

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Richmond, Va., June 17, 1861.

His Excellency JEFFERSON DAVIS,
President of the Confederate States:

SIR: Having accidentally heard that the War Department of the Confederacy is not informed in regard to the military force of the State, I beg leave to offer the inclosed copy of my last annual report, which may possibly be useful. It is the only printed copy remaining in the office, which is my apology for sending one so much defaced. It may be proper to add that for some years preceding the passage of an act for reorganizing the public defenses of the State, the 2d of March, 1858, the militia was totally disbanded. The present organization has been effected since that time.

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Permit me to say that any service I can render or any information I can give will be rendered with much pleasure at any and all times when you may require it.

I am, sir, with the highest respect, your obedient servant,
WM. H. RICHARDSON,
Adjutant-General.

[Inclosure.]

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Richmond, December 15, 1860.

His Excellency JOHN LETCHER,
Governor of Virginia:

SIR: This report, which was due on the 1st day of November last, has been delayed by causes beyond my control, as you are aware. The annual consolidated returns of the militia, the Virginia Military Institute, and the State Guard, of arms in both arsenals and in the hands of the militia, are made up from returns of the brigade inspectors after the trainings in May and June and from reports of the superintendent of the Military Institute and superintendent of the armory to the 1st day of October last, as the law requires, and do not include the receipts and issues of arms since that date. I have added, however, a statement of purchases of arms made by the commissioners appointed under the act of January 21, 1860.

VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE.

The report of the Board of Visitors of the Military Institute leaves nothing for me to say respecting that valuable seminary of the State.

STATE GUARD AND ARMORY.

The Guard has improved in material under the influence of the act of Assembly placing the non-commissioned officers and privates on the pay of the infantry of the U. S. Army, but the exclusion of the officers from the benefits of that act is a poor return for meritorious service—is invidious and unjust. Their present pay does not amount to a support. The armory buildings are now in course of preparation to receive the machinery for the manufacture of arms. As the buildings will all be required for manufacturing operations, the State will have to build quarters for the officers and soldiers, and probably an arsenal, without delay. The ground adjacent, now under lease to R. Archer & Co., would be sufficient and is appropriate, being a portion of the original armory property.

THE MILITIA

Consists of five divisions, twenty-eight brigades, five regiments of cavalry, five of artillery, three regiments and four battalions of volunteers, and 195 regiments of the line. All the regiments of the line are now organized except the Sixty-eighth, James City and part of York; the Ninety-fourth, Lee; the One hundred and sixty-first, Ohio, and the One hundred and sixty-third, Hancock. No return has been received from the Twenty-fourth Brigade, General B. W. Price, composed of the counties of Brooke, Ohio, Marshall, and Hancock, numbering five regiments, and including these there are in the whole State eight regiments of the line, not less than 10,000 men, from which no returns have been received.

There are undoubtedly at least 200,000 men in the State subject to militia duty, yet the annual consolidated return gives nearly 60,000 short of that number. This results in great degree from negligence of the duty of enrollment on the part of officers, from the failure to muster and make returns of the militia in counties where the number is insufficient to constitute a regiment, and which, under the twelfth section of the act of March 30, 1860, are not required to go out of the county to attend the regimental musters, and from the mischievous policy of allowing men to screen themselves from ordinary militia duty by becoming contributing members to volunteer corps—some of which I know have more than 100 such members—and if they are enrolled at all no return of the number is made so that it can in any way reach this office; and thus from this additional cause the apparent strength of the militia is reduced some thousands more. One of the most intelligent and accomplished field officers in the State says, in a communication respecting the difficulty of organizing his regiment, “the new law allowing any number of contributing members of volunteer companies has induced all respectable men liable to militia duty in our bounds to become such, leaving us no material to select lieutenants from.” “As already stated, the men fit for it” (a commission in the line) “have become contributing members of the volunteer companies.”

It is bad policy under any circumstances, but especially at this perilous time, to have any portion of the militia wholly withdrawn from all military training and instruction. In the course of the tour of inspection directed by you last spring I found that the numerous body of artificers employed at the Government works at Harper’s Ferry, permanently or occasionally, who reside on the soil of the State, vote in and often control the local elections, are not enrolled in the militia. I submit the question whether these men do not owe militia service to the State in common with other citizens between the ages of eighteen and forty-five. Since the outrage of John Brown and his band, at which time, as is well known, the arsenal was wholly defenseless, two military companies, composed of these operatives, have been organized, uniformed, and armed at that place. No commissions for the officers of these companies have been asked of the State, and certainly the United States cannot put them in commission, nor do they in any sense consider themselves a portion of the militia of the State. I report these facts for Your Excellency’s consideration.

THE VOLUNTEER FORCE

Has increased rapidly and continues to increase. There are now in commission 92 troops of cavalry, 26 companies of artillery, 111 com-

panies of light infantry, and 113 companies of riflemen. The last-named preponderates too much over the light infantry, and instead of being commissioned in parts of the State where men know nothing of the use of the rifle, should be confined chiefly to the Valley and the west, whence, in case of need, the State could draw the finest body of riflemen in the world.

