

were required, embodying the requisite information respecting each individual, and certified by the company commandant. One copy of each of these was sent to the Treasurer of the State, and one to the proper authority in the city or county in which the company was organized, together with carefully prepared lists of all persons from said city or county who had enlisted in other companies.

To guard against any mistakes from a misunderstanding on the part of the volunteers, as to the information required of them, provision was made that corrected statements should be sent, under proper certificate, to this office, which, when received, were transmitted in like manner to the Treasurer and the proper authorities. Further reports are received at this office monthly from each regiment in service, containing statements of all recruits, desertions, discharges, &c., thus affording correct information each month of all entitled to the bounty of the State. By these means each family is easily reached, and, at the same time, sufficient guard placed around the money to insure its proper and legal distribution.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

ADJUTANT GENERAL

OF THE

STATE OF NEW JERSEY,


FOR THE YEAR 1862.



TRENTON, N. J.:

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1863.



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ADJUTANT GENERAL'S REPORT.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE, }
TRENTON, N. J., Dec. 31, 1862. }

To His Excellency

CHARLES S. OLDEN,

Governor, Commander-in-Chief, &c., &c.

Being required by law to report "all proceedings relative to the details of the military force ordered by the Commander-in-Chief upon requisition of the President of the United States," together with "the general state of the militia, as also any improvements to advance the discipline and benefit of the militia," I beg leave to submit the following report of military transactions through this department during the past year.

Under the system adopted on the reorganization of the department since the date of my last report, the duties may be classed under three heads:—

1. The organization of troops for the United States service, and the duties connected with them while they continue in such service.

2. Those connected with the State bounty provided by the Legislature for the families of volunteers.

3. Those connected with the militia in the State;

Each differing widely from the others, and all of much importance.

In this connection I beg leave to report that the valuable services of the assistants at present engaged in this office is worthy of mention. The unremitting zeal and energy with which they have performed the arduous and varied duties imposed upon them, working at times night and day in order to accelerate the business of the office, meets my warmest approbation.

The regiments raised under calls made upon the State in the year 1861, the organization of which was given at length in my last report, still continue in the service of the United States. Engaged in all the severest battles of the war in Virginia, Maryland and North Carolina, they have won for themselves imperishable renown, and reflected credit upon their native State. But the records on file in this office show that their ranks have been greatly thinned by disease and death, while many valuable and meritorious officers have fallen. Although the battles in which they were engaged may not always

have proved successful to the Union army, our brave heroes have died at least "without fear and without reproach," and will ever be gratefully remembered by the people of the State in which they lived, and for whose credit and national honor they have sacrificed their lives.

The places of officers have been filled, in nearly every instance, by promotion for meritorious conduct in the field, the plan having been strictly adhered to of promoting upon the nomination of the commanding officers of the regiments.

Two editions of the "Register of Commissioned Officers of New Jersey Volunteers in the service of the United States" have been issued from this office during the year, one containing the names of all officers who had held positions in the three years regiments from New Jersey since the beginning of the war to July 1, 1862, and the other giving the names of officers in commission Oct. 22, 1862, with the changes reported since the date of the previous publication. These, together with my report of last year, and a third edition of the register of this date, form a complete record of commissioned officers of New Jersey regiments since the commencement of the war.

It is my duty to report that the vacancies constantly occurring in the ranks of these regiments have not been filled with the alacrity which had been hoped for, and which the services of these regiments would seem to warrant. Every exertion has been made, recruiting parties have been detailed throughout the entire State, old companies have been consolidated, new ones raised, and every effort has been used to have Jersey men who have enlisted in other regiments transferred to the State regiments. Every facility in his power has been afforded by the accomplished officer in charge of the recruiting service in this State, but the enlistments have been comparatively few. An order from the War Department, permitting officers of the regular army to recruit their commands from the ranks of volunteers, paralyzed the efforts of recruiting parties to a great extent; but volunteers have seemed to prefer enlisting in the new regiments rather than the old. This is unaccountable, inasmuch as the privation and inconvenience incident to a newly organized regiment are entirely avoided by enlistment in an old one, while discipline and promotion are much more easily obtained in a regiment which has seen service under competent officers, and which has already gained well merited distinction. The requisition made upon the State in September last, for three thousand men for the old regiments, has not yet been filled; it is due to the regiments that we should fill their ranks as soon as possible, and every effort is still being made to do so; yet the excess of men furnished by the State over all former calls made upon her is more than sufficient to fill this call, as is shown in another part of this report.

