Excerpts from CHAP. XC._________An Act to Establish a Bureau for the Relief of Freedmen and Refugees

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress Assembled, That there is hereby established in the War Department, to continue during the present war of rebellion, and for one year thereafter, a bureau of refugees, freedmen, and abandoned land…

The said bureau shall be under the management and control of a commissioner 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…

Sec. 2. and be it further enacted, That the Secretary of War may direct such issues of provisions, clothing, and fuel, as he may deem needful for the immediate and temporary shelter and supply of destitute and suffering refugees and freemen and their wives and children, under such rules and regulations as he may direct.

http://www.history.umd.edu/Freedmen/fbact.htm