These companies have been armed as follows:

Cavalry.—Twenty-four troops have been armed with sabers and pistols; twenty-six with sabers only.

Artillery.—Eleven companies with 6-pounder field guns, mounted (in all twenty-four pieces), with implements and artillery swords; one company with six 12-pounder howitzers, mounted, and with horse artillery sabers.

Light infantry.—Six companies with rifled muskets; fifty-six companies with smooth-bore percussion muskets; twenty-six companies with flint-lock muskets.

Riflemen.—Three companies with long-range rifles and sword bayonets; twenty-three companies with percussion rifles; seven companies with flint-lock rifles.

Some of the companies of light infantry and riflemen are still deficient in accouterments, but these are being supplied as rapidly as possible under contracts of the commissioners appointed under the act of January 21, 1860. The commissioners have purchased since 1st of October last thirteen rifled 6-pounder field guns and 5,000 excellent percussion muskets. Although the State has not a large stock of modern arms, she has enough arms of all descriptions fit for effective service to arm a considerable military force, and is in this respect in a much better condition than many others. It is within your own knowledge that every possible exertion has been made to meet the provisions and the intent of the act of January 21, 1860, and that the volunteer corps, as fast as they came up to the requirements of the law, have been armed and equipped as well as, with the stock in the arsenals of the State, could possibly be done. Yet, notwithstanding this notorious fact, discontent, sometimes most unreasonable, has been manifested occasionally, and not a few misrepresentations and gross perversions of truth have appeared in some of the public papers; but where everything has been done by the officers and other functionaries of the State that it was in their power to do, it would have been but a waste of time to attempt to quiet the one or correct the other.

As regards further means of defense not yet provided for, I respectfully suggest whether upon our sea-board and in the tide-water region—certainly the most exposed parts of the State—a defense upon the water as well as upon the land may not be indispensable. Two or more steamers of light draft, armed with a deck gun for round shot or a 12-pounder howitzer, or both, would probably constitute the most effective protection on the coast and along our large rivers. The State might now call into the field nearly or quite 20,000 volunteers, and have a reserve, as I believe, of 180,000 militia of the line. This force would, in case of emergency, be doubled by men above forty-five, perfectly able and more than willing to bear arms if the State shall need their services. I am not aware—indeed, I do not believe—that a plan of organization more efficient, better adapted to the habits and circumstances of our people, and less costly to the State than the one now in force could be devised. It is my decided opinion, however, that the organization of an élite force by detail from the

volunteers, to be called "The Virginia Legion," as a division or brigade, to be held in readiness for instant service for a year at a time, is highly expedient now. The plan was presented at the last session to the chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs, and I confidently recommend it, divested of the provisions involving expense. If desired I will prepare a detail. Not to enlarge this report by repeating what was recommended in the last, I beg to refer to the fifth, eighth, twelfth, and fourteenth paragraphs of that report as in my opinion still requiring consideration.

The divisions and brigades are generally too cumbrous, and should therefore be promptly rearranged and the numbers increased. It is indispensable to provide the officers with the means of instruction in tactics, and it is especially and imperatively necessary to establish some more effective means of instruction in cavalry tactics. It was suggested to me by a distinguished Southern-born officer of the U. S. Army, who was present by invitation at the cavalry encampment near Richmond in November last, that a camp of instruction for the officers only would be far more valuable, and it would certainly be more practicable than the assemblage of that force in masses. He had assisted in one or more States at such encampments with the best results. The officers attending them were allowed pay, subsistence, and forage by the State. The suggestion seems to me to be eminently worthy of consideration. One or more—probably not more than two—such encampments might be authorized by the Legislature, at which the cavalry officers might attend voluntarily. Provision should be made by the State of subsistence and forage for men and horses, and to cover expenses of travel, mileage should be allowed to all the officers who attended and remained during the period of the encampment. But for the risk of interruption to the course of discipline and instruction at the Military Institute one encampment there might suffice for the whole State. It is a central point, and the best instructors are on the spot. If this should be found impracticable the encampment might be upon the fair grounds of the Central Agricultural Society, near Richmond, which would readily be placed by the society at the command of the State. The assemblage of any volunteer force by companies, battalions, squadrons, or regiments long enough to be tolerably well instructed, especially in the details of camp duty, imposes too great a tax upon the time of the rank and file, both in the country and the towns. But if the officers can have the benefit of an annual camp of instruction it will undoubtedly be imparted to their commands, particularly when called into actual service. It is burdensome and useless to require the cavalry officers to attend the ordinary trainings, and I know that nothing would be more acceptable to them than this plan. The patriotic devotion of their best services to the State at no little expense of time and money deserves and, it cannot be doubted, will command for them on her part all the means of instruction and encouragement they may require.

