

Book XI.
Title XXVIII. (XXVII)

Concerning the grain at Alexandria.
(De frumento Alexandrino.)

11.28.1. Emperors Honorius and Theodosius to Anthemius, Praetorian Prefect.

We confirm the order given by Your Eminence concerning the amount of grain shipped to the city of Alexandria, and concerning the liturgy of inspector and weighmaster, and for the protection of the property of the public seamen. And to take away from the curials the opportunity of plunder, we order that they shall never be admitted to take charge of such duty, but designated officials, after examination under your supervision, shall have charge thereof.

Given at Constantinople January 28 (412).

C. Th. 14.26.1.

Note.

This law does not deal with the grain distributed for the benefit of the people of Alexandria, but with the grain collected from Egypt and shipped to Constantinople. That subject is quite fully dealt with in Edict 13 of Justinian, which deals entirely with the government of Egypt. In the instant law weighers and inspectors are mentioned to inspect the grain shipped and delivered to the public seamen, so as to protect the seamen, as well as the public against the fraud of the latter.

11.28.2. Emperors Theodosius and Valentinian to Isadorus, Praetorian Prefect.

We order that 110 pecks daily shall be added to the amount spent for the support of the City of Alexandria, without depriving anyone of what he has heretofore enjoyed. The name of perissochoregia shall be entirely avoided. (The tickets for bread) shall be designated by the name of tessera and shall bear the name of Our Piety.

Given at Constantinople June 4 (436).

C. Th. 14.26.2.

Note.

This law deals with the grain supplied to the city of Alexandria, to be made into bread and distributed among the people without charge, just as bread was distributed to the people of Rome and Constantinople. This custom continued and is mentioned in Edict 13 referred to in note to law 1 of this title. The bread tickets had evidently borne the name of perissochoregia, indicating that they represented an extra amount - an amount out of the ordinary. From now on that name was directed to be no longer used, but that bread tickets should be known under the ordinary name of tessera.