

"The various district commanders and enrolling officers were instructed to report in detail upon the agricultural and mineral resources of each county and its condition in respect of transportation and other matters important to be known. Their reports were subsequently abstracted by Major (now Brig. Gen.) F. A. Shoup, of my staff, and forwarded to Richmond.

"Military posts were established at those points at which troops were to be concentrated and at other points where it was deemed expedient to place supplies in reserve or for troops on the march. For these posts officers of the several staff departments were appointed and the accumulation of supplies commenced.

"Measures were also adopted for manufacturing many important articles for army use. Among these articles were salt, leather, shoes, wagons, harness, guncarriages, and caissons, powder, shot and shell, and accouterments, all of which were soon produced in considerable quantities. Preparations were made for mining and smelting iron, with the view to cast field and heavy artillery, and molds, furnaces and lathes were constructed for this purpose. Machinery was made for manufacturing percussion caps and small-arms, and both were turned out in small quantity, but of excellent quality. Lead mines were opened and worked, a chemical laboratory was established and successfully operated in aid of the Ordnance Department, and in the manufacture of calomel, castor oil, spirits of niter, the various tinctures of iron, and other valuable medicines. Most of these works were located at and near Arkadelphia, on the Ouachita River, 75 miles south from Little Rock. The tools, machinery, and material were gathered piece-meal or else made by hard labor. Nothing of this sort had been before attempted on Government account in Arkansas to my knowledge, except the manufacture of small-arms, the machinery for which was taken away by General Van Dorn, and there was neither capital nor sufficient enterprise among the citizens to engage in such undertakings. Considering the isolation of my district and the virtual impossibility of supplying it from east of the Mississippi, my purpose was to make it completely self-sustaining. With a reasonable amount of money I should have accomplished this design if left to my discretion in its execution. The natural resources of that country are truly wonderful in their abundance and variety. Energy and liberal foresight might develop them to an immensely valuable extent.

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"In view of the dangers that threatened to overwhelm my district, I decided that all cotton in Arkansas and North Louisiana was in imminent danger of falling into the hands of the enemy. Being of that opinion, it was my duty, under the act of Congress of March 17, 1862, and the order of the War Department thereon, to take such steps as would certainly put this property out of the enemy's reach. To defer taking it into possession until the enemy should get in the immediate vicinity and then rely upon the owners to destroy it would be puerile. Where that had been tried the enemy got at least five bales out of every ten. Whether this resulted from the fears or the cupidity of the owners was immaterial. I determined to dispose of the matter differently and effectually. An order was issued seizing all the cotton which I regarded as in danger, and directing receipts given for it by agents appointed for the purpose. The same order directed that all cotton adjacent to the enemy's lines should be burned immediately; that the remainder should be removed 20 miles from any navigable stream and burned upon the approach of an enemy; but that out of all,