

State of New York.

REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON MILITIA AND PUBLIC DEFENCE.

IN ANSWER TO A

RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE,

RELATIVE TO

The Number of Men Enlisted and Furnished the Federal Government

FROM THIS STATE,

The Term for which they were Enlisted, &c.

TRANSMITTED TO THE LEGISLATURE FEBRUARY 19, 1863.

A L B A N Y :

COMSTOCK & CASSIDY, PRINTERS.

1863.

State of New York.

No. 46.

IN SENATE,

February 19, 1863.

REPORT

OF THE COMMITTEE ON MILITIA AND PUBLIC DEFENCE, IN ANSWER TO A RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE, RELATIVE TO THE NUMBER OF MEN ENLISTED AND FURNISHED THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FROM THIS STATE, THE TERM FOR WHICH THEY WERE ENLISTED, &c.

The committee on militia and public defence, to which was referred a resolution of the Senate of the 16th of February inst., that the said committee inquire and report to the Senate, at an day, "the number of men enlisted and furnished the Federal government from this State, and the term for which they were enlisted, since the 16th day of April, 1861; the number now in the service of the United States from this State; the number whose terms of enlistment will expire previous to the next annual meeting of the Legislature; and recommend some feasible plan for supplying any deficiency there may exist in the quota required of this State for supplying the place of those whose term of service shall expire before the next annual meeting of the Legislature, and to meet any further call or levy the government may make upon this State for more troops,"

REPORT :

The committee having seen, in the reported proceedings of the Senate of the United States, that a proposition was there made by the military committee to consolidate all the regiments of volunteers now in the service of the United States, drew up a respectful but decided remonstrance against any such consolidation of the first thirty-eight regiments of volunteers from this State, which had been raised under the act of April 16, 1861,

and accepted into the service for two years, and whose term of service will expire in May and June next, and recommended a plan for the reorganization of said regiments and the re-enlistment of the men and officers into the service of the United States, a copy of which remonstrance is hereto annexed, marked A.

This remonstrance was approved by his Excellency Governor Seymour and by Adjutant General Sprague, a copy thereof was sent to the Hon. Henry Wilson, chairman of the military committee in the Senate of the United States, by the chairman of this committee, and a duplicate copy was transmitted by the Adjutant General to the Secretary of War.

The chairman of the military committee in the United States Senate promptly acknowledged the receipt of the remonstrance, and replied that nothing would be done to consolidate those regiments, and that the committee thought well of the plan proposed for re-enlisting, recruiting and filling up the said regiments.

Since the receipt of said communication from Senator Wilson, the committee have conversed with officers from several of these first thirty-eight regiments, and they uniformly agree in opinion, that if these regiments can be permitted by the War Department to come back to the State on furlough for a short time, the officers and men will generally re-enlist for the war, and that the sooner the furlough is granted the better, for the reasons:

1st. That the condition of the roads in Virginia is such, that these regiments can be of little service for the remainder of their term.

2d. That the men, and most of the officers, have had no respite since their enlistment.

3d. That they will be more likely to re-enlist after a month's furlough now, than later in the spring; and the regiments might be recruited and ready for service by the months of May or June next, in time for the summer campaign.

The committee believe that upon the passage of the conscription act in Congress, making all persons of a certain age liable to draft, giving a bounty of \$50 to volunteers who re-enlist for one year, and \$100 to those who re-enlist for two years after the expiration of their term of service; and upon the passage of a law of this State, giving additional bounties, as well to those who re-enlist to fill up these thirty-eight regiments and the three years' regiments now in the field, as to those who may enlist in new regiments and corps in this State as the same may be called

for, we shall be able to obtain recruits sufficient to fill any quota of this State now due, or hereafter to become due, without resorting to a draft.

Without approving the system of State and county bounties, as heretofore given in this State to volunteers, the committee recognize the justice of the claim of those who enlisted for two years' service without any bounty, who have honorably served their country in its hour of peril, and who are willing to re-enlist for the war, to a share of the State bounty with those who enlisted under the last calls for volunteers; and since the system of paying bounties to volunteers has been established, the committee believe that recruits cannot be obtained, either for the old or new regiments, without the continuance of such payment, and in this belief the committee are sustained by the opinion of the Adjutant General.

