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AN ACT

To provide for the production, distribution and sale of Salt in this Commonwealth, passed October 1st, 1862.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly, That the Governor of this Commonwealth may adopt every such measure and do every such act as in his judgment may be necessary and proper to be done in order to secure the possession, production, or distribution to convenient places, of such quantity of salt as will in his judgment be sufficient to supply the people of this Commonwealth: And to that end may bind the faith of the Commonwealth for the performance of such contracts and engagements as he may determine to be necessary and proper, and may exercise full authority and control over the property and franchises of any person, firm or company in this Commonwealth, whenever he shall judge it to be necessary and proper to exercise the same in order to secure the possession, production, or distribution of the quantity of salt aforesaid, provided that nothing herein contained shall be construed to authorize the purchase of the Smyth and Washington or Kanawha Salt Works, or any freehold interest therein.

2. If, in the opinion of the Governor, in order to obtain a speedy and sufficient supply of salt, it shall be expedient to do so, he may seize, take possession of and hold and exercise full authority and control over the property, real and personal, of any person, firm, or company, and any engines, machinery or fixtures and other property or things necessary for the production of salt in the Commonwealth whenever he shall judge it to be necessary to exercise the power hereby conferred, in order to secure the production and distribution of the quantity of salt aforesaid.

3. If, by the exercise of the power conferred by the 2d section of this act, any property should be taken in relation to which there may be existing contracts with the Confederate States or any of the States of the Confederate States, or with any county, city or town in this Commonwealth entered into by virtue of an act of the General Assembly, entitled, "An act to authorize the County Courts to purchase and distribute salt among the people and provide payment for the same," passed May 9, 1862, or any contract with individuals for the benefit of any county, city or town, under the act aforesaid; Provided that such contracts with and for said counties, shall not be respected for a larger amount of salt than the twenty pounds for each inhabitant proposed by the lessees to be furnished in the proposition on which said act was founded, the same shall be respected and the supply of salt or salt water so contracted for shall be furnished. If a sufficient supply of salt water cannot be obtained at the wells now producing salt water for the production of a sufficient supply of salt for the people of the State, or cannot be promptly obtained from new wells, then the Governor is empowered to disregard in whole, or in part, such contracts with the States of the Confederate States; but if a surplus of water may exist, then the Governor is directed to furnish to the other States of the Confederate States out of any supplies of salt water that may remain after the supply of a sufficient quantity to the State of Virginia; Provided, that nothing in this act shall be so construed, as to authorize the Governor to prevent the owners of salt property or their assignees from manufacturing and selling salt water, or fossil salt remaining after all the uses of the State, under the provisions of this act, are supplied.

4. The Governor may take control of any railroad or canal in this State, if necessary for the transportation of salt for distribution, or for the transportation of fuel or other things necessary for the production of salt; but the power conferred by this section shall not be so exercised as to interfere with the transportation of troops, munitions of war and army supplies by the Confederate Government.

5. The Governor shall designate places in the Commonwealth from which the sale and distribution of such salt may be made to citizens of this Commonwealth and prescribe rules and regulations for the sale of the same and the prices at which it shall be sold.—When such prices shall be so prescribed and published for two weeks in some newspaper published in the City of Richmond, the sale of such salt at any higher price than the price so prescribed, shall be a misdemeanor, and the sale of each bushel or any part of a bushel thereof at a rate higher than the price so prescribed shall be a separate offence. Any violation of the rule and regulations so prescribed shall be a misdemeanor. Upon conviction of any person under this act he shall pay a fine of not less than one hundred nor more than two thousand dollars.

6. If the Governor shall find it necessary to employ Agents to receive money for the sales of salt, he shall require them to give bond, with such penalty as the Governor may require, with good security to be approved by the Governor, payable to the Commonwealth, with condition to pay all money received from the sale of salt into the Treasury to the credit of the Commonwealth, at the end of each month.

7. The sum of five hundred thousand dollars is hereby appropriated to be paid out of the Treasury, upon warrant to be issued by the Auditor of Public Accounts upon the orders of the Governor in writing, to be given only in payment of liabilities incurred for the purposes of this Act.