The duties of the Adjutant-General's Office are engrossing and overwhelming—impossible to be performed by any one man, as Your Excellency is fully aware; and it is a depressing and mortifying fact that while the heads of all the other departments of our State government are allowed as many clerks as they require for the dispatch of the public business, not one has been allowed for this. If the office be worth anything to the State, her best interests will be promoted by a thorough performance of all its legitimate duties, and I need scarcely remark to you, sir, that more would be gained by that than the largest clerical force would cost.

Document A is an abstract of the return of the militia of the State to October 1, 1860; B, return of arms, accouterments, and ammunition in depot at Richmond, Lexington, and in the hands of the militia to October 1, 1860; C, return of the corps of cadets and of arms in the arsenal at Lexington; D, report of the superintendent of the armory at Richmond and of arms in the depot there.*

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
WM. H. RICHARDSON,
Adjutant-General.

[Sub-inclosures.]

A.—*Abstract of the annual return of the militia of the State of Virginia for the year ending September 30, 1860.*

General staff.—Major-generals, 4; brigadier-generals, 28; adjutant, inspector, and quartermaster general, 1; aides-de-camp, 20; brigade inspectors, 27; brigade quartermasters, 20. Total staff officers, 100.

Cavalry.—Colonels, 3; lieutenant-colonels, 3; majors, 4; adjutant, 1; quartermaster, 1; surgeon, 1; surgeon's mate, 1; captains, 57; lieutenants, 136; sergeant-major, 1; quartermaster-sergeant, 1; buglers and trumpeters, 38; sergeants, 184; corporals, 168; privates, 3,180. Total commissioned officers, 207; total non-commissioned officers, musicians, and privates, 3,572; aggregate, 3,779. Number of regiments, 5.

Artillery.—Colonels, 4; lieutenant-colonels, 3; majors, 2; adjutants, 2; paymaster, 1; surgeon, 1; surgeon's mate, 1; captains, 17; lieutenants, 39; sergeant-major, 1; quartermaster-sergeant, 1; musicians, 11; sergeants, 57; corporals, 43; privates, 883. Total commissioned officers, 70; total non-commissioned officers, musicians, and privates, 996; aggregate, 1,066. Number of regiments, 5.

Light infantry, riflemen, and infantry of the line.—Colonels, 165; lieutenant-colonels, 176; majors, 317; adjutants, 177; quartermasters, 165; paymasters, 147; chaplains, 45; surgeons, 169; surgeons' mates, 158; captains, 1,384; lieutenants, 2,369; sergeant-majors, 152; quartermaster-sergeants, 135; musicians, 570; buglers and trumpeters, 2; sergeants, 3,374; corporals, 2,985; privates, 125,382. Total commissioned officers, 5,372; total non-commissioned officers, musicians, and privates, 132,600; aggregate, 137,972. Number of divisions, 5; number of brigades, 28; number of regiments, 187; number of troops of cavalry, 59; number of companies of artillery, 17; number of companies of light infantry, 68; number of companies of riflemen, 72; number of companies of infantry of the line, 1,141.

State Guard.—Captain, 1; lieutenants, 2; musicians, 2; sergeants, 6; corporals, 6; privates, 70. Total commissioned officers, 3; total non-commissioned officers, musicians, and privates, 84; aggregate, 87. One company light infantry.

Corps of Cadets.—Colonel, 1; major, 1; adjutant, 1; quartermasters, 2; surgeon, 1; captains, 4; lieutenants, 8; sergeant-major, 1; quartermaster-sergeants, 2; musicians, 5; privates, 225. Total commissioned officers, 18; total non-commissioned officers, musicians, and privates, 233; aggregate, 251. Four companies light infantry.

Aggregate.—Major-generals, 4; brigadier-generals, 28; adjutant, inspector, and quartermaster general, 1; aides-de-camp, 20; brigade inspectors, 27; brigade quartermasters, 20; colonels, 173; lieutenant-colonels, 182; majors, 324; adjutants, 181; quartermasters, 168; pay-

* Document D not found.

masters, 148; chaplains, 45; surgeons, 172; surgeons' mates, 160; captains, 1,463; lieutenants, 2,554; sergeant-majors, 155; quarter-master-sergeants, 139; musicians, 588; buglers and trumpeters, 40; sergeants, 3,621; corporals, 3,202; privates, 129,740. Total commissioned officers, 5,770; total non-commissioned officers, musicians, and privates, 137,485=143,255. Number of divisions, 5; brigades, 28; regiments, 197; troops of cavalry, 59; companies of artillery, 17; companies of light infantry, 73; companies of riflemen, 72; companies of infantry of the line, 1,141.

The aggregate above is greatly below the actual military force of the State, from causes stated in the annual report.

WM. H. RICHARDSON,
Adjutant-General.