The committee therefore recommend the passage of an act to promote the re-enlistment of volunteers now in the service, and the enlistment of persons into new regiments and corps hereafter to be organized in this State, a draft of which is herewith presented; and that his Excellency the Governor be requested to communicate with the War Department of the United States, and endeavor to obtain an immediate furlough for said thirty-eight regiments, that measures may be taken forthwith to fill up the same by re-enlistments and recruits.

The schedule annexed, marked B, contains the answer of the Adjutant General to the request of the committee for the information asked by the said resolution of the Senate of February 16, 1861, and also a statement of the principal new regiments and corps of volunteers now being organized in this State.

All which is respectfully submitted.

J. C. SMITH,
J. H. RAMSEY,
CHAS. G. CORNELL.

SCHEDULE A.

To the Military Committee in the Senate of the United States:

The undersigned, committee on militia and public defence in the Senate of the State of New York, having observed that a bill has been reported in the United States Senate to consolidate the regiments now in the field, beg leave respectfully to remon-

strate against the consolidation of the first thirty-eight regiments of volunteers sent from the State of New York, and mustered into service for two years, and whose term of service will expire within the next four months, for the following reasons :

The efficiency and superiority of these regiments have won for them high encomiums from their generals in the field, and the experience of the rank and file make it desirable that they should be continued in the service for a longer period, if possible, than the term for which they enlisted. This could not be done by consolidation. These regiments, having been raised in different localities in our State, have a natural pride in their own designation and number, and a love for the colors which they have borne so bravely in so many conflicts. To consolidate, some must lose this identity and give up their colors, and a large number of non-commissioned officers, who have won their chevrons by service, must be reduced to the ranks, and many commissioned officers be mustered out of service. These causes will necessarily create discontent and dissatisfaction, and destroy any desire that there may be in either officers or men to remain in the service. It would give more satisfaction to the localities from which these men came, to the officers and men, and to the State at large, if they were allowed to retain their organization until the expiration of their short term of service, whilst their consolidation for so short a period would be of little, if any, service to the General government. And again, it would prevent the filling up of those regiments, which we propose to do on the following plan, if it meets the approval of the General government :

As there is a larger number of commissioned officers in those regiments than are needed for the number of men, we propose, 1st. That all such officers, not required in the service, be ordered to report to the Governor of the State direct for their respective regiments, giving preference to such officers as desire to remain in the service. 2d. These officers will be sent by the Governor to the different localities from whence they came, and with the endowment of a State bounty in addition to the bounty offered by the General government, must exert themselves to obtain recruits. 3d. The recruits so obtained to be collected in camps of instruction for drill and discipline. 4th. To allow these regiments to return to the State a short time before their term of enlistment expires, in a body. We think that the public would

receive them in such manner that the appearance of these veterans, with their tattered flags, will excite a military enthusiasm, and give an impetus to recruiting, and will also excite the enthusiasm of the troops themselves, and induce many to re-enlist who otherwise would not do so. Lastly, before the final mustering out and payment of these men, give them a short furlough to return to their homes, and upon their reassembling to be mustered out and for payment, and the securing of the one hundred dollars bounty, given by the General government at the close of their term of service, offer them, as an inducement for re-enlisting, the same bounty given to recruits of their regiment and an additional bounty from the State for re-enlistment. In this way we think these thirty-eight regiments can retain their original organization, be filled up, and officered by experienced commissioned and non-commissioned officers, ready for return to the field soon after their first term of service shall have expired.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. C. SMITH, *Chairman.*

J. H. RAMSEY.

SCHEDULE B.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS, STATE OF NEW YORK, }
 ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE, }
 ALBANY, *February 18, 1863.* }

Hon. JESSE C. SMITH,

Chairman Senate Committee on Militia:

Sir—In reply to your communication of this date, I have to inform you:

1st. The number of men enlisted and turned over to the United States government, from this State, since April 16, 1861, is	222,053
Of these, there have been	
Mustered into U. States service for 3 months..	15,922
do do 9 do ..	2,560
do do 2 years...	30,250
do do 3 do ...	173,321
	<hr/> 222,053 <hr/> <hr/>

2d. There is no data in this office, from which can be ascertained, with any degree of certainty, the number of troops from this State now in the field.

