38TH CONGRESS,
2D SESSION.

H. R. 698.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

JANUARY 24, 1865.

Read twice, ordered to be printed, and recommitted to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. SCHENCK, from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported the following bill:

A BILL

To establish, in the War Department, a Bureau for the Relief of Freedmen and Refugees.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That a bureau be established in the War Department, to which shall be committed the supervision, management, and control of all subjects relating to refugees and freedmen from rebel States, under such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the head of the department and approved by the President. The said bureau shall have one chief, to be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, whose compensation shall be three thousand dollars per annum, and such number of clerks as may be deemed necessary by the chief of the bureau, and approved by the Secretary of War, not exceeding two of the fourth

14 class, two of the third class, three of the second class, and
15 five of the first class.

1 SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That the President
2 may assign to such bureau, for the benefit of said refugees
3 and freedmen, the temporary use of such lands and tene-
4 ments in insurrectionary States, not belonging to loyal
5 owners, as may be necessary, and may direct such issues of
6 provisions, clothing, and fuel as he may deem needful for the
7 immediate and temporary shelter and supply of destitute and
8 suffering refugees and freedmen and their wives and children,
9 under such rules and regulations as he may direct.

1 SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That all laws and
2 parts of laws conflicting herewith are hereby repealed.