B.—*Arms, accouterments, and ammunition for the year ending September 30, 1860.*

Ordnance, brass.—In the hands of the militia: 18 6-pounders, 6 12-pounder howitzers—total, 24; in the Lexington Arsenal: 10 6-pounders, 2 12-pounder howitzers—total, 12; in the armory at Richmond: 1 4-pounder, 32 6-pounders, 6 32-pounders, 2 16-inch mortars, 2 12-pounder howitzers—total, 43. Total, 1 4-pounder, 60 6-pounders, 6 32-pounders; 2 16-inch mortars, 10 12-pounder howitzers; total brass pieces, 79.

Ordnance, iron.—In the hands of militia: 9 4-pounders, 13 6-pounders—total, 22; in depot, in charge of commandants of regiments, for service in emergency, 8 6-pounders—total, 8; in the Lexington Arsenal: 3 6-pounders, 2 8-inch and 10-inch mortars—total, 5; in the armory at Richmond: 35 4-pounders, 110 6-pounders, 36 12-pounders, 5 24-pounders—total, 186. Total, 44 4-pounders, 134 6-pounders, 36 12-pounders, 5 24-pounders, 2 8-inch and 10-inch mortars; total iron pieces, 221.

Total brass and iron pieces.—In hands of the militia, 46; in depot, in charge of commandants of regiments, for service in emergency, 8; in the Lexington Arsenal, 17; in the armory at Richmond, 229=300.

Ordnance stores.—In the hands of the militia: 38 gun carriages, 14 sponges and rammers, 6 ladles and worms, 4 bricoles and drag-ropes, 12 trail handspikes, 2 lead aprons, 6 ammunition boxes, 2 6-pounder caissons, 4 linstocks, 30 sets of harness, 8,517 ball cartridges of all kinds, 400 muskets, rifled; 1,291 muskets, percussioned; 3,651 muskets, flint-locks; 4,351 bayonets, 2,595 cartridge-boxes and belts, 1,459 bayonet scabbards and belts, 72 brushes and picks, 416 ball screws and worms, 90 artillery musketoons, 315 carbines, 500 rifles, percussioned; 1,096 rifles, flint-locks; 160 rifles (sword bayonets); 399 powder horns and flasks, 60 pouches, 114 bullet-molds, 498 wipers, 698 screw-drivers, 185 pistols, revolvers; 1,021 horseman's pistols, 643 holsters, 1,259 cavalry swords, 236 cavalry cartridge-boxes, 271 artillery swords, 1,343 sword scabbards and belts, 3 bugles and trumpets, 31 drums and fifes, 6 colors. In depot, in charge of commandants of regiments, for service in emergency: 8 gun carriages, 16 sponges and rammers, 16 trail handspikes, 16 ammunition boxes, 8 linstocks, 39,500 ball cartridges of all kinds, 830 muskets, percussioned; 2,150 muskets, flint-locks; 2,980 bayonets, 1,600 cartridge-boxes and belts, 1,600 bayonet scabbards and belts, 220 carbines, 455 rifles, percussioned; 500 rifles, flint-locks; 210 horseman's pistols, 155 cavalry swords, 240 artillery swords, 395 sword scabbards and belts. In the Lexington Arsenal: 8 gun carriages, 8

sets of harness, 25,000 pounds of powder in magazines, 3,000 ball cartridges of all kinds, 10 muskets, rifled; 496 muskets, percussioned; 27,815 muskets, flint-locks; 28,311 bayonets, 500 cartridge-boxes and belts, 500 bayonet scabbards and belts, 52 carbines, 20 rifles, percussioned; 1,007 rifles, flint-locks; 10 rifles, Colt; 101 powder horns and flasks, 51 pouches, 9 bullet-molds, 10 pistols, revolvers; 210 cavalry swords, 117 artillery swords, 327 sword scabbards and belts. In the armory at Richmond: 8 gun carriages, 16 sponges and rammers, 8 trail handspikes, 16 ammunition boxes, 8 linstocks, 25,000 pounds of powder in magazines, 175,900 ball cartridges of all kinds, 12 muskets, rifled; 42 muskets, percussioned; 20,372 muskets, flint-locks (2,340 of these require repairs); 20,372 bayonets, 190 cartridge-boxes and belts, 50 bayonet scabbards and belts, 80 cavalry musketoons, 31 sappers' and miners' musketoons, 138 carbines, 45 rifles, percussioned; 690 rifles, flint-locks (190 require repairs); 94 rifles, Sharps; 236 rifles, Colt; 25 rifles (sword bayonets); 1,122 pistols, revolvers; 116 horseman's pistols, 350 holsters (require repairs); 2,051 cavalry swords (of these 821 require scabbards and 175 are in bad order); 75 artillery swords, 1,459 sword scabbards and belts. Total—62 gun carriages, 46 sponges and rammers, 6 ladles and worms, 4 bricoles and drag-ropes, 36 trail handspikes, 2 lead aprons, 38 ammunition boxes, 2 6-pounder caissons, 20 linstocks, 38 sets of harness, 50,000 pounds of powder in magazines, 226,917 ball cartridges of all kinds, 422 muskets, rifled; 2,659 muskets, percussioned; 53,988 muskets, flint-locks; 56,014 bayonets, 4,885 cartridge-boxes and belts, 3,609 bayonet scabbards and belts, 72 brushes and picks, 416 ball screws and worms, 80 cavalry musketoons, 90 artillery musketoons, 31 sappers' and miners' musketoons, 725 carbines, 1,020 rifles, percussioned; 3,293 rifles, flint-locks; 94 rifles, Sharps; 246 rifles, Colt; 185 rifles (sword bayonets); 500 powder horns and flasks, 111 pouches, 123 bullet-molds, 498 wipers, 698 screw-drivers, 1,317 pistols, revolvers; 1,347 horseman's pistols, 993 holsters, 3,675 cavalry swords, 236 cavalry cartridge-boxes, 703 artillery swords, 3,524 sword scabbards and belts, 3 bugles and trumpets, 31 drums and fifes, 6 colors.

