

Book X.
Title XXIV.

That services shall not be demanded from taxpayers.
(Ne operae a collatoribus exigantur.)

10.24.1. Emperors Valentinian, Valens and Gratian to Viventius, Praetorian Prefect.

Your Sincerity will direct that demands for services which have been heretofore been unlawfully required of provincials shall cease.

Given at Treves February 20 (369).

C. Th. 11.10.1.

Note.

The term "operae" was used to express personal services by manual labor. Clausen, Roman Colonate 25. Thus a freedman frequently owed services to his patron. C. 6.6.6. A tenant, or serf, at times at least, and perhaps generally, owed services to his landlord. C. 11.53.1.1. Thus in an inscription from Africa, it is said: "The coloni who shall dwell within the farm, Villa Magna or Mappalia Siga, shall furnish to the owners or lessors or stewards exactly per year per man, two days work at the plow, two days work at the harvest, and at weeding one day's work of each kind, that is two days work total." Nostrand, The Imperial Domains 32.

The terms of this law were limited in meaning, particularly if we assume, as we probably must, that curials in cities were included in the term "provincials." These curials - members of municipal senates - were required to perform various personal liturgies - generally termed "munera." Headnote C. 10.32; headnote C. 10.42. At C. 8.11.7 it is said that everyone should contribute services toward the restoration or construction of ports, aqueducts and walls. And the construction and repair of highways was considered so important that it may be doubtful that anyone was exempt from contributing thereto. See headnote C. 10.42. So the hauling of the tax in kind to storehouses. C. 10.16.6. The main services here mentioned were probably personal services in connection with haulage of public property on the highways and byways, mainly on the former. Rustics were not required to perform such services. C. 1.48.1; C. 1.55.1. And according to the instant law, land owners generally were not required to do so. This did not, however, probably prevent curials from being called on to convoy shipments of goods, as mentioned at headnote C. 12.55.