National Republican.

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National Republican.

RATES OF ADVERTISING.

One square, three days.....$1.00
One square, four days.....1.25
One square, five days.....1.50
One square, six days.....1.75
Every other day advertisements, 50 per cent. additional.
Once a week advertisements charged as new for each insertion.
Six lines or less constitute a square.
Advertisements should be handed in by 12 o'clock, m.

PROPOSALS.

PROPOSALS FOR FORAGE.

CHIEF QUARTERMASTER'S OFFICE, WASHINGTON DEPOT, December 8, 1863.

Sealed proposals are invited by the undersigned for supplying the United States Quartermaster's Department, at Washington, D. C., Baltimore, Md., Alexandria, and Fort Monroe, Va., or either of these places, with Hay, Corn, Oats, and Straw.

Bids will be received for the delivery of 5,000 bushels of corn or oats and 50 tons of hay or straw, and upwards.

Bidders must state at which of the above-named points they propose to make deliveries, and the rates at which they will make deliveries thereat, the quantity of each article proposed to be delivered, the time when said deliveries shall be commenced, and when to be completed.

The price must be written out in words on the bids.

Corn to be put up in good, sound sacks, of about two bushels each. Oats in like sacks, of about three bushels each. The sacks to be furnished without extra charge to the Government. The hay and straw to be securely baled.

The particular kind or description of oats, corn, hay, or straw, proposed to be delivered must be stated in the proposals.

All the articles offered under the bids herein invited will be subject to a rigid inspection by the Government Inspector before being accepted.

Contracts will be awarded from time to time to the lowest responsible bidder, as the interest of the Government may require, and payment will be made when the whole amount contracted for shall have been delivered and accepted.

The bidder will be required to accompany his proposal with a guaranty, signed by two responsible persons, that in case his bid is accepted he or they will, within ten days thereafter, execute the contract for the same, with good and sufficient sureties in a sum equal to the amount of the contract, to deliver the forage proposed in conformity with the terms of this advertisement; and in case the said bidder shall fail to enter into the contract, they to make good the difference between the offer of said bidder and the next lowest responsible bidder, or the persons to whom the contract may be awarded.

The responsibility of the guarantors must be shown by the official certificate of a United States District Attorney, Collector of Customs, or any other officer under the United States Government, or responsible person known to this office.

All bidders will be duly notified of the acceptance or rejection of their proposals.

The full name and P. O. address of each bidder must be legibly written in the proposal.

Proposals must be addressed to Brigadier General D. H. Rucker, Chief Depot Quartermaster, Washington, D. C., and should be plainly marked "Proposals for Forage."

Bonds, to a sum equal to the amount of the contract, signed by the contractor and both of his guarantors, will be required of the successful bidder or bidders upon signing the contract.

Blank forms of bids, guarantees, and bonds, may be obtained upon application at this office.

FORM OF PROPOSAL.

(Town, County, and State) ——
(Date) ——

I, the subscriber, do hereby propose to furnish and deliver to the United States, at the Quartermaster's Department at ——, agreeably to the terms of your advertisement, inviting proposals for forage, dated Washington Depot, December 8, 1863, the following articles, viz:

—— bushels of Corn, in sacks, at —— per bushel of 56 pounds.
—— bushels of Oats, in sacks, at —— per bushel of 32 pounds.
—— tons of baled Hay, at —— per ton of 2,000 pounds.
—— tons of baled Straw, at ——, per ton of 2,000 pounds.

Delivery to commence on or before the —— day of ——, 186 , and to be completed on or before the —— day of ——, 186 , and pledge myself to enter into a written contract with the United States, with good and approved securities, within the space of ten days after being notified that my bid has been accepted.

Your obedient servant,
Brigadier General D. H. RUCKER,
Chief Depot Quartermaster,
Washington, D. C.

GUARANTY.

We, the undersigned, residents of ——, in the County of ——, and State of ——, do hereby, jointly and severally, covenant with the United States, and guarantee in case the foregoing bid of —— be accepted, that he or they will within ten days after the acceptance of the said bid, execute the contract for the same with good and sufficient sureties, in a sum equal to the amount of the contract, to furnish the forage proposed in conformity to the terms of advertisement dated December 8, 1863, under which the bid was made, and, in case the said —— shall fail to enter into a contract as aforesaid, we guarantee to make good the difference between the offer by the said —— and the next lowest responsible bidder, or the person to whom the contract may be awarded.

Witness, } Given under our hands and seals
{ this —— day of ——, 186 .
[Seal.]
[Seal.]

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the above-named guarantors are good and sufficient as sureties for the amount for which they offer to be security.

To be certified by the United States District Attorney, Collector of Customs, or any other officer under the United States Government, or responsible person known to this office.