Purchased since 1st of October, 5,000 percussioned muskets and 13 rifled 6-pounder cannon.

WM. H. RICHARDSON,
Adjutant-General.

DECEMBER 15, 1860.

C.—*Return of ordnance and ordnance stores received, issued, and remaining on hand at the Virginia Military Institute, commanded by Col. F. H. Smith, during the year 1860.*

On hand October 1, 1859, from the last returns: 6 6-pounder brass cannon, 2 12-pounder brass howitzers, 3 6-pounder iron cannon, 1 2-pounder brass cannon, 1 10-inch iron mortar, 1 8-inch iron mortar, 6 6-pounder cannon carriages, 2 12-pounder howitzer carriages, 1 2-pounder cannon carriage, 2 6-pounder cannon caissons, 2 12-pounder howitzer caissons, 4 6-pounder brass cannon, old pattern; 1 10-inch mortar bed, 1 8-inch mortar bed, 50 10-inch mortar shells, 50 8-inch mortar shells, 160 6-pounder cannon balls, 200 canister-shot, unfixed; 1 10-inch mortar sponge and rammer, 1 8-inch mortar sponge and rammer, 1 10-inch mortar sponge cover, 1 8-inch mortar sponge cover, 4 6-pounder percussion locks, 4 6-pounder pendulum hausses, 8 handspikes for mortar, 2 linstocks for mortar, 2 haversacks for mortar, 2

tube pouches for mortar, 6 priming wires, 2 gunners quadrants, wood; 2 fuse setters, wood; 2 gimlets, 2 fuse mallets, 2 baskets, 1 tomption for 10-inch mortar, 1 tomption for 8-inch mortar, 2 quoins for 10-inch mortar, 2 quoins for 8-inch mortar, 2 water buckets, 2 brooms, 2 plummets, 4 pointing wires, 2 shell hooks, 2 scrapers for mortar, 2 spatulas, 2 pairs of gunners' sleeves, 4 extra wheels for caissons, 4 shovels for caissons, 4 felling axes, 4 pickaxes, 4 trail handspikes, 4 tar buckets, iron; 4 water buckets, leather; 8 tarpaulins, 12 by 15 feet; 27,675 muskets, complete (flint-lock), serviceable. (Ten invoices.)

Received December 1, 1859, from Col. F. H. Smith, 120 12-pounder spherical case-shot, 84 12-pounder canister-shot, fixed; 4 fuse cutters, 4 lanyards.

Received July 5, 1860, from Board of Commission for Arms, 1 iron rifled cannon, 100 rifled-cannon shells.

Total to be accounted for October 1, 1860, 6 6-pounder brass cannon, 2 12-pounder brass howitzers, 3 6-pounder iron cannon, 1 2-pounder brass cannon, 1 iron rifled cannon, 1 10-inch iron mortar, 1 8-inch iron mortar, 6 6-pounder cannon carriages, 2 12-pounder howitzer carriages, 1 2-pounder cannon carriage, 2 6-pounder cannon caissons, 2 12-pounder howitzer caissons, 4 6-pounder brass cannon, old pattern; 1 10-inch mortar bed, 1 8-inch mortar bed, 50 10-inch mortar shells, 50 8-inch mortar shells, 100 rifled-cannon shells, 120 12-pounder spherical case-shot, 84 12-pounder canister-shot, fixed; 160 6-pounder cannon balls, 200 canister-shot, unfixed; 1 10-inch mortar sponge and rammer, 1 8-inch mortar sponge and rammer, 1 10-inch mortar sponge cover, 1 8-inch mortar sponge cover, 4 6-pounder percussion locks, 4 6-pounder pendulum hausses, 8 handspikes for mortar, 2 linstocks for mortar, 2 haversacks for mortar, 2 tube pouches for mortar, 6 priming wires, 2 gunners' quadrants, wood; 2 fuse setters, wood; 4 fuse cutters, 2 gimlets, 4 lanyards, 2 fuse mallets, 2 baskets, 1 tomption for 10-inch mortar, 1 tomption for 8-inch mortar, 2 quoins for 10-inch mortar, 2 quoins for 8-inch mortar, 2 water buckets, 2 brooms, 2 plummets, 4 pointing wires, 2 shell hooks, 2 scrapers for mortar, 2 spatulas, 2 pairs of gunners' sleeves, 4 extra wheels for caissons, 4 shovels for caissons, 4 felling axes, 4 pickaxes, 4 trail handspikes, 4 tar buckets, iron; 4 water buckets, leather; 8 tarpaulins, 12 by 15 feet; 27,675 muskets, complete (flint-lock), serviceable.

