Adjutant and Inspector General's Office, Richmond, January 3, 1863.

GENERAL ORDERS, }

12.

I. The following Orders are published for the information of the army :

All white male citizens of the Confederate States, between the ages of 18 and 40, who are not exempt by the act of October 11th, 1862, are liable to conscription; and all such as have been already enrolled and mustered, will be held as though in service of the Confederate States, until otherwise ordered. Exemption will not take place until after enrollment, when enrolling officers will grant certificates of exemption, in all cases clearly within the meaning of the act. All doubtful cases for exemption will be referred, for decision, to Commandants of Camps of Instruction, and if necessary, by them to the Chief of the Bureau of Conscription in Richmond. Such cases will not be required to report in person to the camp of instruction until final action is had on the same.

II. Enrolling officers are required to be vigilant in the discharge of their duties within the district confided to them, not only in respect to the enrollment of conscripts, but also in the apprehension and arrest of stragglers and deserters from the aruy. Complaints having been made of harsh treatment to conscripts by enrolling officers in certain localities, which treatment is calculated to prejudice the cause of the Confederate States, by encouraging opposition to the acts of conscription, it will be the duty of Commandants of Camps of Instruction to report to the Secretary of War, for discharge from conscript service, any officer who shall offend in this particular. It is required of all enrolling officers to encourage and promote a good understanding with the peoplo of the distriet in which they may be serving: and it is impressed on them, that firmness of purpose, tempered with kindness and forbearance, will best promote the objects to be attained.

III. Enrolling officers will furnish to Commandants of Camps of Instruction, at the end of each month, a complete roll of the conscripts made by them during the month. Such rolls will also embrace the names of persons who have been enrolled, and exempted within that period. One copy of these rolls will be immediately forwarded by the Commandants of the Camps of Instruction to the Chief of the Bureau of Conscription in Richmond, for file and future reference.

IV. All commissioned officers between the ages of 18 and 40, who have become disconnected with the army, by the operation of General Orders, Nos. 48 and 96, of 1862, or by reason of non-re-election, resignation or dismissal, unless actually disabled (of which they must furnish evidence), are subject to conscription; and while substitutes between the above ages, and who are not embraced in the provisions of the exemption law, will be held in service to the end of the terms for which they have engaged, the principals within the same ages, for whom the substitute may have engaged to serve, will be liable to conscription.

By order.

S. COOPER, Adjutant and Inspector General.