

ADJUTANT AND INSPECTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Richmond, Dec. 10, 1863.

GENERAL ORDERS, }
No. 161. }

The following Order is published as an amendment of the Regulations in respect to Impressments, as a substitute for paragraph II, section 5, General Orders, No. 37, current series. All officers and agents who have been or shall be empowered to make impressments, shall conform to the provisions of this Order, in respect to impressments hereafter to be made, and also in cases where the property may have been heretofore taken, and the price has not been fully adjusted:

In the event of the refusal by the owner, his bailee, or other agent, of the price offered, the impressing officer shall proceed to settle the compensation to be paid, according to the first section of the act of March 26th, 1863, if the property impressed belongs to an owner who has grown, raised or produced the same, or who holds or has purchased the same for his own use or consumption. But if the property impressed has not been grown, raised or produced by the owner, nor been purchased for his own use or consumption, it shall be the duty of the impressing officer to offer the price fixed by the commissioners, who may be appointed under the 5th section of the act of congress of the 26th March 1863, to regulate impressments; and if the owner shall object to receive the said price, as not being a just compensation, it shall be the duty of the impressing officer to cause the value to be ascertained by the appointment of a board similar to that designated in the first section of the act aforesaid; that is, by the judgment of two loyal and disinterested citizens of the county or parish in which such impressments may be made—one to be selected by the owner, and one by the impressing officer—and in the event of their disagreement, these two shall choose an umpire of like qualification. The persons thus selected shall proceed to assess just compensation for the property so impressed, whether the absolute ownership or the temporary use thereof only is required: provided, however, if the impressing officer in any of the cases mentioned shall believe that the appraisement is fair or just, he shall endorse upon it his approval; and the property in the object impressed shall thereupon be vested in the Confederate States; but if he does not approve the appraisement as aforesaid, he shall endorse upon the appraisement his objection thereto, and deliver the same, with a

receipt for the property impressed, to the owner, his bailee, agent or attorney, and as soon as practicable, forward a copy of the receipt and appraisal, and his endorsement thereon, to the board of appraisers, appointed by the president and governor of the state, who shall revise the same, and make a final valuation, so as to give just compensation for the property taken; which valuation shall be paid by the proper department for the use of which the property was taken, on the certificate of the appraisers as provided in the acts of congress on the subject.

By order.

S. COOPER,
Adjutant and Inspector General.