Total issued and expended at Charlestown and at this post to October 1, 1860: 4 10-inch mortar shells, 42 8-inch mortar shells, 50 rifled-cannon shells, 100 6-pounder cannon balls, 4 handspikes for mortar, 4 priming wires, 2 fuse mallets, 2 brooms, 2 plummets, 4 felling axes 2 trail handspikes, 3 tarpaulins, 12 by 15 feet.

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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,

June 17, 1861.

GENTLEMEN OF THE CONVENTION:

Justice to the Executive, and those who have been associated with him in the administration of the State government, imperatively demand that a full detail of all that has been done shall be submitted to the convention, in order that it may have a place upon the public records, and thus go down to posterity. The present is an occasion of deep interest and importance in the history of the State, and I

trust, therefore, that this detail of facts, sustained by proofs that can not be gainsaid or controverted, will not be considered either as untimely or out of place.

In my inaugural message I embraced the opportunity to advise the General Assembly that it was their "duty to place the State in such a condition that she will be prepared at all times and upon the shortest notice to protect her honor, defend her rights, and maintain her institutions against all assaults of her enemies. With this view I recommend a careful revision of the militia laws; and in this connection I suggest that munitions of war be procured and provision be made for the organization of an efficient military staff." I recommended at the same time the passage of a bill "for the organization of a brigade of minute men," and furnished the draft of a bill for the accomplishment of this object.

On the 21st day of January, 1861, the General Assembly passed "An act making an appropriation of \$180,000 to purchase such arms, equipments, and munitions as may be required for the immediate use of the State." This sum was to be expended under the direction of a commission to be appointed by the Executive, and consisted of Col. P. St. George Cocke, Maj. George W. Randolph, and Col. F. H. Smith, who were appointed immediately after the passage of the act, and entered upon the discharge of their duties. No men were ever more prompt and faithful in the performance of a public duty, and their action received the approval of the General Assembly. Out of this appropriation thirteen rifle cannon, 5,000 percussion muskets, revolvers, cavalry sabers, 50,000 pounds of powder, and other articles were purchased. The entire sum was expended, as will fully appear from the report of Major Randolph, made to the General Assembly on the 1st day of April last, and herewith transmitted.*

By an act passed January 29, 1861, it was made the duty of the colonel of ordnance, under direction of the Governor, to procure the necessary arms, equipments, and munitions of war for the defense of the State. He is authorized also to contract for the manufacture of equipments and munitions and to buy materials therefor, and to contract for altering and improving cannon and small-arms and to purchase machinery and materials therefor. The act appropriates \$800,000 to accomplish these purposes. Col. Charles Dimmock was nominated to the Senate and confirmed as colonel of ordnance, and immediately entered upon the discharge of his duties. His report, herewith transmitted (Appendix B),* will show what was done under this act.

By the same act the Governor is authorized to employ an engineer to plan and construct coast, harbor, and river defenses, and to execute the same, if approved by the Governor. For this position Colonel Talcott was selected, and he has been most industriously and energetically employed in the discharge of his important duties. The act also provided for the construction of three arsenals in different sections of the State, and for the purposes mentioned in this paragraph the sum of \$200,000 was appropriated. Under this act the amount appropriated could not be raised in the usual mode, by the sale of State bonds, the bonds having depreciated 20 per cent. or more, and our law prohibiting the sale at less than their par value.

Hence, an act was passed, on the 14th day of March thereafter, authorizing the issue of \$1,000,000 of treasury notes. This act authorized the Governor to direct the auditor to borrow for the State from

* Not found.

time to time the sum aforesaid and to issue treasury notes therefor. Under the act the banks were authorized to discount or purchase such treasury notes. The convention subsequently, by an ordinance passed April 30, 1861, authorized the Governor to raise for the defense of the State, by treasury notes, a sum not exceeding \$2,000,000. These notes are made payable to bearer and are redeemable one year after their dates, and when paid are to be canceled, and reissues are authorized for a like amount. In less than one week after the passage of the ordinance of secession the navy department was fully and effectively organized, and the report of Captain Barron, the officer in charge (which is herewith transmitted and will be found in the Appendix, marked C),* shows what has been done in an incredibly short time.

