

ADJUTANT AND INSPECTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
Richmond, June 16, 1863.

GENERAL ORDERS, }  
No. 85. }

I. The following Act of Congress, and the Regulations adopted by the Department in pursuance thereof, are published for the information of all concerned:

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A NITRE AND MINING BUREAU.

“SECT. 1. *The Congress of the Confederate States do enact*, That the officers authorized and appointed under the act entitled an act for the organization of a corps of officers for the working of nitre caves, &c., passed April 11, 1862, together with such additional officers as are authorized by the provisions of this act, shall constitute an independent bureau of the War Department, to be entitled ‘The Nitre and Mining Bureau.’

SEC. 2. *Be it further enacted*, That said bureau shall have charge of all the duties prescribed in the second section of said act, and shall besides be charged with all duties and expenditures connected with the mining of iron, copper, lead, coal, &c., so far as it shall be deemed necessary to supply the military necessities of the country; and the superintendent thereof shall, under the Secretary of War, have full power to make such leases of real estate and purchases of fixtures as are necessary or appurtenant to any mines it may be deemed expedient to open or work on government account; and may also contract, subject to the approval of the Secretary of War, for such supplies, by purchase or otherwise, of all copper, lead, iron, coal, zinc, and such other minerals as may be required for the prosecution of the war.

SEC. 3. *Be it further enacted*, That said bureau shall consist of one Lieutenant Colonel as superintendent; three Majors as assistant superintendents; six Captains and ten Lieutenants, in which shall be included the officers of the present nitre corps, who shall have the same pay and allowances prescribed for officers of cavalry of the same grades.” [Approved April 22, 1863.]

II. The Secretary of War is of opinion that it is necessary to accumulate supplies of iron, in the various military departments, for the repair of rail roads, the manufacture of arms, munitions and materials of war, and for the operations of the quartermaster's, ordnance and engineer de-

partments, and that experience has shown that the necessary supply cannot be obtained by purchase. Impressment, therefore, according to the act of Congress relating to impressments, has become necessary to secure a supply. It is ordered that all impressments that may be made of iron for this purpose, shall be conducted by the chiefs of the quartermaster's, ordnance, engineer and nitre and mining bureaux, or by officers designated by them, who shall in every instance communicate to the owner the necessity that exists for the use of the property, the disposition of the officers to purchase the same, and an offer to purchase it at a price to be ascertained, in accordance with the act relating to impressments, if the parties cannot agree upon the same.

III. And whereas the existing necessity for iron in the departments aforesaid, and for the good of the public service is such, that all practicable measures must be taken to secure an adequate supply, it is further ordered, that whenever it may become necessary to secure the full product of any mine or manufactory, that the same shall be worked for the sole benefit of the government of the Confederate States. It shall be competent to the chief of either of the departments aforesaid to lease or purchase the same; and in case that the lease or purchase is impracticable, then they are authorized to impress the same for the use of the Confederate States during the war, or while such necessity shall continue.

IV. That proceedings under these orders will be conducted under the 4th section of the act concerning impressments, and in pursuance of the directions contained in paragraph I.

By order.

S. COOPER,  
*Adjutant and Inspector General.*