The whole number of recruits for the old regiments furnished during the year was one thousand and thirty. In this number is included one full company to fill a vacancy in the Tenth regiment; one company for the Fifth regiment, to fill a vacancy occasioned by

the consolidation of Company A with the other companies of the regiment; one company (composed of citizens of New Jersey) transferred from the District of Columbia Volunteers to the Seventh regiment, New Jersey Volunteers, to fill a vacancy caused by consolidation; and a detachment of men, recruited in New Jersey and attached to a New York cavalry regiment, but afterwards transferred to the First cavalry regiment, New Jersey Volunteers.

The Ninth regiment, attached to General Foster's command in North Carolina, having lost largely in the many actions in which it has borne a conspicuous part, the twelve companies of which it was originally composed have been consolidated into ten, and the superfluous officers mustered out of service.

Pursuant to an act of Congress, approved July 17, 1862, abolishing regimental bands, the bands attached to the first nine regiments have been mustered out of service. A band, consisting of sixteen members, has since been recruited for the First brigade, New Jersey Volunteers, and was forwarded to the brigade on the 18th of November.

The regiments spoken of in my last annual report, as composed of citizens of this State recruited in the fall of 1861, and accepted by the War Department as independent organizations, were found to be, from various causes, in a partially demoralized condition. On the 29th of January an order was issued from the War Department placing these regiments under the care of the State authorities, and authorizing the appointment of officers in the mode prescribed for the State regiments. Captain William R. Murphy, of Trenton, was appointed colonel January 29, 1862, and immediately took charge of the infantry regiment, then stationed at Georgetown, D. C. The regiment was thoroughly reorganized, such officers as had given evidence of their efficiency being retained, while inefficient ones were discharged from the service and others appointed to fill the vacancies thus occasioned. The regiment was designated the Tenth regiment, New Jersey Volunteers; and, under competent officers, soon attained a commendable degree of discipline and efficiency. During the greater part of the time it has been in service the regiment has been stationed at Washington doing duty as provost guard, which duty has been performed in a manner creditable alike to officers and men. One company (G) of this regiment, originally recruited and mustered as a cavalry company, was, upon the transfer of the regiment to the care of the State, disbanded, and its officers mustered out of service. A company of infantry to fill the vacancy was recruited, and, under the command of Captain Charles H. McChesney, forwarded to join the regiment June 12, 1862.

The regiment of cavalry, at the time of its transfer to the care of the State, was also thoroughly reorganized, inefficient officers being discharged and their places filled by careful selections, and the regiment placed under command of Colonel Percy Wyndham. This regiment has been in almost constant service in the field since its re-

organization, and has won golden opinions from those under whose command it has been placed. The lamented Bayard spoke in the highest terms of the men and their gallant officers while under his command.

Having visited the army twice during the past year, I had excellent opportunities to see the condition of the First and Second brigades, and subsequently of other regiments, and found them comfortable and contented. Having seen the requisitions made by their commanding officers, I found that the regiments were well provided for, and needed but few of the supplies to which they were entitled. They have been made the subject of special mention by inspection officers, and their soldier-like appearance, discipline and bravery have elicited warm praise from the division and corps commanders.

On the 7th of July the President issued a call for three hundred thousand additional volunteers, to serve for three years or during the war, and on the next day a telegram was received calling for five regiments of infantry from the State of New Jersey. At the time this call was made there was but one regiment in process of formation in the State, of which about four hundred men were then encamped in Camp Perrine, Trenton, under command of Lieutenant Colonel N. Norris Halsted. Recruiting proceeded but slowly, and it was daily becoming more evident that the enthusiasm which rendered our citizens so eager to enlist in the earlier days of the war could not be relied on to place five new regiments promptly in the field, and that some method must be adopted to give an impetus to recruiting. It was believed that recruiting would be greatly facilitated by the immediate appointment of commanding officers from, and the establishment of camps for recruits in, the different military divisions of the State. This plan was adopted, and in the organization of the camps and the further endeavor to obtain recruits, a system was pursued calculated to afford every encouragement to enlistment, but with such guards as to prevent deception of the volunteer or unnecessary expense to the State. This system is fully shown by the several orders issued on the subject.