The State has had full work for all the officers, seamen, and marines embraced in this organization, and all, so far as I know or believe, have worked laboriously, cheerfully, and effectively. Besides the laborious work of removing the heavy guns and other munitions from the navy-yard to the various points upon our rivers at which the batteries are located, we have had to construct the gun carriages and to provide the necessary fixed ammunition for the batteries. Those batteries are in good working order and are effectively manned. The fact that these guns weigh from 5,000 to 10,000 pounds each, with transportation essentially by land, will show the amount of labor required to get them in position. Besides, the steam-frigate Merrimac, which had been sunk by the Federal authorities and burned to the water's edge when they deserted the navy-yard, has been raised, and is now in the naval dry-dock undergoing repairs. An effective battery has been placed on board the frigate United States, and the navy-yard itself is well prepared for vigorous defense. At Richmond the steamer Yorktown has been nearly completed as a war steamer, and a steam-tug, bought by the State, has been completely fitted up. These will soon be ready to co-operate with the other military operations and will be prepared to render efficient service.

Provisional army.—Appointments in the higher grades were confined to retired officers of the Army who had left the service of the United States. To carry into immediate effect the provisions for recruiting, appointments were made of a number of first and second lieutenants, nearly one-half of whom are graduates of the Virginia Military Institute, and they have been distributed throughout the State on recruiting service. It is now satisfactorily ascertained that while the volunteer organization is so actively pressed as it now is in our State it is impossible to raise the 10,000 men proposed by the ordinance. One regiment, perhaps, may be raised. To give employment to the young officers the commanding general has made good use of them in organizing and drilling the volunteers as they were received at the various camps of instruction. As many of them as may be required for this and the engineer service may be retained with advantage until their services shall be no longer necessary; the remainder might be disbanded, after organizing the companies already recruited.

The report of Major-General Lee is herewith transmitted, and I commend it to the attention of the convention. It presents information that cannot fail to be interesting and instructive, as it shows the progress of our military matters since the ordinance of secession was passed. (Appendix E. *) The Harper's Ferry machinery and the disposition made of it was the subject of a previous communication, and to that

* Not found.

and the accompanying papers I refer. I transmit a copy of the proclamation turning over the military power of the State to the Confederate States. The terms are satisfactory, so far as I know or believe, to both sides. (Appendix F.*) The intercourse between the council and the Executive has been of the most agreeable character. The journal, regularly kept, will show that their action has been characterized by a remarkable unanimity, and it is a source of satisfaction to me to know that I have rarely felt constrained to dissent from their advice. Their services have been appreciated by me and should be appreciated by the State.

The rule which has regulated me in making appointments was to ascertain in the first place whether the applicant was loyal to the State. If he was loyal, competent, and efficient, it was all I required. In making my selections I have not regarded old party divisions. Whether a man originally belonged to the one or the other of the old political parties into which our people have been divided was an inquiry that I thought unworthy of the times. We had a common interest and a common object in defending our State against the assaults of the Federal Government, and my desire was to make our people a unit, if possible, for the successful prosecution of the great work which was before us. I think I can safely affirm that there is not the name of an unfaithful son of the Commonwealth upon the list, and it is cause of congratulation with me to know that they have been confirmed by the council with very general unanimity. No one was objected to, as I am informed, on the score of want of fidelity to the State. The commissary, quartermaster, and medical appointments were made at the earliest practicable moment after the authority was given, and although some bad appointments were made (some of which have been removed), the result has shown great efficiency in all these departments. The paymaster's department has also been organized and will, I believe, prove as efficient as the others.

When the war commenced I was greatly embarrassed, not only from my own want of knowledge in military matters, but also from the want of experienced military advisers, commanders, and an organized staff corps. Under these circumstances I was called at once to make provision for commands at the important points of Norfolk, Harper's Ferry, Alexandria, and Fredericksburg. Until General Lee was appointed I was without the aid and advice of an experienced military man. If I have under these circumstances committed blunders it is not to be wondered at; the only wonder is that I have not made many more.

The State has paid out, under the direction of the auditing board, from the 31st day of April to the 14th day of June, the following sums, viz:

For the army	\$1, 737, 950. 49
For the navy	100, 748. 49
Total	1, 838, 698. 98

Outstanding allowances not yet presented at the treasury will add \$100,000 to this sum. (Appendix E.†) On the 1st of July we will be required to raise \$1,800,000 to pay our troops now in the field. Besides all these difficulties to encounter and overcome, the Executive, by law and by ordinances of convention, has been compelled to provide the means necessary to meet the expenditures incident to such important

* See Series I, Vol. II, p. 911.