8. For the use of any of the property real or personal, which may be used, occupied, possessed or controlled by the Governor, a board of assessors, to be composed of five persons not members of the General Assembly, who shall be appointed by a joint vote of the two Houses, a majority of whom may act and shall concur, shall assess reasonable compensation and damages, which shall be paid upon a written order of the Governor upon a written assessment, to be signed by a majority of the members of the board, with their affidavits that such assessment is, in the opinion of the board, reasonable and just. Such assessment shall be delivered to the Governor to be filed by him in the office of the Secretary of State; and a copy thereof shall be forwarded by the Secretary to the person, firm or company who may be entitled to the compensation or damages, and unless such person, firm or company shall, within thirty days after such copy shall be delivered to them, refuse by written objections to accept the same, such assessment shall be deemed to be final. If the Governor, on behalf of the State, or if any such person, firm or company shall within thirty days after such assessment shall have been so filed with the Secretary of the Commonwealth, file such written objections with the Secretary of the Commonwealth, and in the office of the Circuit Court in the city of Richmond, an appeal shall lie from such assessment to the said Circuit Court, and the proceedings thereon in said court shall be according to the provisions of chapter 56 of the Code of Virginia, as far as the same are applicable thereto, except that the Commonwealth shall not be required to pay the compensation for damages to the party entitled thereto, nor into court before the decision of the appeal.—No order shall be made nor any injunction awarded by any court or judge to stay any proceedings of the Governor or his authorized agents under this act. The board shall be convened at such time and places as the Governor may order, and shall be paid each the sum of four dollars per day, and actual expenses incurred in travelling, to be paid by the warrants to be issued upon the orders of the Governor.

This act shall be in force from its passage, and shall continue until the expiration of the present war.

A copy from the Rolls—Teste
WM. F. GORDON,
C. H. D.

BY THE GOVERNOR OF VIRGINIA:

A PROCLAMATION.

Under authority of an Act passed on the first day of the present month, (October) 1, John Letcher, Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, do hereby proclaim the regulation hereto annexed as having been adopted by me, and to be obligatory upon all persons and corporations coming within their purview from the date hereof.

Given under my hand as Governor and under the seal of the Commonwealth this tenth day of October, 1862, and in the 87th year of the Commonwealth.
JOHN LETCHER.

By the Governor:
GEORGE W. MEXFORD, Secretary of the Commonwealth.

Regulations for obtaining possession of salt in this Commonwealth for distribution to the people. Prescribed by the Governor under the act to provide for the production, distribution and sale of salt in this Commonwealth, Passed October 1, 1862.

1. No railroad, canal, or other internal improvement company in this State, shall undertake to transport any salt beyond the limits of the State, unless under some contract already existing with the Confederate States or some State of the Confederate States. Before said salt shall be removed, the person asking for such transportation, shall make oath or affirmation that the removal asked for is of salt furnished under such existing contract. Without such oath, the salt shall be seized by the superintendent or other agent of the transportation company for the use of the Commonwealth, and notice be immediately given to the Governor of the amount of salt seized, and the name of the person or persons asking for the transportation.

Individuals in like manner are prohibited from transporting salt beyond the limits of the State. Any person may seize and hold the same for the State and give like notice.

All salt manufactured in the counties of Smyth and Washington, and on hand on the day when the above act was passed, unless heretofore removed from the salt works, and all salt manufactured after that day, until due notice to the country be given, by publication in some newspaper printed in the city of Richmond and in the town of Abingdon, shall be thereafter held to be the property of the Commonwealth of Virginia, and shall not be removed without authority from the Governor or his duly constituted agent, unless it be salt made to supply some existing contract with the Confederate States or with the separate States of the Confederate States, or with individuals for the benefit of any county, city or town.

If the owners of Salt Works in said counties shall refuse or cease to manufacture salt other than an amount sufficient to execute existing contracts as aforesaid, then, from and after such refusal or cessation shall appear to the Governor to exist, he will exercise the authority vested in him, and seize, take possession of and hold and exercise full authority and control over the property, real and personal, of any person, firm or company, so refusing or ceasing to manufacture.

