

TERMS OF PUBLICATION.  
The Bedford Gazette is published every Friday morning by MEYERS & MENGEL, at \$2.00 per annum, if paid strictly in advance; \$2.50 if paid within six months; \$3.00 if not paid within six months. All subscription accounts MUST be settled annually. No paper will be sent out of the State unless paid for in advance, and all such subscriptions will invariably be discontinued at the expiration of the time for which they are paid.

# The Bedford Gazette.

BY MEYERS & MENGEL. BEDFORD, PA., FRIDAY MORNING, JUNE 1, 1866. VOL. 61.—WHOLE No. 5,350.

Hardware, &c.  
HARTLEY & METZGER, having formed a partnership, on the 1st day of April, 1866, in the purchase of the late of MACHINERY TRADE, now invite the public to examine their mammoth stock, which they will sell at low figures, for cash, [Apr. 27, '66.]

**The Bedford Gazette.**  
**The Negro Bureau.**  
Unheard Of Cruelties Practised by the "Freedom Shriekers."  
NEGROES SUSPENDED BY THE WRISTS.  
OFFICERS AND AGENTS OF THE BUREAU AS "SLAYERS" AND "COTTON PRODUCERS."  
Official Report of the Government Commissioners.

ry service: 1 Colonel, 1 Lieutenant Colonel, 2 Majors, 17 Captains, 5 First Lieutenants, 8 Second Lieutenants and 1 Chaplain.  
Medical Department.—9 contract Surgeons, pay per month, \$100; 26 hospital attendants, average pay per month, \$11 25; 18 civilian employes, agents, clerks, etc., at average pay per month, \$77 20; 4 laborers, average pay per month, \$11 90. In addition to the foregoing, enlisted men are detailed as orderlies, guards, &c., by commanding officers of the different military posts where officers of the Bureau are serving. Rations have been issued as follows:

Month	Men	Women	Children	Total
December	318	2,085	2,679	6,662
January	352	2,597	3,712	6,881
February	369	2,276	3,567	6,146
March	341	2,290	3,406	5,937

The same reasons that exist for issuing rations to the freedmen in Virginia and the necessity for the continuance of this relief apply to the freedmen of North Carolina.  
We found the feeling toward the Bureau much the same as that stated as prevailing in Virginia, except that there appears to be a more universal desire in this department on the part of all classes to have it removed. This feeling is no doubt attributable to the misconduct of many of the officers of the Bureau, such as working plantations, running sawmills, manufacturing turpentine and tar, &c., operations which bring them under the authority of official positions into competition with the citizens who are employing freedmen. We have investigated some of the charges made against agents of the Bureau, and in pursuing our inquiries to this point, commenced with the Assistant Commissioner of the State, Col. E. Whittlesey, to whom we addressed the interrogatory: "Do you know of any person in the military service, now on duty with the Freedmen's Bureau in this department, who is, or has been, since entering upon the duties of his office, engaged or interested, directly or indirectly, in the cultivation of any lands within the Department?" He answered "No." Subsequently he addressed us a note hereto appended, marked "A," in which he stated that in order to assist the planters in hiring freedmen and trying fairly the experiment of free labor, he and some other officers of the Bureau had loaned money and thus indirectly had an interest in cultivating farms. On receiving this note, we addressed Col. Whittlesey further interrogatories, a copy of which is hereto annexed, marked "B," to which he replied in communication, also hereto appended, marked "C," disclosing the fact that he is interested with the Rev. Horace James, of Massachusetts, formerly Captain and Assistant Quartermaster Freedmen's Bureau, and with Mr. Winthrop Tappan, of Maine, in the cultivation of a large farm in Pitt county, N. C. He also stated therein that Capt. F. A. Seeley, Superintendent of the Bureau of the Eastern District of N. C., is interested in the cultivation of a plantation in Wayne County, N. C., and that Capt. Isaac Rosecranz, Commissary of Subsistence, is interested with Mr. Brooks in the cultivation of a plantation in Pitt Co., N. C.