D. H. RUCKER,
deb-4t Brig. Gen. and Quartermaster.

ORDNANCE OFFICE, WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, April 6, 1864.

Sealed Proposals will be received at this Department until 4 o'clock p. m., on WEDNESDAY, the 4th day of May, 1864, for the delivery of all the Wrought Iron Plates and Bars as hereinafter specified, necessary to build the following carriages:

For 15-inch Guns.
70 Barbette Front Pintle.
30 Barbette Centre Pintle.
For 10-inch guns.
160 Casemate Carriages.
250 Front Pintle Barbette.
For 8-inch guns.
70 Front Pintle Barbette.

The parts required for Wrought Iron Barbette and Casemate Carriages are as follows:

FOR TOP CARRIAGE.

Check-Plates, Braces, Caps, Shoes, Transoms, Guide Hooks, Guide Hook Bar, Trunnion Beds, Axle Shapes, Bolts.

CHASSIS, FRONT AND CENTRE PINTLE.

Rails, Rail-Plates, Rail Chords, Rail Braces, Transoms, Angle Iron Floor Cleats, Pintle Transoms, Transom Washers, Axle Shapes, Fork Shapes, Hurters, Chassis, Step, Assembling Bolts.

CASEMATE CARRIAGE CHASSIS.

Parts named before and rail top bars.

The number and dimensions of the iron plates and bars for each carriage to be as specified in the bills of iron in estimate memoranda No. 6, copies of which can be obtained upon application at Watertown, Frankford, or Allegheny Arsenals, the New York agency, or at this office. Printed schedules, containing the number of plates and bars required, can be obtained at the above-named places. On these bidders will state the price at which they propose to manufacture each part, in the manner therein prescribed.

The iron to be used in the manufacture of the plates and bars to be as follows:

ROLLED IRON.

Check-Plates and Rail-Plates of medium quality of iron, fibre in direction of length, tenacity not less than 50,000 lbs. per square inch.

Transoms all to be of best quality charcoal flange iron, fibre in direction of length, tenacity not less than 48,000 lbs. per square inch.

Trunnion Beds to be of best quality of charcoal iron, tenacity not less than 54,000 lbs. per square inch.

Checks, Braces, Hurters, and Counter-Hurters, all to be of good medium iron, tenacity not less than 46,000 lbs. per square inch.

Rails, Rail Chords, Chassis Braces, Caps and Shoes, and Angle Iron, to be of good quality of well-refined fibrous iron; tenacity not less than 50,000 lbs. per square inch.

Axles for 8-inch and 10-inch Carriages, and all Traverse Wheel Journals, to be of best charcoal fibrous iron; tenacity not less than 56,000 lbs. per square inch.

All bolts and Rivets to be of best charcoal fibrous iron. Tenacity not less than 56,000 pounds per square inch.

HAMMERED IRON.

Axles for 15-inch Carriages, and all Fork Shapes, and Tongues for Casemate Carriages, to be of the best charcoal iron. Tenacity not less than 55,000 pounds per square inch.

Bidders will specify the date at which they can commence deliveries, and the rate at which they can deliver each part thereafter.

No bids will be received except from parties actually engaged in the manufacture of this or similar kinds of work, and who can bring ample evidence that they have in their own shops all the machinery and appliances for turning out the full amount of work as specified by them.

Bidders will be required to furnish proper sureties for the proper performance of the work, and will enclose, with their bids, the written acknowledgments of their sureties over their own signatures.

Each party obtaining a contract will be required to enter into bonds with approved sureties for its faithful execution.

Upon the award being made, successful bidders will be notified, and furnished with forms of contract and bond.

The department reserves the right to reject any or all bids, if not deemed satisfactory.

Proposals will be addressed to "Brigadier General George D. Ramsay, Chief of Ordnance, Washington, D. C.," and will be endorsed "Proposal for wrought iron plates and bars for iron gun carriages."

GEO. D. RAMSAY,
ap8-10t Brigadier General, Chief of Ordnance.

PROPOSALS.

SMALL STORES, ETC.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,
BUREAU OF PROVISIONS AND CLOTHING,
March 26, 1864.