† Not found.

movements and the exertion of such extraordinary power. At the time when the ordinance of secession was passed there was in the treasury to the credit of the Commonwealth the sum of \$384,605.25, and from that period to this the entire amount received from the revenue of the State is about \$321,617.75, making \$706,223 to meet the ordinary expenses of government and the extraordinary sums to carry on the war. The actual sum expended for the war alone has been nearly \$2,000,000; and the sum necessary to meet the liabilities incurred and not yet presented for payment will be nearly \$2,000,000 additional.

To meet these expenditures the General Assembly had authorized the issuing of treasury notes to the amount of \$1,000,000. For this purpose the auditor of public accounts had made arrangements to have the treasury notes engraved at the North, and when the plates were ready for delivery they were seized by the Government of the United States, and of course could not then be issued. This occasioned delay in the execution of the notes, and rendered it necessary to contract for engraving new plates here in the city of Richmond, which could not be executed until within a few days past. Subsequently the convention authorized the issue of \$2,000,000 more of treasury notes, and both the law of the Legislature and the ordinance of the convention authorized the banks to receive these notes and to discount upon them. Under this authority there has been raised from the banks, by giving temporary notes, payable in July, the amount of \$1,854,500, which, with the amount in the treasury, has realized the sum of \$2,560,723, and the government has been able to meet every engagement of the Commonwealth so far with the currency of the State promptly, no creditor having to wait longer than necessary to credit and settle his accounts. A summary of the operations of the executive department since the 18th of April, 1861, shows the following results:

1. The navy-yard and Harper's Ferry Arsenal, captured without the loss of a single life, and securing to the State property estimated in its intrinsic value at from \$25,000,000 to \$30,000,000.
2. Upward of 40,000 volunteers have been drawn from their peaceful pursuits, and some of them from the most distant parts of the State; have been instructed in the elementary exercises of the soldier; have been armed, equipped, and supplied with every necessary for active service in the field, and are now ready to defend the honor and maintain the liberties of the State.
3. A navy department, hitherto unknown to our State organization, has been thoroughly and effectively organized. Navy batteries, numbering upward of 320 pieces of heavy ordnance, varying in weight from 5,000 to 10,000 pounds, have been established, the gun carriages for the most part made, and the ammunition prepared, while upward of 120 pieces of heavy ordnance have been forwarded to other States of the Southern Confederacy.
4. The various staff corps, embracing commissary, quartermaster, medical, and engineer departments, have been organized under ordinances passed since the 20th of April, 1861, and their efficiency has not only contributed to the promptness and completeness of the preparation which has enabled us to put so large a force from our own State into the field, but to facilitate the movements and efficiency of most of those who have come to our aid from the other States of the Confederacy.
5. And, finally, these results have been reached in due regard to an economic expenditure of the public money. The stores and other

property purchased for the military operations have been paid for as they were bought, and thus the credit of the State has been fully sustained.

It is due to truth and justice that I should here record, in this recapitulation, my high appreciation of the industry, judgment, and professional skill which have marked the conduct of the distinguished officer who has been called by me, with the unanimous approval of the convention, to conduct the military and naval operations of Virginia. From every principle of duty and patriotism the executive department of the State has felt called upon to co-operate cordially and heartily with the Government of the Confederate States, and the policy which has controlled my action heretofore will continue to regulate it. The great interests at stake demand the surrender of all questions of a subordinate character in a vigorous and united effort to maintain the common rights of the South. Nothing will be left undone to advance the interests of all, and the candor, frankness, and sincerity which have been exhibited by the President assure me that harmony and concert of action will be the result. He duly appreciates the importance of the occasion, and his courage, prudence, and military experience will exert a salutary influence in directing and controlling the military movements now in progress for the protection of Virginia and the South.

And, finally, I communicate herewith orders issued to Generals Carson, Taliaferro, and Haymond, and also a letter acknowledging the receipt of General Harper's report of operations at Harper's Ferry. General Harper was placed in charge of the expedition against Harper's Ferry, and I regret that the orders given to him on the 17th day of April last have been mislaid. These orders show that I acted with the promptness and decision due to the occasion. General Harper's report will be found with these orders.*

Respectfully,

JOHN LETCHER.

RICHMOND, *June 18, 1861.*

General JACKSON MORTON,
Pensacola, Fla.:

The Governor of your State now desires to arm another regiment for the defense of Florida. Under these circumstances the President, with every desire to oblige you, does not think it right to accept troops from your State for service in Virginia.

L. P. WALKER.

MILLEDGEVILLE, *June 18, 1861.*

President JEFFERSON DAVIS:

I have General Phillips' brigade in camp of instruction. Will organize the mountain regiment next week. Will arm and equip both. They go for the war. Will undertake to comply with your wish to supply an armed regiment in place of Semmes', now at Brunswick, except the sea-coast company, Captain Styles. Will retain him and put company in his place, provided your quartermaster can arrange supplies of provisions for the new companies as they arrive

*None of these inclosures found herewith, but see Harper to Letcher, Series I, Vol. II, p. 774.