

December 9, 1863 - Conflict resolution between use of Negroes as labor force and recruiting officers for U. S. C. T.



PULASKI, December 9, 1863.

Maj. Gen. U. S. GRANT:

In pursuance of your instructions I pressed all the negroes in this country and put them to work on the bridges, cutting wood for railroad, ballasting up railroad, &c., so as to have it not only ready to run, but also to have material to run it with, which it is now entirely destitute of.



The recruiting officers for colored troops claim the right to open recruiting officers along my line; if this is done I lose my negroes, which at this time would be very detrimental to the service. So far I have refused to allow them to recruit. They have now received positive orders from the commanders of colored troops for Tennessee to come here and recruit. I don't want any trouble with them, and have assured them that when we were through with the negroes I would see that they go into the service. Unless you order otherwise, I shall continue to refuse to allow them to recruit along my line. Please advise me.



G. M. DODGE. Brig.-Gen.

CHATTANOOGA, December 9, 1863.

Brig. Gen. G. M. DODGE, Pulaski, Tennessee:

Your action in prohibiting the recruiting of negroes from those you have pressed into service for repairing railroad and providing fuel for trains is approved. Put in arrest any one who disobeys your order.

U. S. GRANT Maj.-Gen.

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