SEPARATE PROPOSALS, sealed and endorsed "Proposals for Small Stores," &c., will be received at this office until 12 o'clock M. on the 26th day of April next, for furnishing and delivering (on receiving ten days' notice) at the United States navy yards at Charlestown, Massachusetts; Brooklyn, New York, in such numbers and quantities and at such times as may be specified by the Chief of this bureau, or by the commandants of the said navy yards, respectively, during the remainder of the fiscal year ending on the 30th day of June, 1864, the numbers and quantities of the different articles, and at the places specified in the following list, viz:

	Charlestown.	Brooklyn.
Salt water soap, lbs.	60,000	85,000
Thread, black and white, lbs.	200	1,000
Ribband, hat, pieces	2,000	6,000
Tape, white, pieces	4,500	4,000
Tape, black, pieces	2,000	1,000
Spools cotton	6,000	19,000
Silk, sewing, lbs.	200	500
Pocket handkerchiefs	5,500	21,500
Needles, assorted, papers	1,000	14,000
Thimbles	2,000	3,000
Jack-knives	——	2,500
Scissors	1,500	3,500
Razors	500	3,000
Razor strops	15,000	2,000
Shaving boxes	1,200	13,000
Shaving brushes	2,000	3,000
Shaving soap, cakes	5,000	20,000
Scrub brushes	2,000	2,000
Blacking brushes	1,000	3,000
Whisk brooms	1,000	2,000
Eagle coat buttons, dozen	500	——
Eagle coat buttons, dozen	500	——
Eagle medium buttons, dozen	500	——
Eagle vest buttons, dozen	1,000	——
D. E. buttons, dozen	5,000	20,000
Fine combs	4,000	15,000
Coarse combs	4,000	20,000
Spoons	2,500	15,000
Forks	2,500	2,500
Blacking, boxes	6,000	40,000
Can openers	500	——
Stearine candles, lbs.	60,000	——

Offers may be made for one or more articles, at the option of the bidder, and in case more than one article is contained in the offer the Chief of the Bureau will have the right to accept one or more of the articles contained in such offer, and reject the remainder. *The prices must be uniform, and offers must embrace all of any one or more articles deliverable at all the stations.*

For the description of articles in the above list bidders are referred to the sample at the said Navy Yards, and to the advertisement of this Bureau dated August 18, 1862, and for information as to the laws and regulations (in pamphlet form) regarding contracts, to the offices of the several commandants of Navy Yards and Navy Agents.

Blank forms of proposals may be obtained on application to the navy agents at Portsmouth, New Hampshire; Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and at this bureau. m26-1aw4w

NAVY SUPPLIES.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,
BUREAU OF PROVISIONS AND CLOTHING,
March 19, 1864.

Separate proposals, sealed and endorsed "Proposals for Navy Supplies," will be received at this Bureau until 12 o'clock M. on TUESDAY, the 19th day of April next, for furnishing and delivering (on receiving ten days' notice) at the United States Navy Yards at Charlestown, Massachusetts; Brooklyn, New York, and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in such quantities only and at such times as may be required or ordered by the Chief of this Bureau, or by the Commandants of the said Navy Yards, respectively, during the remainder of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1864, the quantities of the different articles and at the places specified in the following list, viz:

	Charlestown.	Brooklyn.	Philad'a.
Rice, lbs.	50,000	75,000	——
Dried Apples, lbs.	55,000	50,000	——
Sugar, lbs.	225,000	250,000	——
Tea, lbs.	2,000	——	1,700
Coffee, lbs.	——	200,000	——
Beans, galls.	20,000	20,000	13,500
Molasses, galls.	16,000	7,000	——
Vinegar, galls.	12,000	——	——

Separate offers must be made for each article at each of the aforesaid navy yards; and in case more than one article is contained in the offer the Chief of the Bureau will have the right to accept one or more of the articles contained in such offer, and reject the remainder.

For the description of articles in the above list bidders are referred to the samples at the said navy yards, and to the advertisement of this Bureau dated June 13, 1863, and for information as to the laws and regulations (in pamphlet form) regarding contracts, to the office of the several Commandants of Navy Yards and Navy Agents.

Blank forms of proposals may be obtained on application to the navy agents at Portsmouth, New Hampshire; Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and at this Bureau.

m18-1aw4w

PROPOSALS FOR WOOD.

HEADQR'S DEPARTMENT OF WASHINGTON,
OFFICE OF CHIEF QUARTERMASTER,
WASHINGTON, D. C., March 26, 1864.

PROPOSALS are invited for furnishing Wood to the troops in and around the forts hereinafter specified, from parties owning wood or wood lands in the vicinity of the same, viz:

North of the Potomac—Forts Sumner Mansfield, Bayard, Simmons, Gaines, Reno, Kearney, De Russy, Stevens, Slocum, Totten, Stanton, Bunker Hill, Saratoga, Thayer, and Lincoln, and Batteries Snead, Kimball, Parrott, and Cameron.

East of Eastern Branch Potomac—Forts Greble, Carroll, Snyder, Stanton, Baker, Davis, Dupont, Meigs, Mahan, and Batteries Ricketts and Wagner.

South of Potomac—Forts Marcy, Ethan Allen, C. F. Smith, Bennett, DeKalb, Corcoran, Haggerty, Woodbury, Whipple, Cass, Tillinghast, Craig, and Albany.