If the supply of salt manufactured be not enough to furnish the people of this Commonwealth with a sufficient quantity of salt for home consumption, then as soon as such fact shall appear to the Governor he will exercise the authority vested in him, and disregard any contract made with the separate States of the Confederate States until the State of Virginia is supplied.

When salt is procured by the State of Virginia, and its constituted agent shall offer the same for transportation on the route of any railroad, canal or other improvement company, the same shall be immediately transported to the depot designated, unless such transportation will interfere with the transportation of troops, munitions of war and army supplies by the Confederate Government. Upon refusal of such company to transport the said salt, the constituted agent of the State will be authorized to take control of any such work and to manage the same until the transportation be accomplished.

The like provision shall be observed when it becomes proper to transport fuel or other things necessary for the production of salt.

The following places are designated for the present as the points at which salt will be concentrated for sale and distribution, viz: Millborough depot on the Central railroad, and Dublin depot, on the Virginia and Tennessee railroad. Other places of deposit will be speedily designated when suitable arrangements for supplies shall have been perfected.

Due notice will be given of the time when the salt will be ready for delivery. The price, quantity for each person, and how it is to be sold and delivered, and the agents employed therefor, will be prescribed in future regulations and published as required by law.

After the price is so prescribed the sale of any salt within the Commonwealth at a higher rate per bushel, is declared by law to be a misdemeanor; and any violation of the rules and regulations prescribed by the Governor, is also a misdemeanor, to be punished, upon conviction, by a fine of not less than one hundred nor more than two thousand dollars.

A board of assessors has been appointed by the Legislature to assess the compensation or damages to be paid for property seized or used by the State under this law. The time and place of their meeting will be hereafter prescribed.

The act prohibits all courts or judges from issuing orders or injunctions to stay any proceedings of the Governor, or his authorized agents, under this law. Oct. 11.

Gen. Bragg's Address to the People of the Northwest.

General Bragg has issued from his headquarters at Bardonia, Ky., one of the strongest addresses which has been issued by any military man during this war. It is addressed to "The people of the Northwest."

He assures them that the Confederate Government is waging this war with no design of conquest, but "to secure peace, and the abandonment by the United States of its pretensions to govern a people who never have been their subjects, and who prefer self-government to a union with them." He further assures them that the Confederate Government and people, deprecating civil strife from the beginning, and anxious for a peaceful adjustment of all differences growing out of a political separation, which they deemed essential to their happiness and well being, at the moment of its inauguration sent commissioners to Washington to treat for these objects, but that their commissioners were not received or even allowed to communicate the object of their mission; and that on a subsequent occasion a communication from the President of the Confederate States to President Lincoln remained without answer, although a reply was promised by Gen. Scott, into whose hands the communication was delivered.

That among the pretexts urged for the continuance of the war is the assertion that the Confederate Government desires to deprive the United States of the free navigation of the Western rivers, although the truth is, that the Confederate Congress, by public act prior to the commencement of the war, enacted that "the peaceful navigation of the Mississippi river is hereby declared free to the citizens of any of the States upon its borders or upon the borders of its tributaries"—a declaration to which our Government has always been and is still ready to adhere.

From these declarations, people of the Northwest, it is made manifest that by the invasion of our territories by land and from sea, we have been unwillingly forced into a war for self-defence, and to vindicate a great principle once dear to all Americans, to wit: that no people can be rightly governed except by their own consent. We desire to see a stop put to a useless and cruel effusion of blood, and that waste of national wealth rapidly leading to and sure to end in national bankruptcy. We are, therefore, now as ever, ready to treat with the United States, or any one or more of them, upon terms of mutual justice and liberality. And at this juncture, when our arms have been successful on many hard-fought fields, when our people have exhibited a constancy, a fortitude, and a courage worthy of the boon of self-government, we restrict ourselves to the same moderate demand that we made at the darkest period of our reverse—the demand that the people of the United States

cease to war upon us, and permit us in peace to pursue our path to happiness, while they in peace pursue theirs.