On the 7th of July an order had been issued from the War Department providing for the payment of two dollars premium for each recruit for three years or the war, and that each such recruit should receive his first month's pay in advance, and, upon the muster of his regiment into service, an additional advance of twenty-five dollars of the one hundred dollars bounty provided by Congress to be paid to volunteers upon the expiration of their term of enlistment. Under General Order No. 75, War Department, an officer was immediately appointed for each company of the proposed regiments, and commissioned as second lieutenant, to act as mustering officer. This obviated the necessity of having a United States officer convenient to the camp of rendezvous to muster recruits into the service. Each recruit, upon being brought to camp, was sworn in by the mustering officer of the company to which he was assigned, received his premium and one

month's pay in advance, and was at once uniformed and placed under drill. The twenty-five dollars advance bounty was paid to each volunteer by the chief disbursing officer for the State upon the final muster of the regiments into the United States service.

These inducements, together with the monthly bounty paid by the State to the families of volunteers, the emulation aroused by assigning one regiment to each military division, the exertions of influential citizens—both in the way of personal effort to induce and in raising local funds to encourage enlistments—and the vigorous and well-directed efforts of the several commandants of the camps, as well as their known character and ability as regimental commanders, seemed to give a new impetus to enlistments, and in but little more than a month from the date of the requisition the five regiments were filled, organized, equipped, partially drilled and ready to be handed over to the general government.

The following statement shows the date of muster of each regiment, and its numerical strength at that time:—

Eleventh Regiment—Colonel Robert McAllister.
 Mustered August 18, 1862. Officers, 39; enlisted men, 868.
 Total, 907

Twelfth Regiment—Colonel Robert C. Johnson.
 Mustered September 4, 1862. Officers, 39; enlisted men, 940.
 Total, 979

Thirteenth Regiment—Colonel Ezra A. Carman.
 Mustered August 25, 1862. Officers, 39; enlisted men, 841.
 Total, 880

Fourteenth Regiment—Colonel William S. Truex.
 Mustered August 26, 1862. Officers, 38; enlisted men, 925.
 Total, 963

Fifteenth Regiment—Colonel Samuel Fowler.
 Mustered August 25, 1862. Officers, 39; enlisted men, 875.
 Total, 914

The Eleventh regiment left the State on the 25th of August, and the others followed in quick succession until the 6th of September, on which day the last one left the State. Soon after reporting for duty to the War Department these regiments were assigned to important positions in the Army of the Potomac, and such of them as have had opportunity have added new lustre to the fame of the New Jersey Volunteers in some of the severest battles of the fall and winter campaign. A conspicuous instance of gallantry was furnished by the Thirteenth regiment, which, within three weeks from the time they left the State, took part in the action of September 17th, near

Sharpsburg, Md., and, although worn out by weary marches, went gallantly into action, and by their noble conduct won the praise of all who saw them. The regiment lost in this action—in killed, wounded and missing—one hundred and nine officers and men.

On the 4th of August the President ordered that a draft of three hundred thousand militia be immediately called into the service of the United States, to serve for nine months unless sooner discharged, the quotas of the different States to be assigned, and the regulations for the draft to be established by the Secretary of War. Subsequently a despatch was received from the War Department giving the regulations for the draft, providing that an enrollment be immediately made of all able-bodied male citizens between the ages of eighteen and forty-five years, and announcing the quota of this State as ten thousand four hundred and seventy-eight men. A subsequent order, dated August 14th, directed that "The draft for three hundred thousand militia ordered by the President be made on Wednesday, the 3d day of September, between the hours of 9 o'clock A. M. and 5 o'clock P. M., and continued from day to day, between the same hours, until completed." In pursuance of the several orders on the subject, the enrollment was ordered in each county in the State, commissioners and examining surgeons were appointed, places of rendezvous for drafted men were designated, and the table of quotas prepared for publication. At this juncture the following order, delaying the publication of the quotas, was received from the War Department, entitled, "Additional Regulations for the Enrollment and Draft of Militia:"—"In filling all requisitions for militia, the quotas of the several States will be apportioned by the Governors among the several counties, and, where practicable, among the subdivisions of counties, so that allowance shall be made to such counties and subdivisions for all volunteers theretofore furnished by them and mustered into the service of the United States, and whose stipulated term of service shall not have expired."