Proposals will be received under this advertisement for wood anywhere within the limits of the Department of Washington for supply of troops in said Department.

Proposals will be made in the following manner, to wit:

1. For wood standing (price per cord.)
2. For wood felled by the United States engineers or otherwise (price per cord.)
3. For wood cut and corded on the ground.

Proposals must specify the locality, kind, quantity, and quality of the wood, and the distance from the nearest fort, camp, or station for troops.

Each bidder must attach his full name and post-office address to his bid, and the names of all parties interested in the proposal must appear in the bid.

Bids will be opened from time to time, and contracts or purchases made as the wood may be required.

The right is reserved to accept all or any part of a bid.

No verbal propositions will be entertained, but every bid, or modification of the same, must be in writing.

Proposals should be endorsed "Proposals for Wood," and addressed to

ELIAS M. GREENE,
Lieutenant Colonel and Chief Quartermaster,
m26-15t Department of Washington.

MAYOR'S OFFICE, APRIL 11, 1864

Proposals will be received at the Mayor's Office until 12 M., on MONDAY, 18th day of April inst., for continuing the sewer in Sixth street west, from I to L street north. The size of the sewer is six feet inside diameter, walls nine inches in thickness, to be laid in the best cement mortars; the excavation will be about ten feet deep. Bidders will state the price per lineal foot for the main sewer, which shall involve excavation, and filling and making good all gutters, streets, &c., which may have to be disturbed in executing the work.

None but practical mechanics need bid.

Specifications can be seen in the City Surveyor's Office.

W. DOUGLAS,
Commissioner Fourth Ward.
E. P. MOHUN,
C. H. UTERMEHLE,
ap12 Assistant Commissioners.

GUROWSKI'S NEW BOOK,
DIARY FOR 1863,

will be published to-morrow, and will stir up the dry bones of incompetent and incapable officials throughout the land, and make a sensation generally.

LOOK OUT FOR IT.

GUROWSKI'S DIARY FOR 1863.

A new volume by Count Adam Gurowski, embracing a Diary of Political and Military Events and Transactions, in the Cabinet and in the Field, for the year of 1863.

*** For sharp criticism, alternating with epigrammatic trenchant, caustic praise and castigation, this work must bear away the palm from all others ever printed in this country. 12mo., cloth bound, price $1.25.

CARLETON, Publisher, New York.

NEXT WEEK:

PRIVATE MILES O'REILLY will be ready with HIS BOOK, rich with Songs, Services and Speeches, and Comically Illustrated. feb9

JOHN JOLLIFFE,

ATTORNEY AND COUNSELLOR AT LAW,

Has removed his office to the Northeast corner of

F and Fifteenth streets, opposite the east entrance of the Treasury Building,

Washington City, D. C.,

Attends especially to claims upon the United States. jy13-1y

PROPOSALS.

ORDNANCE OFFICE,
WAR DEPARTMENT,
WASHINGTON, March 19, 1864.

SEALED PROPOSALS will be received at this office until WEDNESDAY, April 27th at 4 p. m., for 100,000 sets of Infantry Accoutrements, calibre 68, to be delivered in the following quantities at undernamed Arsenals, viz:

20,000 sets at the New York Arsenal, Governor's Island.

20,000 sets at the Frankfort Arsenal, Bridesburg, Pennsylvania.

20,000 sets at the Alleghany Arsenal, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.

20,000 sets at the St. Louis Arsenal, St. Louis, Missouri.

These accoutrements are to be made in strict conformity with the new pattern sets to be seen at the Alleghany, New York, Frankfort, St. Louis, Watervliet, Watertown, and Washington Arsenals, and the Springfield Armory. They are to be subject to inspection at the Arsenal where delivered, before being received for the Government. None are to be accepted or paid for but such as are approved upon inspection. The belts to be of grained leather, and all the stock to be the best oak tanned. The shoulder belt will be included in the set.

Deliveries must be made in lots of not less than one-fifteenth (1-15) per week of the whole number contracted for; the first delivery to be made on the 31st day of May.

Failure to make deliveries at a specified time will subject the contractor to a forfeiture of the number he may fail to deliver at that time.

The accoutrements must be boxed in the usual manner; the boxes to be charged at cost, to be determined by the inspector.

Bidders will state explicitly the Arsenal or Arsenals, where they propose to deliver, and the number of sets they propose to deliver at each place, if for more than one.

No bids will be considered from parties other than regular manufacturers, and such as are known to this Department to be fully competent to execute in their own shops the work proposed for. Should any party obtaining a contract offer accoutrements other than those made in his own shops, they will be rejected, and the contract rendered null and void.

Bidders will enclose with their bids the written acknowledgments of their sureties over their own signatures.

Each party obtaining a contract will be obliged to enter into bond with approved sureties for its faithful execution.

