
18 commanding the department—and when so required, under special
19 orders from the general commanding the department, particu-
20 larly describing what articles are urgently needed. The chief
21 officer in each State, either through himself or by his county
22 and district officers, may impress such articles as may thus be
23 required, but in every such case a sufficient supply for the sup-
24 port of the holder and his family, and to carry on his ordinary
25 avocation, shall be left, and the gold value shall be paid in the
26 certificates aforesaid; said price, and what is sufficient for family
27 support, to be determined by the appraisers aforesaid, as in
28 section above.

1 Sec. 7. The Secretary of the Treasury shall be authorized to
2 issue certificates herein required to be used in the purchase of
3 property to the amount of _____ millions,
4 of such denominations and with such authentications as may be
5 necessary, and he shall not be authorized to issue treasury notes,
6 except to the amount of one hundred millions, until the meeting
7 of the next Congress.