This involved the necessity of ascertaining the number of three years' volunteers that had been furnished by each county and township, a matter of no small difficulty, inasmuch as many of the volunteers, having no families to receive the State bounty during their absence, had, in giving their residences, merely given counties, not specifying townships and cities. This difficulty, however, was in a great measure overcome by careful research, and by procuring information from every available source.

A general desire was manifested by our citizens to fill the quota of the State by voluntary enlistment, and thus avoid the draft; but under the order providing for the enrollment the time allowed was so short that the returns of the commissioners could not be obtained before the time fixed for the draft, and thus the people be forced to a draft, when, if time was given, New Jersey could raise her quota by voluntary enlistment. More time was requested of the War Department, but denied, and it seemed to be a time for State officials to take

responsibility upon themselves, and act with promptness and energy ; for the people had a right to know what number of men they were required to raise in time to use all endeavor to raise that number without a draft.

These difficulties were foreseen, as also the difficulty of obtaining information for an enrollment when inquiry was made, in view of an expected draft in the spring of 1861, before the troops (enlisted for three years) left for the seat of war. At that time every one seemed earnest in support of the war ; any desired information or assistance was promptly and efficiently given, and the people seemed indeed rather anxious to be enrolled. The assessors were called upon for a correct enrollment, and, to ensure certainty, the brigade commanders were also directed to have an enrollment made. Thus two enrollments of the entire militia force of the State were made in that year. By comparing these one roll was made, and this was compared both with the census returns and with the record on file in the office of the Secretary of State of the vote of 1861, and any discrepancies that appeared were corrected by consultation with county and township authorities.

This was taken as a basis upon which to assess the quotas, as by this means the county and township quotas could be presented to the people of the State immediately, showing them about the number they were required to raise, and giving them time to exert themselves to fill the quota without draft, while any required corrections could be made from the commissioners' returns should draft become necessary.

In taking this responsibility measures were taken to insure the sections of the State against unfair assessment. Subsequent events have proved the correctness of the quotas thus assessed.

Another reason for taking these returns as a basis was found in the order providing that credit be given for the number of men already sent to the war ; for if the commissioners' returns had been taken as a basis, some localities would have received double credit. They would have received credit in the enrollment, as the commissioners' returns were to include only those then in the State liable to do military duty, and the names of those who had entered the service could not, of course, appear upon these rolls, while, under the order, credit must again be given for these men when the quotas were calculated from these rolls.

Under such a system of credits between the State and the United States the State needed to send no troops, for we had already in the field a greater number than the quota called for ; but if the State was to furnish ten thousand four hundred and seventy-eight men, then, by this system of double credit, the whole number must be raised from certain localities, and those the least able to bear the burden.

The only way, then, to carry out the order would have been to add to the commissioners' rolls the number of men who had gone to the war before giving the credits. If this addition had been made by the

commissioners it must have been incorrect, from the impossibility of obtaining information; while the returns would have been false, as they purported to give the number of men at that time liable to do military duty.

These additions might, perhaps, have been made in time to assess the quotas before the day fixed for the draft, but the effect would simply have been to make the enrollment equivalent to one made before any men had been furnished, while an enrollment made in view of draft must almost necessarily be incorrect, depending as it does not only upon the accuracy of the enrolling officers, but upon information they might receive from interested parties.

These difficulties, however, were avoided by the plan adopted, and the assessment of the quotas was laid before the people on the 19th of August, in a general order issued from this department, announcing the quota for each county, city and township in the State.

The quotas were ascertained by adding together the whole number of volunteers already furnished by the State and the number of men required under the new call. From the number required from each township, in proportion to the able-bodied male citizens thereof, was deducted the number already furnished by such township, the remainder being the number required to fill the requisition. The sum thus proved itself, and its correctness could be easily tested.

It was then announced that volunteers, in lieu of drafted men would be received up to the 1st of September, and that positively the draft would take place at the appointed time in any township the quota of which should not by that time be filled.

The result was gratifying beyond all expectation. For several days previous to the time fixed for the draft men poured into camp by thousands, and by the evening of the 2d of September the five camps contained ten thousand eight hundred volunteers, which number was subsequently reduced by medical examination to ten thousand seven hundred and fourteen, being two hundred and thirty-six more than the number called for.

