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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

ADJUTANT GENERAL

OF THE

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

For the Year 1859.

TRENTON, N. J.

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ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S REPORT.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE, }
Trenton, N. J., Dec. 31, 1859. }

To his Excellency WILLIAM A. NEWELL, Governor, Commander-in-Chief, &c.:

SIR:—I beg leave to submit the following report:—

The military organization of the State has been increased during the past year by the formation of eleven companies, making the number of companies at present organized one hundred and sixty-eight.

The number of men liable to do military duty, as returned under the act approved March 17th, 1852, is eighty-one thousand nine hundred and eighty-five.

The improvement spoken of in my last annual report still continues to manifest itself, not only in the organization of new companies, but in the re-organization of several regiments in the different brigades, under circumstances which argue well for their permanency and efficiency. In other brigades, where, for years past, there has been little or no military spirit manifested, movements have been set on foot for a thorough organization, which but wait the action of the Legislature to perfect them.

An uniform dress is being adopted in the several brigades, as fast as practicable, and it is to be hoped that at no distant day the different companies in every brigade in the State will appear in a brigade dress, of a plain, neat and substantial character.

Great attention has been paid during the past year to the matter of drill, in the meetings of officers for instruction, and in the systematic drilling in the ranks: the regular attendance in the drill room, the spirit manifested while there, and the strict obedience to commands, show conclusively that the militia of New Jersey needs but the fostering care of legislation to place it in a position which will compare favorably with any similar troops elsewhere.

The insufficiency of existing laws, for the government of the militia of the State, has caused much inconvenience during the past year, and it is my duty again to report the impossibility of arriving at any degree of permanent efficiency under the present militia law.

The commission appointed by your Excellency, in accordance with the resolution of the last Legislature, has had this matter under consideration. The subject has occupied their earnest and careful attention. As the result of their deliberations, the commission have determined to recommend a complete and thorough revision of the militia system of the State and intend to report a bill to that effect, which it is very much to be desired will meet with the approbation of the Legislature. Every delay will be prejudicial to the discipline and well-doing of the militia.

The troops attached to the Hudson brigade have been called out for special service during the past year, and it gives me great pleasure to report the promptness and soldier-like conduct of both officers and men on the occasion.

In September last, the laborers on the work of the New York and Erie Railroad, located at Hudson City, became dissatisfied, and to obtain their demands resorted to open violation of law, by blockading the track of the company, and offering defiance to the civil authorities who attempted to enforce their submission to the law. The Mayor of the city called upon the militia to aid him in suppressing this breach of the peace. Brigadier-General Hatfield immediately issued the necessary orders, and although a violent storm was raging at the time, causing much delay in the service of notices, at the appointed hour a large portion of the brigade had assembled. The troops were quartered for the night at the Court House, and next morning the line of march was taken up for the scene of the disturbance. The field-pieces were mounted upon a platform car, in advance of a locomotive, their muzzles bearing directly upon the ranks of the rioters. The whole force was forwarded in column, with bayonets fixed, to within pistol range of their line of defence. The rioters were assembled in great numbers, awaiting the arrival of the troops, and encouraged by the presence of several thousand spectators, occupying the surrounding hills and earth banks, on each side of the railroad track. They were under great excitement, receiving the

military with loud shouts, missiles, and the flourishing of various kinds of weapons, uttering threats and imprecations, making demonstrations of attack which required the frequent use of the bayonet charge to prevent their breaking into the ranks, and to allow the military to maintain a position of advantage to use their arms if found necessary. The numbers of the rioters rendered the civil force of the Mayor powerless, as the frequent attempts to disperse the mob and remove the obstructions proved. After many ineffectual attempts by the Mayor and his small civil force to carry out his original design of forcing the rioters to retire, he finally resolved upon a different course of action, that of making arrests, guarded and assisted by the military. For a time the determination of the mob seemed to require the sacrifice of many of their lives. But after a strong rally, and an effort to rescue those of their number first arrested, and when it appeared almost absolutely necessary to fire upon them to prevent their attempt from being successful, one regiment having actually drawn up in position to fire, the rioters became aware of their danger, and suddenly dispersed in all directions. Some sixty or more of the principals were arrested, and, in a short time, order was restored, the track freed of its obstructions, and the prisoners safely escorted to the county jail.

Great credit is due to General Hatfield, whose coolness and determination intimidated the rioters, and thus saved the lives of many of those misguided men.

Having official authority to use his own discretion, he determined to act upon the defensive as long as possible, and under the direction of the Mayor, supported and protected him in his efforts to restore order. Among the troops order and discipline prevailed throughout the entire day, and every man behaved with commendable coolness, courage and subordination; and there was no moment when the commandant of the brigade did not feel entire confidence in the stability of every man in the ranks.

Abstracts from the annual returns of brigade inspection received in this office will be found annexed to this report.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. F. STOCKTON, JR.,
Adjutant-General N. J. M.

Abstracts from Returns of Brigade Inspectors mentioned in the foregoing Report:

HUNTERDON BRIGADE—BRIG. GEN. SAMUEL LILLY.

Rank and file, present inspected, 131; absent, 32; total, 163. 5 captains, 10 lieutenants, 5 ensigns, 20 sergeants, 20 corporals, 11 drummers, 5 fifers.

24 swords, 107 muskets, 107 bayonets, 107 iron ramrods, 107 cartridge boxes.

1 colonel, 2 majors, 1 adjutant, 1 pay-master, 1 quarter master, 1 surgeon, 1 judge advocate.

Arms all in perfect order.

CAMDEN BRIGADE—BRIG. GEN. ISAAC W. MICKLE.

Rank and file, present inspected, 65; absent, 20; total, 85. 1 captain, 6 lieutenants, 8 sergeants, 8 corporals, 15 pieces of music.

8 swords, 80 muskets, 80 bayonets, 80 iron ramrods, 80 cap-pouches, 80 cartridge boxes.

1 colonel, 1 lieutenant colonel, 1 major, 1 adjutant, 1 pay-master, 1 quarter master, 1 surgeon, 1 judge advocate.

The arms belonging to the Camden Light Artillery are in perfect order, those belonging to the Washington Grays are unfit for service.

HUDSON BRIGADE—BRIG. GEN. JAMES T. HATFIELD.

Rank and file, present inspected, 111; 9 captains, 18 lieutenants, 30 sergeants, 28 corporals, 2 trumpeters, band 13.

Holsters and housings, 31; pairs pistols, 9½; sabre belts, 40; sabres, 40; waist belts and clasps, 165; cartridge boxes, 184; powder flasks, 22; cap pouches, 22; sword bayonet scabbards, 22; sword bayonets, 22; gun slings, 165; rifles, (percussion,) 22; iron ramrods, 165; bayonet scabbards 143; bayonets, 143; muskets, (Maynard primers,) 143; belts, (commissioned officers,) 40; swords, 40; belts, (non-commissioned officers,) 50; swords,

50; saddles and bridles, 31; sets of harness, 8; cannon, 3; sword belts, (artillery,) 19; swords 19; colonel and staff, 9; brig. general and staff, 5.

Arms and equipments in good order, except two pieces of artillery, which are without the regulation limber and have no caissons.

NEWARK BRIGADE—BRIG. GEN. THEODORE RUNYON.

Present inspected, 164; absent, 31; total, 195. Line officers, 38; sergeants, 59; corporals, 51; musicians, 3.

1 brigadier general; brigade staff, 4; regimental staff, 9.

The muskets belonging to the brigade are all in good order, but the rifles are unfit for service.

