

tunity to attempt their entire suppression. They constitute a system of gambling which, although licensed, is extremely prejudicial. I would suggest the propriety of Legislative action upon the subject. Should you agree with me that they ought to be abolished, it would be proper, for the purpose of accomplishing the end, that the Legislature should adopt a Resolution to be communicated to the respective States, proposing to do away the system whenever the other States should do the same. The reason is evident why such a course ought to be adopted, for should any State refuse its sanction, the State so refusing would receive a vast amount from other States, for the purchase of tickets, and the object endeavoured to be gained would be entirely defeated, but should all the States agree to the proposition to take effect at the same time, there would be an end to a system tending to demoralize the people, and which often offers an incentive to corruption and fraud.

I have the honor to lay before you the Report of the Adjutant General, with the names of those officers who have reported to him agreeably to the provisions of Resolution No. 121, of last session. The militia law of this state has become nearly a dead letter, and will require your attention. Upon this difficult subject, I would suggest an inquiry of the expediency of repealing the present militia laws, (which from the number of amendments have become intricate, and almost impossible to be understood) leaving the commissioned officers as they are, and passing a new law, plain and easily to be comprehended, and which should place the militia upon a respectable footing. I would mention for your inquiry, whether it would not be proper to furnish each man with arms, and when we consider that the state receives her quota of arms from the General Government, we may be led to doubt whether the plan would not be less expensive in the end than the indiscriminate appropriations of arms in case of emergency. By the adoption of this plan the arms would be in the hands of the people, and although, many would no doubt, be carried beyond the limits of the state, in case of the removal of their possessors, yet they would not be lost to the country, and great advantage would be gained by having the soldier and his arms connected, should any unhappy cause occur for their use.

The Report of the Board of Managers, for removing the free people of color from the state, is also sent herewith, although their operations have been circumscribed during the past year, yet it is believed, that a perseverance in this