

ADJUTANT AND INSPECTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Richmond, May 29, 1863.

GENERAL ORDERS, }
No. 70. }

I. The following Act of Congress, and Regulations adopted by the Department in pursuance thereof, are published for the information of all concerned:

AN ACT TO ABOLISH SUPERNUMERARY OFFICERS IN THE COMMISSARY AND QUARTERMASTER'S DEPARTMENTS.

The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That the office of regimental commissary be and the same is hereby abolished, and the duties heretofore devolved by law upon said commissary shall be performed by the regimental quartermaster: provided, that said quartermaster shall, if required by the Secretary of War, execute a new bond, with such additional penalty as he may require.

"SEC. 2. That the commanding officer of a regiment or battalion shall, when the good of the service in his opinion requires it, detail a non-commissioned officer or private as commissary sergeant, who shall be assigned to the regimental quartermaster to perform the duties now performed by commissary sergeants; and the non-commissioned officer or private so detailed shall receive, as extra pay, twenty dollars per month.

"SEC. 3. That the regimental quartermasters acting as commissaries, shall draw supplies for their respective regiments on Provision Returns, Form 14, and not in bulk; and when detached from their brigades, so that it is impracticable to draw supplies from the brigade commissary, it shall be the duty of the nearest brigade or post commissary to supply his regiment on Provision Return 14.

"SEC. 4. Sales to officers shall be made by the brigade commissaries to which such officers are attached.

"SEC. 5. That quartermasters and commissaries, assistant quartermasters and assistant commissaries, who become permanently detached from divisions, brigades or regiments to which they are originally appointed and assigned, respectively, whether by resignation or otherwise, shall cease to be officers of the army, and their names shall be dropped from the rolls of the army, unless reassigned by a special order of the Secretary of War.

"SEC. 6. That it shall be the duty of the Secretary of War to issue

the necessary orders for the earliest practicable enforcement of the provisions of this law; and that he shall communicate to the chiefs of the subsistence and quartermaster's bureaux the names of the commissaries and assistant commissaries, quartermasters and assistant quartermasters retained and dropped from the rolls under this act.

"SEC. 7. That all laws and parts of laws contravening the provisions of this act, be and the same are hereby repealed." [Approved May 1, 1863.]

II. Regulations.

1. After this date no appointment will be made of regimental or battalion commissaries in the provisional army. Departmental commanders will direct the transfer, by regimental commissaries, of all money, effects and property in their hands to the proper regimental quartermasters, who will thereafter discharge the duties of the former, in accordance with the provisions of this act. Until such transfer is perfected, regimental commissaries will continue in the performance of their usual duties; but after the 31st day of July next all quartermasters and commissaries, assistant quartermasters and assistant commissaries, who have not been or may not be, prior to July 31st, specially detailed or assigned to duty, will cease to be officers in the confederate service.

2. Sales to officers will, after the 31st of July next, be made by the brigade commissary, as required in the 4th section of the act; and to enable him to do so, the brigade commander will select and report to the War Department, through the usual channel, the best qualified regimental commissary of his brigade, for assignment to duty with the brigade commissary. It shall be the special duty of the commissary thus assigned, to receive supplies in bulk, and to make the usually required sales to officers of the army. He will be under the immediate direction of the brigade commissary; will receipt to him for all property received, and make through him the proper reports and returns of his transactions.

3. In cavalry regiments, a lieutenant of cavalry or other competent officer may be detailed, when necessary, to aid the regimental quartermaster in the discharge of such additional duties as may be devolved upon him under the operation of this law.

4. Additional bonds will not be required of regimental quartermasters charged with commissary duties, except where directed by the Secretary of War.

By order.

S. COOPER,
Adjutant and Inspector General.