Upon the award being made, successful bidders will be notified, and furnished with forms of contract and bond.

The Department reserves the right to reject any or all bids, if not deemed satisfactory.

Proposals will be addressed to "Brigadier General George D. Ramsay, Chief of Ordnance, Washington, D. C.," endorsed "Proposals for Infantry Accoutrements."

GEORGE D. RAMSAY,
m26-stuth10t Brig. Gen., Chief of Ordnance.

PROPOSALS WILL BE RECEIVED at the Treasury Department, office of the Supervising Architect, Washington, D. C., until 12 m. of the 1st day of May, 1864, for all the Fire and Burglar-proof Safes and vaults required by the Treasury Department on July 1, 1865.

Plans and specifications can be obtained by application to this office personally or by letter.

Bids to be per superficial foot, including door and all necessary fixtures, measured on the outside; the price named to cover all charges whatever, except the freight and the actual traveling expenses of workmen to the places where the Vaults are to be erected.

Safes to be delivered at the Railroad Depot or Steamboat Wharf for transportation, in good order and condition, without charge.

Looks for the Vault's or Safes will be furnished by the Department, and must be properly put on by the contractor without charge.

All bids must be accompanied by the bond of two responsible persons in the sum of $5,000 that the bidder will accept and perform the contract if awarded to him; the sufficiency of the security to be certified to by the Collector of Internal Revenue of the District.

The Department reserves the right to reject any or all the bids if it be considered its interest to do so, and no bid will be considered that does not conform to the requirements of this advertisement.

Bids to be enclosed in a sealed envelope, endorsed "Proposals for Safes and Vaults."

ISAIAH ROGERS,
m28—mthsmy1 Supervising Architect.

MAYOR'S OFFICE, APRIL 11, 1864

Proposals will be received at the Mayor's office until 12 m. on MONDAY, 18th day of April, instant, for the contemplating of the brick culvert across Second street east, in F street north; the culvert will be circular in shape, inside diameter 7 feet, walls 9 inches in thickness, to be laid in the best cement mortar.

Bidders will state the price per lineal foot, which shall include all excavation or other excavations incident to the work.

None but practical mechanics need bid.

WM. DOUGLAS,
ap12-eo3t Commissioner of the Fourth Ward.

CHIEF QUARTERMASTER'S OFFICE, DEPOT OF WASHINGTON, WASHINGTON, D. C., January 4, 1864

All dealers in Drugs, Hardware, Lumber, Leather, Office Furniture, Harness, and Saddlery, are requested to send to this office, on the MONDAY of each week, a sealed proposal or bid, in duplicate, of the articles they are prepared to furnish to this Depot at short notice, with the price of each marked in plain figures, so that, in case the exigencies of the service require it, the articles and lots can be obtained without delay, and at the lowest price.

Dealers wishing to sell to this Depot will be required to furnish the list punctually every Monday morning.

D. H. RUCKER,
Brigadier General and Chief Quartermaster,
ja8-tf Depot of Washington

WILLARD'S HOTEL,

SYKES, CHADWICK & CO.,

Corner Pennsylvania Avenue and Fourteenth street,

Washington D. C ja8-1y

[From the New York Spirit of the Fair.]

ULRIC DAHLGREN.

BY HENRY T. TUCKERMAN.

When strided by the fond and fair,
We saw the maimed and pale,
With that heroic, gentle air,
Before which cowards quail;
So radiant in the grasp of pain,
So meek with valor's crown,
Our swelling hearts could not refrain
To bless thy young renown.
Youth's artless cheer with manhood's thought
In word and glance o'erflow,
As if thy life had newly caught
Thy blood's ancestral glow;
The spirit of old Sweden's king
Which mien and accent bore,
In every pulse-beat seemed to spring
Intrepid as of yore.
It nerved thy arm in wild foray,
And round thy martyr's bed,
Where love and faith still watch and pray,
Angelic patience shed.
Vain the base ambush from whose lair
The murderer's bullet came,
And vain the slander that would tear
The glory from my name.
O, Ulric, brutal hate will pine,
All impotent to sear
The laurels that thy country's shrine
Forever shall endear.

[The death of Rev. Thomas Star King, in San Francisco, on the 4th of March, has called forth, among other tributes, the following gem-like stanzas.]

[From the San Francisco Bulletin.]

Relieving Guard—March 4th, 1864.

BY FRANCIS BRET HARTE.

Came the Relief. "What, sentry, ho!
How passed the night though thy long waking?"
"Cold, cheerless, dark—as may befit
The hour before the dawn is breaking."

"No sight! no sound?" "No; nothing save
The plover from the marshes calling:
And in yon Western sky, about
An hour ago, a Star was falling."

