



Department of the Gulf,  
Headquarters, U. S. Sequestration Commission.

New-Orleans, February 5, 1863.

The officers of the Government will induce the Slaves to return to the Plantations where they belong, with their families, and when returned will require them, and those remaining upon the Plantations to work diligently and faithfully on the Plantations for one year, to maintain respectful department to their employers, and perfect subordination to their duties, upon condition that the Planters or other employers will feed, clothe, and treat them properly, and give them at the end of the year one twentieth (1/20) part of the year's crop, or a fixed monthly compensation, in cases where it may be more convenient, as follows:

- Each. Mechanics, Sugar Makers, Drivers, &c. - - - - - Three Dollars
- Able-bodied Field Men, - - - - - Two " "
- Abel-bodied Field Women, House Servants, Nurses, &c., - One " "

The proportion reserved for the slaves, shall be divided into shares, and distributed according to

the value of their labor, as follows:

- Mechanics, Sugar Makers, Drivers, &c., - - - - - Three Shares Each.
- Able-bodied Field Men, - - - - - Two " "
- Able-bodied Field Women, House Servants, Nurses, &c., - One " "

All negroes not otherwise employed will be required to labor upon the public works, and no person capable of labor will be supported at the public expense in idleness.

(Signed) E. G. BECKWITH,  
Colonel, President Sequestration

Commission.

The undersigned hereby accept the arrangement above proposed, and agree to carry it out, on their part, for one year from the date thereof, it being distinctly understood that the crop referred to means the commercial crop, and the acceptance of this contract does not imply the surrender of any right of property in the slave or other right of the owner.

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Date: February 5, 1863

Description: A copy of an agreement between planters and the U.S. Sequestration Commission for slaves to return to plantations and work for one year for a set amount of pay or a portion of the year's crop.