

Book XI.  
Title LV. (LIV)

That rustics shall not be called away for any duty.  
(Ut rusticani ad nullum obsequium devocentur).

11.55.1. A copy of the imperial letter of Diocletian and Maximian to Charisius.

No one of the rural plebeians who live outside of the walls, who pays the head tax<sup>1</sup> and furnishes the tax in kind (annonam) shall be called upon to perform any other (public) duty or be compelled to perform any service in connection with the fiscal mules and horses.

Without date and Consul.

Note.

The principle here stated is about the same as that stated in C. 10.48.1, namely, that farmers should not be called away from their work to perform other services. This did not give them exemption from furnishing transportation for the highways and by-ways. See headnote C. 12.50. In fact C. Th. 8.5.16 states that in Sardinia part of such transportation was kept up almost entirely by "rustic plebeians." By C. 11.68.5, extraordinary burdens were forbidden to be imposed on them.

11.55.2. Emperors Valentinian and Valens to Probus, Praetorian Prefect of Illyria.

If any of those who serve under the rectors of the provinces, and serve as chief in the various official staffs, and who under some pretext of their public service can be terrifying (to others), impose any service upon a rustic, as upon their slave, or turn the slave or the oxen of the rustic to their own use or benefit, shall be deprived of their property and banished perpetually; and the rustic who voluntarily performs such services, shall be visited with like punishment.

Given at Agreppina September 30 (368).

Note.

This law prohibited officials from using services and oxen of country people for their own benefit. And country people were likewise forbidden to furnishing such services and oxen for such use.

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<sup>1</sup> [Blume] possibly "land-tax." Scott prefers "poll tax." See 7 [15] Scott 213 (as C. 11.54.1).