"A star! There's nothing strange in that."
"No, nothing; save the thrilling
Somehow it seemed to me that God
Somewhere had just relieved a picket!"

OFFICIAL PAPERS.

Correspondence Laid Before Congress by the Department of State.

FRANCE—Continued.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Mercier.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
WASHINGTON, November 8 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the reception of your Excellency's note of the 6th instant, in which you present the claim of Mr. Francois Bougere against the Government of the United States, in the form in which it has been stated by him to Mr. Fauconnet, manager of the consulate of France at New Orleans. The statement of Mr. Bougere is of the following effect: That he is a native of France; that he has been an inhabitant of the State of Louisiana since 1819, and for some time, not definitely stated, has been domiciliated there, as a sugar planter, in the parish of St. Charles; that he has not lost his nationality of a Frenchman, and that he has never borne arms against the United States; that he was recently the owner of seventy-two negro slaves of various ages and distinct sexes, who were the increase of families which he had bought a long while prior to the year 1848; all of which slaves were upon his said plantation, together with horses, mules, carriages, linen, and family stores; that the aggregate value of those slaves and the articles of property thus described was seventy thousand eight hundred dollars. That on the 28th day of August last, a column of United States troops, under the command of Colonel Thomas and Capt. Grout, took from him by force these seventy-two slaves, a list of which is given, and also the said articles of property, (an inventory of which is presented,) whereby the same were lost to him, and that this spoliation deprived him of the means of securing his present crop of corn, as well as his crop of cane, which would have yielded three hundred hogsheads of sugar and molasses. That the damages which resulted from this failure are equal to eighteen thousand dollars, which, added to the value of the slaves and property taken, makes an aggregate of eighty-eight thousand eight hundred dollars.

Mr. Bougere represents that he has made unsuccessful applications to the local authorities of the United States in Louisiana, for redress of the grievances thus alleged. He therefore invokes the interposition of the Imperial Government.

The President is not unaffected by the misfortunes which Mr. Bougere has suffered, and he has, therefore, directed me to make a careful examination of the case, with a view to ascertain whether he has been in fact inoffensive in his relations to this Government, and whether the losses he has sustained were occasioned by violence, injustice, severity, or even carelessness on the part of the military forces of the United States, so that redress, if justly due, shall be awarded.

In entering upon this examination, I could not but remark that Mr. Bougere's own representations of his attitude towards the Government do not seem to me to fully justify the view of it which, upon different information, you have assumed. You state that his antecedents have been represented to you as excellent in all respects, and that he appears to have never departed from the strict neutrality which the Emperor's Government has not ceased to recommend to its citizens under existing circumstances. In trusting to Mr. Bougere's statement, I observe that upon the point now in question he states only that he never lost his nationality as a French subject, nor bore arms against the United States. I need hardly point out to so just an observer as your Excellency the fact that, besides bearing arms against the United States, there are other ways in which a man of wealth and influence can abet and support a treasonable insurrection. Even the chief of the revolutionary conspiracy, and every member of the cabals which are called his Cabinet and Congress, can probably safely assert that he has never borne arms against the United States. It may, nevertheless, be true that Mr. Bougere has preserved his neutrality in the present conflict, notwithstanding his own seeming reserve upon that subject; I will therefore cheerfully receive, upon that point, any more full and satisfactory information which you may be authorized now or hereafter to furnish. In the mean time, candor requires that I should inform you that even the very cautious and guarded statement which Mr. Bougere makes concerning his neutrality is distinctly contradicted by the military authorities at New Orleans. They represent that before the transaction, of which he complains, had occurred, he had been in the habit of meeting with a military band of insurgents, of which a nephew of his is captain; that he assisted largely by voluntary contributions to equip that treasonable band, and that he voluntarily supplied them with rations sent from his own house; that he provided himself with a revolutionary uniform, saddle, and horse equipments, and had them in his possession and ready for use on his plantation when that transaction occurred.

Passing from the political character of the claimant to the details of the transaction complained of, I must call your attention to the very vague and unsatisfactory manner in which the facts are presented by Mr. Bougere. He contents himself with saying that a column of troops of the United States, commanded by Colonel Thomas and Captain Grout, of the Eighth Vermont, took by force the slaves and property described, and forbears from giving any account of the moment or circumstances of the alleged capture. This very general statement is unsupported by any testimony or evidence, nor is it even authenticated by the customary confirmation of his own oath.

