1866, just before the expiration of the original act, a Congressional amendment extended it indefinitely until repealed and also vastly enlarged the field of operations by the Bureau. It was made a branch of the War Department, with instructions to establish military sub-districts in command of army officers to enforce its dictates. When the Bill was sent to President Johnson for signature, he vetoed it. He called attention to the fact that the South was making good progress in re-establishing law and order, and he could see no necessity for virtually a military dictatorship here at that time, but Congress passed it over his veto. Thus was the South launched upon her decade of troubles, which were imposed upon her, as we shall see, not in the spirit of patriotism, but purely from partisan motives.

Among the added functions of the Freedmen's Bureau was the establishment of Churches, schools, and other institutions for the freedmen in the South. On the face of it this was a worthy move, but it developed that these institutions became the means for the spread of pernicious social doctrine among the negroes. The ministerial brethren and the school teachers that came down from the North to minister to the moral and educational welfare of the freedmen, were, most of them, over-zealous people who lacked the ability to foresee the certain result of radical teachings at a time like this; and it was their work of attempting to put the negro on an equal social basis with his former master that produced the bitterest and most dangerous influences of the time.

As early as 1866, Jacksonville had three negro schools, four teachers and 530 pupils; and there was established at Magnolia Springs a hospital with a staff of several physicians and a number of nurses.

Operation of banks to care for the freedmen's savings and teach them thrift, was another phase of the Bureau's added activities. To start with, these banks were operated along legitimate lines with safe securities, but these were soon replaced by worthless stocks and valueless mortgages. The Freedmen's banks became the beacon lights that drew the unsuspecting darky into the fold, where he became the prey of the political machine officially called the Freedmen's Bureau. The whole fabric degenerated into a wildcat scheme to defraud the negro, and it collapsed in 1874, when popular clamor in the North demanded an investigation of its affairs.