The telegraph office was kept open during the night of the 2d to receive information from the camps, and at 9 o'clock on the morning of the 3d (the day fixed for the draft to commence) I had the honor to announce to the Adjutant General of the United States that the quota of this State was in camp without a single drafted man, and claimed as a right that they should be accepted as nine months' volunteers. This claim was denied, although unquestionably a just one, as this was the only State whose quota was in camp, and the men would certainly seem to be entitled to the advantages—pecuniary and otherwise—possessed by those accepted as volunteers, for they had all voluntarily enlisted, although I have been informed that subsequently, and before the regiments left the State, a few men were drafted, one of the commissioners deeming it his duty to resort to draft because the quota of his county was not quite full, notwithstanding the excess of volunteers over the quota of the whole State.

The camps of rendezvous had been established at five points in the State, and commandants appointed, as follows:—

Rendezvous No. 1, at Trenton—Brigadier General N. Norris Halsted, commandant.

Rendezvous No. 2, at Beverly—Brigadier General Geo. M. Robeson, commandant.

Rendezvous No. 3, at Freehold—Brigadier General Chas. Haight, commandant.

Rendezvous No. 4, at Newark—Brigadier General Cornelius Van Vorst, commandant.

Rendezvous No. 5, at Flemington—Brigadier General A. E. Donaldson, commandant.

As rapidly as possible after being received into camp the men were organized into companies and regiments, clothed, uniformed and equipped, and placed under instructions in the duties of the soldier.

Too much praise cannot be awarded to the several commandants for the manner in which they discharged the varied and difficult duties of their positions. Men from every grade of society, unaccustomed to the hardships of camp life and the restraints of military discipline, thus suddenly leaving their peaceful avocations, coming together in large masses and entering upon a mode of life novel to all, rendered necessary the most careful and judicious action on the part of the commandants to prevent the disorder which would seem inevitable, involving, perhaps, the loss of the entire command. The complete success which attended their efforts proves alike their untiring care and the wisdom of their selection.

These ten thousand seven hundred and fourteen men were organized into eleven regiments, which were numbered Twenty-first to Thirty-first, inclusive, thus giving the State credit for the number of regiments she has sent to the war by their number in the line, yet keeping distinct each arm of the service and term of enlistment, and avoiding confusion in numbers when the term of service of any regiment expires.

The following statement shows the numerical strength of each regiment the date of muster, and the date of departure from the State:—

Twenty-first Regiment—Colonel Gilliam Van Houten.

Mustered September 15, 1862. Officers, 38; enlisted men, 928.

Total, 966

Left the State September 24.

Twenty-second Regiment—Colonel Cornelius Fornet.

Mustered September 22, 1862. Officers, 38; enlisted men, 899.

Total, 937

Left the State September 29.

Twenty-third Regiment—Colonel John S. Cox.

Mustered September 13, 1862. Officers, 39; enlisted men, 955.

Total, 994.

Left the State September 26.

Twenty-fourth Regiment—Colonel William B. Robertson.

Mustered September 16, 1862. Officers, 39; enlisted men, 946.

Total, 985

Left the State September 29.

Twenty-fifth Regiment—Colonel Andrew Derrom.

Mustered September 29, 1862. Officers, 38; enlisted men, 946.

Total, 984

Left the State October 10.

Twenty-sixth Regiment—Colonel Andrew J. Morrison.

Mustered September 18, 1862. Officers, 38; enlisted men, 920.

Total, 958

Left the State September 26.

Twenty-seventh Regiment—Colonel George W. Mindil.

Mustered September 19, 1862. Officers, 38; enlisted men, 973.

Total, 1014

Left the State October 10.

Twenty-eighth Regiment—Colonel Moses N. Wisewell.

Mustered September 15, 1862. Officers, 39; enlisted men, 881.

Total, 920

Left the State October 2.

Twenty-ninth Regiment—Colonel Edwin F. Applegate.

Mustered September 20, 1862. Officers, 39; enlisted men, 910.

Total, 949

Left the State September 28.

Thirtieth Regiment—Colonel Alexander E. Donaldson.

Mustered September 17, 1862. Officers, 39; enlisted men, 967.

Total, 1006

Left the State September 30.

Thirty-first Regiment—Colonel Alexander P. Berthoud.

Mustered September 17, 1862. Officers, 39; enlisted men, 962.