tion except indirectly, by loaning money to Mr. Brooks, a friend of his from the North, who was engaged in planting, but we ascertained from Mr. Gair and Mr. Lane, citizens of the vicinity of Goldsboro, that he is interested and joined with them in contracts for the cultivation of their plantations.—His friend, Mr. Brooks, entered into a contract with Mr. Lane to furnish rations and pay for forty laborers, and to provide eight good mules. Mr. Lane agreed to furnish the land and superintend the cultivation thereof, the crops to be equally divided, one half to Mr. Lane, the other half to Messrs Brooks and Glavis. Mr. Lane states that the enterprise failed after the freedmen had worked over two months. They left then because Brooks and Glavis failed to pay them according to contract. The freedmen received for their labor a little clothing, such as coats, pants, shoes, &c., furnished by Chaplain Glavis, and but little or no money. A similar contract was made by Glavis & Brooks, with Mr. Gair, who stated to us that Glavis is paying the hands in "a little of everything, but chiefly in clothing."  
We ascertained by the testimony of Messrs. Borham & Ballard, auctioneers at Goldsboro, that they had sold at auction for Chaplain Glavis, forty blankets marked "U.S.," and a quantity of clothing that had been sent to Goldsboro for the gratuitous distribution to the needy by a Freedmen's Aid Society at or in the vicinity of Rochester, N. Y. We learned also that he had disposed of a large amount of such clothing at private sale. The Chaplain stated himself that he had received from such sales \$200, though subsequently he asserted that the total receipts of his office, from all sources, amounted to \$125.50. He kept no books, or even memoranda of moneys received and expended.  
On the 4th inst., we arrived at Wilmington, the headquarters of the Bureau for the Southern District of North Carolina. Col. Rutherford is the Superintendent. He has been here but a short time and is not yet fully acquainted with the operations of the Bureau in his District. He was so unwell as to be obliged to retire while we were engaged in examining his office, and we have not since conferred with him. Major J. C. Mann, Assistant Quartermaster and Financial Agent of the Southern District, is engaged in the cultivation of a rice plantation a short distance from Wilmington, on which are employed fifty-five freedmen. The Major stated that while he would not object to making money, he engaged in this business to show that the negro would work.  
Major Chas. I. Wickham, sub-agent of the Bureau, whose headquarters are in Wilmington, is also interested in the cultivation of a rice plantation within his sub-district, and he is to receive one-fourth of the crops from the same, for compelling the freedmen employed on said plantation to work faithfully. He explained the manner by which he compelled freedmen to comply with contracts by stating that he put them to work with ball and chain on the streets of Wilmington.  
Without attempting to discuss the propriety of officers of the Bureau in the military service of the U. States, who are paid by the Government for the performance of their duties, engaging in private business employing freedmen for such purposes while controlling, through their official position, that class of labor, we deem it our duty to state some of the effects produced, both upon the officers themselves and planters with whom they came in contact by such competition.  
Major Wickham, in contracting to furnish forty laborers to work a rice plantation, becomes at once interested against the laborer whom he compels unjustly, when unfairly dealt with by the person working him on the plantation, and on his refusing to work he inflicts upon them, without and for a breach of contract, unheard of punishments, putting them in chain-gangs as if they were convicted criminals. Col. Whittlesey or any other officers of lesser rank and influence in the Bureau, who are engaged in working plantations, rented for cash or on shares, become interested in securing a low rate of wages, and in making the most stringent labor regulations to the great detriment of the Freedmen.  
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The arbitrary power exercised by the officers and agents of the Bureau in making arrests, imposing fines and inflicting punishments, disregarding the local laws, and especially the State Limitations, creates prejudice against the Government. If the officers were all honest and intelligent, with even limited legal information, it might be safe to trust them with this extraordinary power; but many instances of the facts do not possess the slightest knowledge of law. At Goldsboro, the agent, Chaplain Glavis, imposed a fine of \$25 on one freedman for stabbing another so severely as to endanger his life, and when interrogated by us, state that he did not know enough about law to distinguish a civil from a criminal case. We are satisfied that the recommendation which we made in respect to the withdrawal of the officers of the Bureau in Virginia, and the transfer of the troops of such duty as it may still be necessary to perform in connection with the freedmen, is equally applicable to North Carolina.  
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Brev. Brig.-Gen. U. S. V.

Attorneys at Law.  
JOSEPH W. TATE, ATTORNEY AT LAW, BEDFORD, PA., will promptly attend to collections of bounty, back pay, &c., and all business entrusted to his care in Bedford and adjoining counties.  
Cash advanced on judgments, notes, military and other claims.  
He has for sale Town lots in Tatesville, where a good Church is erected, and where a large School House shall be built. Farms, Land and Timber Lots from one acre to 500 acres to suit purchasers.  
Office nearly opposite the "Mengel Hotel" and back of Reed & Schell.  
April 10, 1866—ly

**50 WASHING MACHINES**  
The great and great, Cog-Wheel Wringers, now on exhibition at HARTLEY & METZGER'S, call on see this invention before purchasing elsewhere.  
**SPRING TOOTH RAKES, Gum**  
Spring Grain Drills, Improved Cider Mills, Europa Folders and Cider Cutters, for sale at HARTLEY & METZGER'S.

