

tic or foreign war; by preparing in time of peace for its successful prosecution.

Your committee perceiving and sincerely regretting the imperfect condition of our militia system, propose to remedy its defects by repealing all the statutes now in force, that relate to the subject; and embodying in one act every provision which may be now deemed necessary or expedient, for the enrolment and organization of the whole mass of our militia; and the discipline and effective equipment of a select, sufficient, but small part of the whole. To do less than this, might subject the legislature to censure; and therefore, your committee have prepared and reported a bill, framed with much care, and which, in their opinion, is well calculated to remedy every present or probable evil; without oppressing or harassing the people. If adopted it will secure a perfect enrolment of our citizens, an operative organization thereof, by arranging them within convenient districts, under competent and willing officers, into companies, battalions, squadrons and larger corps, it may induce a sufficient part spread over the whole area of the state to volunteer, or will cause an equal part, that is to say, one company from every battalion, to be selected annually to perform a tour of duty, not exceeding three months in any year, should events make it necessary to call them into actual service. It will place the public arms in the possession of this part, and being so equipt, it will cause them to be inspected once in every year. The bill further provides that the volunteer, select and uniformed militia, shall parade for inspection once, and for drill once in every year, but allows uniform corps to establish and enforce, not exceeding six additional meetings in each year. It also provides for calling out the militia, to preserve tranquility within our limits, whenever the civil authorities may require the same in writing. And it authorises the Executive to call such portions as may be found necessary into actual service, and in such cases, provide for their pay and subsistence. It confers on court martials the power to impose fines, and makes it the duty of civil officers alone, to collect, account for, and apportion all money received as and for fines and penalties.

Your committee will not further detail the many necessary provisions of said bill, because what they have already stated may suffice to justify the earnest recommendation which they hereby respectfully make of the entire act, to your patient investigation and better judgment, and should