Total, 1001

Left the State September 26.

The field and line officers of these regiments were elected, and the staff officers appointed in the manner prescribed by the militia law of this State. Many of them have proved capable and efficient officers,

and continue in the service; while others have resigned, and been replaced by the promotion of meritorious non-commissioned officers and privates.

These regiments are now all attached to the Army of the Potomac, and four of them were engaged in the battle of December 13, on the banks of the Rappahannock, in which terrific conflict they bore themselves with a steadiness and valor worthy of experienced troops.

The following statement shows the whole number of men called for and the number furnished for the United States service from this State since the commencement of the war, as well as the number now in the service:—

NUMBER CALLED FOR.

	Minimum.	Maximum.
First requisition, four regiments militia,	3,123	3,123
Second requisition, three regiments volunteers,	2,598	3,138
Third requisition, five regiments volunteers,	4,330	5,230
Fourth requisition, five regiments volunteers,	4,330	5,230
Fifth requisition, drafted militia,	10,478	10,478
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	24,859	27,199

NUMBER OF MEN FURNISHED.

Under first requisition,	3,105
Under second requisition,	3,120
Under third requisition,	7,601
Under fourth requisition,	4,644
Under fifth requisition,	10,714
Recruits furnished for regiments in the field,	1,030
	<hr/>
	30,214
Deduct four regiments three months' militia, disbanded, 3,105	3,105
Died, discharged and deserted in 1861,	389
Died, discharged and deserted in 1862,	3,678
	<hr/>
	7,172
Number now in the service from New Jersey,	23,042

A large portion of those referred to in this statement as deserters are men who, having been absent a certain specified time, have been dropped from the rolls, pursuant to orders from the War Department; but who, in many cases, are sick in hospitals, and are being returned to their regiments and restored to the rolls as they become fit for duty. Among those referred to as discharged are numbers who were discharged in order that they might re-enlist in the regular army, and are at present in the service of the United States. No account has

been taken of the men from this State who have enlisted in regiments from other States, as their number cannot be accurately ascertained, but I feel confident it will exceed four thousand. The number accounted for in the Tenth and the cavalry regiments was the number transferred by the War Department to the care of the State—not the number originally mustered into those regiments. I think it a low estimate, therefore, to place the number of men who have enlisted from this State in the federal service at thirty-five thousand, a very large percentage upon the number of men in the State liable to do military duty.

The House of Assembly, at its last session, passed a resolution providing that a list of names should be published of all the volunteers who have entered the service of the United States from this State. The preparation of this list in a form to accomplish the probable object of the resolution has required a vast amount of time, trouble and patient research. It has been prepared with the greatest care, in alphabetical form, giving name, age, company, regiment and date of muster of each one of our thirty thousand volunteers.

It forms a work of over thirteen hundred pages in manuscript, a portion of which is now in the hands of the printer. The remainder needs a few weeks' additional work, chiefly to complete the record of casualties and to prove the correctness of the whole work.

Efforts have been made during the year to minister to the comfort of the sick and wounded soldiers belonging to the State. Agents have been appointed at various points to render all possible aid to those sent from the army to Northern hospitals, and arrangements are now on foot to procure the concentration of the New Jersey sick and wounded soldiers in a few hospitals, thus rendering them more accessible. Regular communication has been established with the different hospitals and regiments, insuring frequent returns and correct information.

The system of transmitting money from the troops in the field is still pursued by benevolent individuals throughout the State, and to a still greater extent under the superintendence of Colonel Jonathan Cook, who accompanies the paymasters on their periodical visits to the regiments, and the money entrusted to his care is distributed to the families, under his direction, through this office. A portion of our regiments, however, have now six months' pay due them, and none of them have received the pay due for the last four months. The consequence is great suffering among the families thus deprived of their means of support, many of whom have for months past depended almost entirely upon the monthly bounty paid by the State.

The duties connected with the State bounty are perhaps more important, and are certainly surrounded by greater difficulties than any portion of the business of this department. During 1861, when our troops were easily accessible, and but few changes were taking place in the regiments, it was a comparatively easy task to keep the records correct; but when active operations in the field commenced—when the regiments were almost constantly on the move, and the casualties

were daily becoming more frequent—it was found that the original State Bounty act made no adequate provision for the probably unforeseen exigencies of the case.