WILMINGTON, N. C.,  
Tuesday, May 8, 1866.  
Hon. E. M. Stanton, Secretary of War:  
We have the honor to report that, in obedience to instructions of April 7 last, directing us to "inspect and report upon the Freedmen's Bureau in the Military Departments of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi, Florida, Louisiana and Texas," that we have performed the duty in the Departments of Virginia and North Carolina, and submit the following report of our observations. We deem it proper to communicate the result of our inspection in these States before proceeding any further in the performance of the duty assigned to us.

It has been our duty to ascertain, by a thorough and impartial investigation, the manner in which the Bureau has been administered and conducted in these departments, and to observe the effect produced by it upon the relations between the white and black races. In pursuing our investigations, we have endeavored to arrive at the truth, and we feel that we have succeeded in so doing, by thoroughly examining and conversing with representatives of all classes of people, white and black, as well as officers on duty in the military service and in the Freedmen's Bureau in said States. We have visited all the towns and cities of any importance, and the headquarters of each district of the Bureau in Virginia and North Carolina, and also taken advantage of every opportunity to converse with and obtain the opinions with reference to the Bureau of citizens whom we have met on the streets, at the hotels, and while traveling in the cars.

There are on duty in Virginia the following number of officers in the military service, and of other persons employed by or attached to the Bureau: 1 Colonel, 2 Lieutenant-Colonels, 8 Majors, 1 Captain and Commissary of Subsistence, 9 Captains and Assistant Quartermasters, 19 Captains of the line, 23 First Lieutenants, two hundred and thirty-three civilian employes, classified as follows: 58 Clerks and Superintendents of farms, paid average monthly wages, \$78 50; 12 Assistant Superintendents, paid average monthly wages, \$87; 163 Laborers, paid average monthly wages, \$11 75. In addition to the foregoing, enlisted men in the military service are employed as orderlies, guards, etc., but we were unable to procure the number so employed; 9,000 freedmen received rations from the Bureau in the month of December last; 10,229 in the month of January, and 9,998 in February.

Opposite Newbern, on the south bank of the Trent river, there is a settlement composed exclusively of freedmen, and containing a population about 4,000, and whose condition is truly deplorable. These unfortunate people came within our lines and were located there during the war. They are living in small huts, built by themselves, of lumber manufactured by hand. These huts generally contain but a single room, each of which is occupied in most cases by large families. The appearance of this settlement, recently scourged with small pox, is well calculated to excite the deepest sympathy for the helpless condition of its inhabitants. The deep and helpless among them are supported by the Government of the United States, and the remainder procure an uncertain and scanty living from little jobs about Newbern, from fishing with small boats, &c. Rev. Mr. Fitz, formerly an army chaplain, presides over this colony, as "Assistant Superintendent of the Bureau for the Trent River Settlement." This agent has exercised the most arbitrary and despotic power, and practiced unheard of cruelties on the helpless freedmen under his charge. The outrageous conduct of this man was brought to our attention by a delegation of freedmen from the settlement, who called upon us and made statements in reference to his oppressions and outrages, which we could scarcely credit. After hearing these statements, we visited the settlement, conversed with the freedmen, investigated the charges against this man, and ascertained that he had been guilty of greater wrongs and oppressions than had been complained of. In addition to the testimony of the freedmen, we took the statements of four intelligent ladies from the North, who were teaching school in this settlement.

JOHN P. REED, ATTORNEY AT LAW, BEDFORD, PA., will promptly attend to all business entrusted to his care.  
Particular attention paid to the collection of Military claims. Office on Juliana Street, nearly opposite the Mengel House.  
Bedford, Aug. 1, 1861.

**GREENCASTLE GRAIN CRANES**  
Natural bent fingers will be received by Hartley & Metzger, who are exclusive agents for Bedford county. Order soon.  
**BUCK-EYE REAPERS and MOWERS**  
With all the new improvements, among which is the "Patent" invention. Also a few "Barn Door" rollers for sale by Hartley & Metzger. Order soon as the supply is short for this season.