I think you will at once perceive that there is a necessity for your referring the matter back to your consul for testimony of some kind, when I inform you that the fact of a forcible taking of the slaves and property is contradicted by the military authorities of the United States who were engaged in the transaction. They report that the negroes (claimed as slaves) were not taken by force nor in any other way by the military column; but that, on the contrary, they left the plantation voluntarily; that a portion, understood to be over half of them, had even so left and abandoned the plantation before the expedition in that direction was made; and that of the remaining half a portion left in the same voluntary manner, taking advantage of the expedition, some of them going off before the column as it advanced, and others following behind it as it proceeded; that the expedition returned during a night and a day, and that other negroes, supposed to be slaves then, followed it on its return; and that all this was done not only without any command or direction given by the officer, but even without any interference made by himself or by any of the forces constituting the expedition. It is also stated by the military authorities that they received only one of the fugitive slaves in question, and that this particular slave was one who had escaped from the plantation before the expedition was made, was wounded by a musket-ball in the act of escape, and, therefore, sought refuge in the camp, and was there indulged with medical treatment.

The same authorities report that when the expedition had passed Mr. Bougere's house on its outward march, that person, who had been absent from the mansion, returned to it and then drove all his cattle and other stock back into the woods, and also drove the slaves who were then remaining on the plantation into his sugar-house; and that these slaves, taking advantage of the night, left the sugar-house and followed the expedition on its return to the camp.

The military authorities further report that they took two very poor horses from the plantation and used them to draw the guns, but that only one of them belonged to Mr. Bougere; and they allege that no other horses or other animals, nor any carriages or slaves, or other property, were taken from the plantation by the expeditionary force, either with or without the authority of the commander. They add, however, that some such property as is mentioned by Mr. Bougere was taken and used by the slaves in making their flight.

Having thus, with the utmost frankness, given to you the representations of the transaction communicated by the Secretary of War to this Department, it remains only to say that I am instructed to receive and to give due weight to any corrections of those representations which Mr. Bougere shall be able to make, and that when the case shall thus have been fully developed, I shall apply to the President for instructions, with a view to a definite, and, as I trust, a satisfactory reply.

I have the honor to be, sir, with high consideration, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

Mr. HENRY MERCIER, &c., &c., &c.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Mercier.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
WASHINGTON, November 10, 1863.

SIR: I have attentively read your Excellency's note of the 6th instant.

Thus far, only two persons who have claimed exemption from the military draft on the ground of their being French subjects, have been presented to this Department, and both of them were discharged promptly and without delay.

This is a complex Government, consisting of State Governments, within their sphere, independent of the Federal Government; the Federal Government, in its sphere, independent of the State Government. Collisions between them cannot be prevented by Executive action. They must, however, be reconciled when they have occurred. The Government calls on the States to furnish troops by draft of the militia. The States determine for themselves who constitute the militia, and they make the draft. They respectively provide for ascertaining who are liable to the draft and who are exempt from it, and they have State Commissioners to hear, try, and determine such case. Those Commissioners render accounts of their doings to the Governors of the States, and act with entire independence of the Federal Government, and are in no way responsible to them. If the Governor of a State errs, and subjects to military duty a person who is entitled to exemption on the ground of alienage, a question is thus raised between the United States and the nation which is entitled to protect the complainant. This Department then receives and promptly and effectually decides the case. It would indeed be very agreeable to communicate in advance to representatives of the foreign Powers the principles upon which the Department would proceed in such cases. But, on the other hand, it must be allowed there are few subjects more productive of conflicting legislation and adjudication than that of alienage. It seems, therefore, to be prudent to refrain from anticipating merely what speculative questions involve, and to confine the action of Government to those cases which, being practically brought before it, must necessarily receive its solution. In the hope that these explanations will be satisfactory to your Excellency, I have the honor to be your very obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

Mr. HENRY MERCIER, &c., &c., &c.

[To be Continued.]

[OFFICIAL.]

LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES.

Passed at the First Session of the Thirty-Eighth Congress.

[PUBLIC—No. 40.]