The addition of eighteen regiments during the year to our force in the field proportionately increased the difficulties as well as greatly added to the labor to be performed. The State originally depended for information as to changes in the regiments upon the company and regimental commanders, who, when it was possible, made monthly returns to this office of all deaths, discharges, desertions and enlistments in their respective commands; but as their duties increased in the course of active field operations, many of them found it impossible to give that attention to this matter which the interests of the State required, while, in many cases, men absent, sick in hospitals, had died or been discharged, no information of which had ever reached their officers, and which had not been and could not be by them reported to this office. It soon became apparent that, from these causes, some thousands of dollars were being paid monthly by the State to the families of men whose connection with our regiments had ceased, and who were not, under the law, entitled to the State bounty.

A supplement to the original act, approved March 19, 1862, partially remedied this difficulty. This supplement authorized the Adjutant General, with the approved of the Governor, to establish such rules and regulations, and to incur such expenses as were necessary to produce the needed information and to secure the proper distribution of the bounty.

Under this authority roll books have been prepared of each company, and persons are employed to visit the regiments once a month, and note all changes that have occurred. All the United States hospitals in which there are New Jersey soldiers are also visited regularly, and monthly returns made of all the deaths, desertions and discharges that have taken place.

The information thus collected is immediately entered upon the records in this office, furnished to the State Treasurer, and distributed to the proper county officers.

An immense amount of time and careful labor is involved in the successful carrying out of this system; but it is believed that the greatest possible degree of correctness in the rolls is thus secured, and a calculation based upon the results already attained shows a saving to the State of from twenty-five to thirty thousand dollars per annum. The supplement referred to, however, did nothing toward providing for a proper system of payment to the families, and although all that was possible under existing laws has been done towards remedying the serious defects in the system pursued, there is still need of radical reform, and the subject is of such importance to the State as to demand immediate attention.

The money is now paid to the families by the Chosen Freeholders in the townships and by the Mayors in the several cities, and great

credit is due these gentlemen for the pains they take and the labor they perform; but, as in nearly every instance they receive no compensation, they must execute the duties in a manner to suit their own convenience. They obtain their information from the county clerks, to whom it is sent from this office, and make their returns to the Board of Freeholders; the county collectors make the settlements with the treasurer, and thus the disbursing agents are neither in direct communication with the source of information by which they are to be guided nor with the department in which their accounts are settled. It is apparent that a sum of money so great as the yearly amount now expended under the State Bounty act should not be disbursed by the State except through agents under the control and subject to the regulations of a central office, with which they should be in direct and frequent communication.

Of the men enlisted in the regiments now in service from this State, twelve thousand one hundred and forty-three have left families or dependent widowed mothers who have received the State bounty of six dollars per month. Of this number, one thousand seven hundred and seventy have died, deserted, been discharged or promoted, and their names stricken from the bounty rolls, leaving ten thousand three hundred and seventy-three who have families now receiving the monthly bounty.

The amount paid to these families is seven hundred and forty-six thousand eight hundred and fifty-six dollars per annum.

In addition to this, there are twelve thousand six hundred and sixty-nine single men, entitled to a monthly bounty varying from two to four dollars, which, at the low average of two and a half dollars per man, amounts to three hundred and eighty thousand and seventy dollars, making the annual charge upon the treasury one million one hundred and twenty-six thousand nine hundred and twenty-six dollars.

In the disbursement of an amount like this in small sums of six dollars, many errors will necessarily occur, even with the greatest care, and the necessity is obvious of guarding against them in every possible way.

The Legislature has made it the duty of the Adjutant General to procure and disseminate information as to the changes that are constantly occurring, and has authorized him to make rules and regulation for the proper disbursement of the bounty money; but under existing laws the information, when obtained, is not sent to the disbursing officers, but is filed in the county clerks' offices, and the Legislature has provided no means to enforce rules and regulations when made. The adoption, therefore, of a simple, complete and well guarded system of disbursement has been prevented by the fact that the disbursing agents were not under the control of this department.

The experience of every day shows the necessity of a central office, where the questions that are constantly arising shall be decided (under the advice and opinions of the Attorney General), from which all

instructions must issue, and through which all information must pass to be official, and justify action on the part of the disbursing officers. This department is, to a very great extent, such a centre now, but labors under the disadvantage of a circuitous system of transmitting information and a liability to have its instructions disregarded.