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On the 27th of April we left Raleigh for Newbern, the headquarters of Capt. Seeley, Superintendent of the Eastern District of North Carolina. We at once proceeded to investigate the affairs of the Bureau and the conduct of its officers in this district. Capt. Seeley was interrogated as to whether he was interested in any manner, directly or indirectly, in the cultivation of lands, or in any other private business requiring the labor of freedmen. He said he was not, except indirectly in manufacturing lumber, having purchased, or being about to purchase, with two of his clerks, a saw mill about forty miles down the river. Dr. Russ, Medical Purveyor, United States Volunteers, stationed at Newbern, and Mr. Potter, a citizen, were subsequently

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**DEMI-JOHN'S**, for Mineral Water, at HARTLEY & METZGER'S.  
**FISHING TACKLE**—Rods, Hooks, Lines, &c., &c. Shot Gags, Powder, Shot, Caps, &c., at HARTLEY & METZGER'S.  
**BEREA GRINDSTONES** and Fixtures, at Hartley & Metzger's.

On the 27th of April we left Raleigh for Newbern, the headquarters of Capt. Seeley, Superintendent of the Eastern District of North Carolina. We at once proceeded to investigate the affairs of the Bureau and the conduct of its officers in this district. Capt. Seeley was interrogated as to whether he was interested in any manner, directly or indirectly, in the cultivation of lands, or in any other private business requiring the labor of freedmen. He said he was not, except indirectly in manufacturing lumber, having purchased, or being about to purchase, with two of his clerks, a saw mill about forty miles down the river. Dr. Russ, Medical Purveyor, United States Volunteers, stationed at Newbern, and Mr. Potter, a citizen, were subsequently

examined, both of whom stated that Capt. Seeley, Superintendent of the Freedmen's Bureau for the district, entered into partnership with them about December last, in a contract to cultivate the farm of Major George Collier, a citizen of North Carolina, near Goldsboro. They commenced operations by planting seven hundred acres of cotton and some cane, this work necessarily requiring the labor of a large number of freedmen. Dr. Russ stated that some two weeks since he had conditionally purchased the interest of Capt. Seeley in a plantation, but he had not yet consummated the contract. Mr. Potter stated that about a fortnight ago Dr. Russ, he himself, and others, had conditionally purchased a part of the interest of Capt. Seeley, and that Capt. Seeley still owned an interest in the plantation. Without being able to determine how far Capt. Seeley is interested in this plantation, it is perfectly evident that he prevaricated in his answer to our interrogatories.

Major Wickham, in contracting to furnish forty laborers to work a rice plantation, becomes at once interested against the laborer whom he compels unjustly, when unfairly dealt with by the person working him on the plantation, and on his refusing to work he inflicts upon them, without and for a breach of contract, unheard of punishments, putting them in chain-gangs as if they were convicted criminals. Col. Whittlesey or any other officers of lesser rank and influence in the Bureau, who are engaged in working plantations, rented for cash or on shares, become interested in securing a low rate of wages, and in making the most stringent labor regulations to the great detriment of the Freedmen.  
They thereby give the sanction of Government to the establishment of wages far below what the laborer really worth. Officers of the Quartermaster's and Subsistence Department who are thus engaged are subjected to the temptation of appropriating to their own use Quartermaster's stores and rations to supply and pay their laborers. Complaints have been made to the planters that these agents of the Bureau use the power of their positions to obtain and control the best labor in the State. There is no doubt that the ill-feeling manifested toward the Bureau on the part of the planters is attributable to this fact.  
The arbitrary power exercised by the officers and agents of the Bureau in making arrests, imposing fines and inflicting punishments, disregarding the local laws, and especially the State Limitations, creates prejudice against the Government. If the officers were all honest and intelligent, with even limited legal information, it might be safe to trust them with this extraordinary power; but many instances of the facts do not possess the slightest knowledge of law. At Goldsboro, the agent, Chaplain Glavis, imposed a fine of \$25 on one freedman for stabbing another so severely as to endanger his life, and when interrogated by us, state that he did not know enough about law to distinguish a civil from a criminal case. We are satisfied that the recommendation which we made in respect to the withdrawal of the officers of the Bureau in Virginia, and the transfer of the troops of such duty as it may still be necessary to perform in connection with the freedmen, is equally applicable to North Carolina.  
Very respectfully, your obedient servants,  
J. B. STEELMAN, V. S. Agent,  
J. S. FULLERTON, V. S. Agent,  
Brev. Brig.-Gen. U. S. V.

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JOHN PALMER, ATTORNEY AT LAW, BEDFORD, PA., will promptly attend to all business entrusted to his care.  
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