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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

ADJUTANT GENERAL

OF THE

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

For the Year 1854.

TRENTON, N. J.

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THE J. L. MURPHY PUBLISHING CO., PRINTERS.

1904

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S REPORT.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE, }
TRENTON, December 31, 1854. }

To His Excellency, Rodman M. Price, Governor, Commander-in-Chief, &c., &c.:

SIR—In my annual report to the Commander-in-Chief, I would particularly notice the increase and efficiency of the uniformed volunteer companies throughout the State. We have now regularly commissioned, armed and equipped, one hundred and fifty-two uniformed companies, which, by averaging their strength, will be found nearly equal in numbers to the actual force of the regular army of the United States, reported as fit for duty.

It is not the intention, or the province of the Adjutant General, to institute companies; but to report truthfully the actual condition of these corps, and should that report be generally in accordance (which it is) with the discipline and efficiency of the Second Division, noticed in General Orders of October 12, 1854, it certainly entitles them to the favorable consideration of the executive.

Special legislation has given funds and facilities to the uniform companies in one brigade, which I earnestly recommend may be extended, in time of peace, to all the brigades. (Refer to act approved March tenth, eighteen hundred and fifty-three, page 195, Laws of N. J.)

I recommend that the organization of the brigade boards be insisted upon, as an absolutely necessary part of the militia system, according to the act approved April seventeen, eighteen hundred and forty-six. For the support of these boards generally, for the encouragement of the volunteer companies, and to defray the expenses of making the enrolled schedule, agreeably to the act

of seventeenth March, eighteen hundred and fifty-two, I propose, in time of peace, that the assessors of the different wards and townships shall annually assess, against every white male inhabitant liable to, and neglecting to perform militia duty, between twenty-one and forty-five years of age, the sum of twenty-five cents, and that said assessment shall be collected in the same manner as township taxes, and the moneys collected thereon by the collectors and constables in any of the townships or wards shall be paid over to the brigade paymaster, who shall annually, after deducting the expenses of the brigade board, and of the collection thereof, pay the balance to the several uniformed companies composing the brigade, *pro rata*, according to the number of the members performing their duty in each, to be expended for militia purposes exclusively.

The actual expenses of the uniformed soldier, his loss of time, and the sacrifice he is exposed to make for the people in enforcing their laws, entitle the man, the individual man, at their hands, to pecuniary compensation. The very spirit of our institutions, even-handed justice, and the claims of class, it seems to me, should place all upon a fair and equal footing.

I desire again to press the necessity of keeping up the organization of the brigade boards in all the brigades. The law defining their duties is full and explicit, and it no doubt is intended, through them, to afford the remedy for the numerous complaints of individual grievance, real or imaginary, that of late so often are made to occupy the time of this office and must, if persisted in, interfere with the important duties of your Excellency.

Among the exhibits of my report of December thirty-first, eighteen hundred and fifty-two, on file in this office, giving the returns of persons between the ages of eighteen and forty-five, in the State of New Jersey, liable to do militia duty, made in accordance with the provisions of an act of the Legislature of said State, entitled "A further supplement to the act entitled 'An act establishing a militia system,'" approved March seven, eighteen hundred and fifty-two, will be seen—

First Division,	21,781
Second Division,	29,432
Third Division,	17,714
Fourth Division,	14,658
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Total,	81,985

For the last two years no full returns upon each annual assessment have been made to this department by the civil officers under the law. In fact, from some of the brigades no return at all has been received, and up to this time I am unable to make a suitable report, presenting a fair schedule, upon which our quota of arms and military supplies can be drawn from the United States.

It is submitted whether the enrolled schedules, made out every three years, and the law rigidly enforced, would not be sufficient.

It will be seen by "An act concerning field officers of the Militia," approved twentieth April, eighteen hundred and sixteen, (Laws of the United States, vol. 6, page 17, SSL,) "Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That from and after the first day of May next, instead of one lieutenant colonel commandant to each regiment, and one major to each battalion of the militia, as provided by an act entitled 'An act more effectually to provide for the national defence by establishing a uniform militia throughout the United States,' approved May eight, seventeen hundred and ninety-two, there shall be one colonel, one lieutenant colonel, and one major, to each regiment of the militia, consisting of two battalions: where there shall be only one battalion, it shall be commanded by a major, provided that nothing therein contained shall be construed to annul any commission in the militia, which may be in force as granted by authority of any state or territory, in pursuance of the act herein recited, and bearing date prior to the first day of May next."

Our statutes are silent upon the subject of the lineal commission of lieutenant colonel, and I recommend that the organization of the militia of New Jersey be made by law to conform as closely as practicable to the acts of Congress, particularly when they shall have been revised, and made applicable to the

improvements in the system of modern warfare. (Vide Appendix A.)

In conclusion, I would respectfully propose that the Minnie rifle be adopted for the use of the militia of New Jersey. The efficiency of this weapon in battle is established beyond a doubt, and the question with us now is, only as to the extent to which it is to be employed in future. Its adoption by the United States we may look upon as inevitable. Without it, in war, the nation would not be upon a par with those who use it. Whenever this arm is on hand for distribution among the states and territories, in drawing our quota of military supplies, an early application for it might not be amiss.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

T. CADWALADER,
Adjutant-General N. J. M.

(APPENDIX A.)

An act further supplementary to an act entitled "An act establishing a militia system," approved April seventeen, eighteen hundred and forty-four.

1. Be IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey*, That from and after the passage of this act, instead of a major for each battalion of a regiment, consisting of two battalions, as now directed by the act to which this is a supplement, there shall be one lieutenant colonel, and one major, to each of such regiments, in conformity to the act of Congress of the United States, entitled "An act concerning field officers of the militia," approved April twenty, eighteen hundred and sixteen.

2. *And be it enacted*, That this act shall take effect immediately after the passage thereof.