We are, however, debarred from the renewal of former proposals for peace, because the relentless spirit that actuates the Government at Washington leaves us no reason to expect that they would be received with the respect naturally due by nations in their intercourse, whether in peace or war. It is under these circumstances that we are driven to protect our own country by transferring the seat of war to that of an enemy who pursues us with an implacable and apparently aimless hostility. If the war must continue, its theatre must be changed, and with it the policy that has heretofore kept us on the defensive on our soil. So far, it is only our fields that have been laid waste, our people killed, our homes made desolate, and our frontiers ravaged by rapine and murder. The sacred right of self-defence demands that henceforth some of the consequences of the war shall fall upon those who persist in their refusal to make peace. With the people of the Northwest rests the power to put an end to the invasion of their homes; for, if unable to prevail upon the Government of the United States to conclude a general peace, their own state governments, in the exercise of their sovereignty, can secure immunity from the desolating effects of warfare on their soil, by a separate treaty of peace which our Government will be ready to conclude on the most just and liberal basis.

The responsibility then rests with you the people of the Northwest, of continuing an unjust and aggressive warfare upon the people of the Confederate States. And in the name of reason and humanity, I call upon you to pause and reflect what cause of quarrel so bloody, have you against these States, and what are you to gain by it? Nature has set her seal upon these States, and marked them out to be your friends and allies. She has bound them to you by all the ties of geographical contiguity and conformation, and the great mutual interests of commerce and production. When the passions of this unnatural war shall have subsided, and reason resumes her sway, a community of interest will force commercial and social coalition between the grain and stock growing States of the Northwest, and the cotton, tobacco and sugar regions of the South. The Mississippi river is a grand artery of their mutual national lives, which men cannot sever, and which never ought to have been suffered to be disturbed by the antagonisms, the cupidity and the bigotry of New England and the East. It is from the East that have come the germs of this bloody and most unnatural strife.

It is from the meddling, grasping and fanatical disposition of the same people who have imposed upon you and us alike those tariffs, internal improvements, and fishing bounty laws whereby we have been taxed for their aggrandizement. It is from the East that will come the tax gatherer to collect from you the mighty debt which is being amassed mountain high for the purpose of ruining your best customers and natural friends.—When this war ends the same antagonism of interest, policy and feeling which have been pressed upon us from the East and forced us from a political union, when we had ceased to find safety for our interest or respect for our rights, will bear down upon you and separate you from a people whose traditional policy it is to live by their wits upon the labor of their neighbors. Meantime, you are being used by them to fight the battle of emancipation—a battle which, if successful, destroys your prosperity, and with it your best markets to buy and sell. Our mutual dependence is the work of the Creator. With our peculiar productions, convertible into gold, we should in a state of peace, draw from you largely the products of your labor.

In us of the South, you will find rich and willing customers; in the East you must confront rivals in production and trade, and the tax gatherer in all the forms of partial legislation. You are blindly following abolitionism to this end, while they are slyly calculating the gain of obtaining your trade on terms that would impoverish your country. You say you are fighting for the free navigation of the Mississippi. It is yours freely, and has always been, without striking a blow. You say you are fighting to maintain the Union.—That Union is a thing of the past. A Union of consent was the only Union ever worth a drop of blood. When force came to be substituted for consent, the casquet was broken and the constitutional jewel of your patriotic adoration was forever gone.

I come, then, to you with the olive branch of peace, and offer it to your acceptance in the name of memories of the past and the ties of the present and future. With you remain the responsibility and the option of continuing a cruel and wasting war, which can only end after still greater sacrifices in preserving the blessings of peace by the simple abandonment of the design of subjugating a people over whom no right of dominion has been conferred on you by God or man.

BRAXTON BRAGG, Gen'l. S. Army.

From the Mobile Advertiser and Register.

The Disaster at Corinth.

We regret that the particulars thus far at hand of the recent battles at and near Corinth leave no room for doubt that the result is a serious disaster. Our special correspondent has furnished by telegraph such accounts as he could obtain, but the conflict was even hotter and more bloody than he has led us to believe. We have had the pleasure of an interview with Col. J. W. Porter, of the 42d

Alabama, who arrived by the morning train, having been sent home by the Surgeon General, from whom we obtained some details of the battle. Colonel P. was himself wounded by the concussion of an exploding shell which struck near him, killing two men and knocking him down, and considerably injuring him. From his statement and other information, we make up the following narrative:

The battle was opened on Friday last, commencing at 8 o'clock in the morning and continuing without cessation until 8 o'clock at night. Our forces numbered about 20,000 fighting men, under command of Major General Van Dorn, and they fought with a desperate valor not exceeded by any troops during the war.