3d. The number whose term of enlistment will expire previous to the next annual meeting of the Legislature, are the thirty-eight regiments enlisted for two years, and whose term of service will expire in May and June next, and the nine months' regiments, in all, say about 12,000.

I am, sir, very respectfully,

Your obedient serv't,

JOHN T. SPRAGUE,
Adjutant General.

List of Regiments organizing in the State.

INFANTRY.

Second Hawkins' Zouaves.—Authorized November 12, 1862, to serve nine months—215 men. Col. Julius W. Adams.

Seymour Light Infantry.—Authorized December 4, 1862, to serve three years—present strength, 113 men. Col. Henry F. Liebenau.

Third Regiment, Merchants' Brigade.—Authorized October 23, 1862, to serve three years—present strength, 313 men. Colonel Ethan Allen.

Burnside Rifles.—Authorized January 10, 1863, to serve three years. Col. Edward Wehler.

New York State Sharpshooters.—Authorized October 22, 1862, nine months and three years. Major William S. Rowland.

Pratt Guard.—Organized December 2, 1862, three years. Col. M. G. Bell.

Westchester Light Infantry.—Authorized February 6, 1863, three years. Col. James R. Quick.

Defenders.—Authorized February 11, 1863, three years. Col. Francis X. Braulik.

CAVALRY.

Third Ira Harris Guards.—Authorized October 4, 1862, three years. Col. James W. Savage.

Twelfth Cavalry.—Authorized October 9, 1862, three years. Col. Henry E. Davies, Jr.

Metropolitan Cavalry.—Authorized November 19, 1862, three years. Col. Thaddeus P. Mott.

Seymour Cavalry.—Authorized January 16, 1863, three years. Col. David Webb.

Sprague Light Cavalry.—Authorized January 17, 1863, three years. Col. J. H. Olmstead.

Tompkins' Cavalry.—Authorized January 28, 1863, three years. Col. G. W. B. Tompkins.

ARTILLERY.

Eleventh Artillery, N. Y. V.—Authorized February 7, 1863, three years. Col. W. B. Barnes.

AN ACT

To promote the re-enlistment of volunteers now in the service of the United States, and the enlistment of persons into regiments and corps now in said service and hereafter to be organized.

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. There shall be paid to each volunteer now in the service of the United States, in any of the regiments from this State, organized under the act of the Legislature, passed April 16, 1861, entitled "An act to authorize the embodying and equipment of a volunteer militia and to provide for the public defence," who may re-enlist, to serve one year in the United States service, unless sooner discharged, after the expiration of his present service, the sum of fifty dollars; and to every such volunteer, now in service in said regiments, who may re-enlist to serve two years, unless sooner discharged, after the expiration of their present term of enlistment, the sum of one hundred dollars.

§ 2. There shall be paid to each non-commissioned officer, musician and private who shall enlist in any regiment or corps of volunteers from this State, now in the service of the United States, and to each non-commissioned officer and private who may enlist in any military organization duly authorized in this State, and preparing for the service of the United States, for the term of three years or the war, the sum of seventy-five dollars.

§ 3. The moneys paid under the foregoing sections shall be paid at such time or times, and in such manner and proportion as shall be deemed most likely to encourage enlistments, secure the services of the volunteers in the United States service, and prevent fraud and desertion, and as shall be directed by the Governor as Commander-in-Chief in general orders.

§ 4. The sum of _____ dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated out of the moneys in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, to defray the expenditures authorized by this act.

§ 5. There shall be imposed, for the fiscal year commencing on the first day of October, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, a State tax for such sum as the Comptroller shall deem necessary to meet the expenses hereby authorized, not to exceed _____ mills on each dollar of the valuation of real and personal property in this State, to be assessed, raised, levied, collected and paid in the same manner as the other State taxes are levied, assessed, collected and paid into the treasury.

§ 6. This act shall take effect immediately.