

view of the case, it would seem that to have the men regularly enrolled, and the different corps properly officered, and to secure complete and regular returns of the effective force of the state to the adjutant-general, is all that your committee think possible to effect, until congress shall adopt a general system for these purposes. The laws upon this subject, passed in the years eighteen hundred and twenty-three, and eighteen hundred and twenty-four, would seem sufficient, if they were carried into effect. It may be asked, why have they not been carried into effect? The answer is plain—It is a fact, observable every where, that men act reluctantly where the object is not distinctly before them; upon this principle the militia are averse to training in time of long continued peace, when they consider it at least problematical whether they will ever be called into service. Another reason is the remissness of the officers; and this is believed to arise from the fact, that very many of the militia officers now in commission, have never taken the oaths of office required by law, and consequently do not feel the force of the obligation to the faithful discharge of their duty, as they would if the laws were complied with in this particular. The committee have prepared a bill, requiring all the officers of every rank, who have not qualified, to take and subscribe the oaths required by law, and to have the same endorsed upon the back of their commissions, and directing that such officers as will not discharge the duties of their station, after due notice, shall be stricken from the rolls.

The committee further report, that they have examined the arms and accoutrements in the city of Annapolis, in conformity with the order of this house. For the number and description of those articles, the committee refer the house to the armourers report. Such arms as are reported to be fit for use, appear to be in good order, and in a tolerable state of preservation. This applies to such arms as have been recently received from the general government, and those which have been lately cleaned at considerable expense, and more particularly to muskets and swords. All the accoutrements are in a state of disorder and dilapidation, which, if not speedily remedied, must prove destructive to a large amount of public property. A large number of knapsacks lie in heaps, evidently decaying from want of attention. Many canteens, and other accoutrements, are in the same condition. Your committee think this might be remedied by a proper arrangement of those articles in the apartments where they now are, and this should be the duty of the armourer. From reports of the several armourers it appears, there are now in the armouries of the state a