It now appears that our Generals, or at least the General in command, were terribly deceived, having been lured by the enemy into a trap carefully prepared for them, and made to fight against heavy odds without the hope of any substantial advantage for this waste of blood and life. The movement on Corinth was made from the West, the enemy withdrawing his pickets at our approach, destroying camps, strewing the way with knapsacks, guns, clothing, etc., until he reached his first line of entrenchments, where he made a resolute stand. Our men rapidly pursued what they supposed a flying enemy, counting on a bloodless victory, some of the Generals even expecting to obtain possession of the town without firing a gun. Their eyes were opened when they saw the serried ranks of the enemy prepared to receive them, and they then knew that a hard and bloody fight was at hand. Moore's brigade of Maury's division, led the advance and the battle soon raged hot and furiously. The enemy fought well—better, it is said, than ever before in the West—but they could not withstand the furious charges of our gallant men, who steadily gained upon them driving them from entrenchment to entrenchment until night closed upon the scene.

The next day the fight was resumed, the enemy meantime having been heavily reinforced, but our troops again pressed forward, gaining the town of Corinth, and the gallant 42d Alabama planting its colors within a square of the Tishomingo Hotel. It became evident, however, that the struggle was too unequal to be continued to advantage by our forces, whose ranks were becoming fearfully thinned and worn down by fatigue and hunger, while the enemy were being continually reinforced. The order was then given to fall back, and our troops withdrew from the field, leaving many of our dead and some of the wounded in the possession of the enemy. Meanwhile the Federals had thrown a heavy force, estimated at 20,000 men, from Bolivar, to the south of Corinth, with the design to cut off our retreat and bag our whole army. These fresh troops were met with unexampled bravery and vigor by our jaded men in the sanguinary engagement of Sunday at Peachontas, which resulted in the discomfiture of the foe, and thanks to the genius and experience of General Price, in the escape of our army by an improvised road to a point west of Ripley, where they made a stand.

The battle on Friday is said to have been the hottest and most desperate of all. Soldiers who were in the battle of Shiloh say it was more terrible than that memorable conflict. The enemy appear to have been thoroughly posted with regard to all our movements. They knew when a given division passed a given point, what was its strength, the direction of its march, how, when and where the attack was to be made; in short, everything they wished to know, and of course could make all the preparation they desired to meet us.

We have not been able to obtain particulars of the casualties; but the record, we fear, will be sad enough. The Forty-Second Alabama went into the fight of Friday five hundred and thirty strong. On Saturday it mustered about three hundred, and on Sunday evening a staff officer met the Major, who had been wounded in the breast, with only eight or ten men, who were all, he said, he had been able to gather of the regiment. The rest were either killed, wounded, prisoners, or had fallen by the way from weakness.

On Sunday an order was sent to Gen. Maury to make a charge with his division, but this gallant officer was forced to reply that he had scarcely two regiments left fit for duty.

Sengstacke's artillery was badly cut up, being at one time nearly surrounded by the enemy. Dowdell's (35th Alabama) Regiment was also roughly handled, but nobly sustained the reputation of Alabama in the unequal strife.

Such is the brief, but we believe in the main, a truthful narrative of our recent movement towards Corinth. It is not our purpose here to comment upon the facts related.—They are too painful to dwell upon, and call loudly for prompt and searching investigation by the Government. If it shall be found that our gallant little army has been led into the "jaws of death" and thus cut up thro' the ignorance, stupidity or mismanagement of commanders, the country will demand that an example be made that shall prove at once an assurance to the people and a warning to incompetent or self-sufficient Generals.

The situation in Mississippi demands the prompt and earnest attention of our military authorities. They cannot act too soon or too vigorously. Reinforcements should at once be sent forward and as rapidly as possible, and our whole people must once more rouse themselves to united and energetic action.—We are every day learning afresh the lesson that "eternal vigilance is the price" of victory as well as of liberty.