Some of the disbursing officers are governed solely by directions from this office, and their accounts are settled without difficulty; while others pursue plans of their own and decide questions for themselves, thus increasing the liability to error, in innumerable instances paying persons who are not entitled to the bounty, and giving the county collectors and the State Treasurer additional and unnecessary trouble when the accounts are presented for settlement. In addition to this, the loss to the counties amounts to many hundreds of dollars per annum of money that they have honestly—and, as they supposed, properly—paid, but which, having been improperly paid, the treasurer must necessarily deduct from their bills. The amount thus lost by the counties, however, bears but a small proportion to that lost monthly by the State, in consequence of the cumbrous and incomplete system, all, or nearly all, of which might be saved.

The disbursement of the bounty is a State matter; for although the counties and cities advance the money, they are reimbursed quarterly by the State, and therefore the business should be regulated and controlled by State officers.

It should be divided into two branches:—

1. That of correcting the rolls, deciding the frequent questions as to who are and who are not entitled to pay, furnishing instructions to disbursing officers, and with power to make and enforce rules and regulations for their government. This should remain where it now is—in the Adjutant General's Department.

2. The pay department, which should be under the control of the treasurer of the State.

A paymaster should be appointed for each county, and one additional for each of the more populous cities. These should act under instructions from this office as to changes in their rolls of persons entitled to pay, be held responsible for the correctness of their accounts, which should be subject to rules and tests prescribed by the treasurer. They should settle their accounts directly with the treasurer upon original vouchers, which vouchers might be of the nature of a pay roll, to be accurately prepared prior to each monthly payment, and, after examination and settlement, filed in the office of the treasurer. They should receive compensation proportioned to the amount of labor performed; and by dividing their counties into convenient districts, and publicly announcing the day of payment in each, the whole amount could be correctly and speedily disbursed each month. County, city and township officers would be relieved of a large amount of labor now gratuitously given, there would be no loss to the different sections of the State, and the State treasurer would be secure from

error and imposition. It is important that reliable and responsible men should be appointed as disbursing officers, and, as the county collectors have charge of the money advanced by the counties, they would probably be the most suitable persons, though not necessarily so, as other persons might be appointed by the Governor or Legislature, if thought proper, who could draw the money as needed from the county collectors.

This is a matter of the utmost importance, both to the counties and to the State, as is apparent to every one who has seen the workings of the present circuitous system, and, it being my duty, I cannot urge too strongly a thorough reform,

The number of men liable to do military duty at present in the State is seventy-one thousand six hundred and ninety-seven, including both the active and reserve militia.

From various causes the active militia has not been as energetically drilled and inspected as has been desired, but the organization is perfected, and the militia could soon be prepared for service if necessary. The apparent want of energy has not been the result of any diminution of interest on the part of the members, but owing chiefly to the frequent calls made upon brigade and regimental commanders in filling the requisitions made upon the State, many of them having left for the seat of war, rendering it necessary to reorganize and commission new officers.

The returns from the different companies are incomplete. The request made by your Excellency in proclamation to the company commanders, to report to this office, has not met with a sufficient response to furnish any data by which the number of men can be accurately ascertained. Only forty-seven companies have reported, showing an aggregate of seventeen hundred and four, while brigade inspection will show the whole number to be about four thousand five hundred, a considerable decrease from the number enrolled upon the active list of last year.

This is owing partly to the enlistment of large numbers of the active militia into the United States service for nine months, and partly to the depressing effect produced upon the uniformed companies by disbanding the reserve militia which was organized last year, but the disbandment of which became necessary from the inefficiency of our militia system.

The military spirit displayed by the First regiment, Mercer brigade, is worthy of special mention. This regiment has on several occasions been called upon, and has always been found ready to move at a moment's notice. The alacrity with which they have responded to the frequent calls made upon them is creditable to both officers and men, and gives evidence of a spirit which every means should be taken to foster and encourage.

I must again call attention to the fact that the existing militia law

is inadequate for the purpose for which it is intended. The defects mentioned in my last annual report have been seriously felt during the past year. There is no power to carry out the law, such as it is. The system necessarily imposes sacrifices, while it offers no inducements to cheerful compliance—no reward for superior excellence.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

R. F. STOCKTON, JR.,
Adjutant General New Jersey Militia.