AN ACT to incorporate the Union Gaslight Company of the District of Columbia.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Sayles J. Bowen, William Elmer, William Bates, Robert W. Milbank, Andrew M. Kinney, William H. Baldwin, Z. D. Gilman, D. C. Forney, S. P. Brown, John Green, and Gamaliel Gay, and their associates and assigns, be and they are hereby created a body corporate, under the name of "The Union Gaslight Company of the District of Columbia," with authority to manufacture and sell gas, to be made of coal, zinc, oil, tar, pitch, peat, turpentine, or other material, and to be used in lighting the city of Washington and the streets thereof, and any buildings, manufactories, or houses therein situated, and to lay mains and pipes for the purpose of conducting gas in any of the avenues, streets, lanes, or alleys of the said city: *Provided, however*, That the said company shall so conduct the manufacture, and lay said mains and pipes, as not to create a nuisance or injure either private or public property: *And provided, further*, That the said mains and pipes shall be laid subject to such conditions and in compliance with such regulations as may be prescribed by the municipal authorities of the city of Washington; and the right to erect and establish any buildings, apparatus, or machinery for the manufacture of gas, shall be subject to such regulations and restrictions as may be from time to time prescribed by the said municipal authorities of Washington.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the capital stock of the said company shall not be less than five hundred thousand nor more than one million dollars, and that the said stock shall be divided into shares of one hundred dollars each, and shall be deemed personal property and be transferable in such manner as the by laws of said company may direct.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That within six days after this act is approved by the President of the United States, the corporators named in the first section, or a majority of them, or, if any refuse or neglect to act, then a majority of the others shall cause books of subscription to the capital stock of said company to be opened and kept open in some convenient place in the city of Washington, from nine o'clock in the forenoon till three o'clock in the afternoon, for a period of not less than three days, and as much longer as the said corporators shall prescribe, and the said corporators shall give public notice of the time and place of opening said books of subscription, by advertisement thereof in the daily papers published in the city of Washington, and subscribers to the capital stock of said company shall be held to be stockholders: *Provided*, That every subscriber shall pay at the time of subscribing twenty-five per centum of the amount subscribed by him to the treasurer who shall be appointed by the said corporators to receive the same, or his subscription shall be null and void.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That when the minimum amount of the capital stock of said company, as prescribed in the second section, shall have been subscribed, and twenty-five per centum thereof paid as aforesaid, the said corporators, or a majority of them, and in case any refuse to act, then a majority of the others, shall, within fifteen days thereafter, call the first meeting of the stockholders of said company, to be held at some convenient place in the city of Washington, for the election of directors, of the time and place whereof notice shall be given for at least five days in at least two daily newspapers published in the city of Washington, or by written notice thereof, signed by one or more of said corporators, and personally served on each stockholder; and in all meetings of the stockholders each share shall entitle the holder to one vote, to be given either in person or by proxy.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That the government and direction of the affairs of the company shall be vested in the board of directors, composed of seven members, who shall be stockholders, and who shall hold their office for the term of one year, and until others are duly elected and qualified to take their places as directors; and the said directors shall elect one of their number to be president of the board, who shall also be president of the company, and a majority of the board shall constitute a quorum to do business; and they shall choose a treasurer, who shall give bond with sufficient surety to said company, in such sum as the said directors may require, for the faithful discharge of his trust. In case of a vacancy in the board of directors by death, resignation, removal, refusal to act, or otherwise, the vacancy occasioned thereby shall be filled by the other directors.

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That there shall be an annual meeting of the stockholders, for the election of directors, to be held at such time and place, and under such rules and regulations, as the said company in their by-laws shall prescribe, and the directors shall make an annual report in writing of their proceedings to the stockholders.

SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted*, That the directors shall have full power to make all such by-laws as they shall deem necessary for the regulation, management, and disposition of the stock, effects, and property of the said company, and for the proper execution of the business of the company, so as the same shall not be contrary to this charter, to the laws of the United States, or to the ordinances of the city of Washington.

SEC. 8. *And be it further enacted*, That nothing in this act shall be so construed as to authorize the said company to issue any note, token, device, scrip, or other evidence of debt to be used as a currency.

SEC. 9. *And be it further enacted*, That if any person or persons shall wilfully destroy, or, in anywise, injure the mains, pipes, apparatus, or other works, property, or appurtenances belonging to and used by said company in manufacturing gas or in furnishing the same to consumers thereof, the person or persons so offending shall, for every such offence, forfeit and pay to the said company the sum of five dollars, and shall, in addition to said penalty, remain liable to said company for any loss or damage occasioned by the offence.

SEC. 10. *And be it further enacted*, That the said company is hereby incorporated upon the express conditions that it shall furnish gas to all the consumers thereof containing fifty per centum more illuminating power than that which is now furnished by the "Washington Gaslight Company," and at a cost not exceeding two dollars and fifty cents per thousand cubic feet; and a failure to comply with these conditions shall operate as a forfeiture of this charter.

SEC. 11. *And be it further enacted*, That the said company shall not be authorized to sell gas until it shall have produced to the Mayor of the city of Washington and to the Secretary of the Interior satisfactory evidence that it has laid down, in a proper and workmanlike manner, in the avenues and streets of the said city, gas mains of an average diameter of at least six inches and a total length of not less than twenty-five miles; nor shall the said company connect its gas mains with the pipes supplying the Capitol and other public buildings belonging to the United States, or sell gas, until it shall have produced to the Secretary of the Interior satisfactory evidence that it has erected and in operation good and substantial works and holders capable of manufacturing and storing a quantity of gas, of the quality aforesaid, sufficient to supply the consumption at all times required in the Capitol and public buildings aforesaid. And unless the said company shall have complied with the requirements and conditions in this section prescribed within two years from the passage of this act, the said act sh