

ryland, with a view to becoming land owners at no distant day. With some modification of the law, this number might have been largely increased.

The Commissioner suggests that he should be invested with the power to protect immigrants landing upon our shores, from speculators and runners, who are always on the alert to impose upon and mislead them. He recommends the establishment of an Immigrant Depot, with an officer in charge, to whom such passengers should be compelled to report immediately on their arrival; a designated landing place, and one only, to be fixed by law, and authority given to exclude all persons from communicating with such passengers, except upon written authority from the Commissioner. In these recommendations I fully concur.

The law creating this Bureau was necessarily imperfect in many of its features; but sufficient has been demonstrated to show its value to the State, apart from its connection with the Board of Public Works. I would recommend a careful examination into the suggestions contained in the Commissioner's Report, and the adoption and incorporation into the existing organization of such as may conduce to the more enlarged and successful working of the system.

The great inducements held out by our State, coupled with the sound financial condition of the Treasury, offer temptations unsurpassed in any other section, to the domestic as well as foreign immigrant, and the General Assembly should not be wanting in proper efforts to stimulate the population of our cities as well as our rural, manufacturing and mining districts; and to bring into immediate use our waste and unproductive lands.

#### MILITIA.

The Act passed March 10, 1864, chapter 284, to provide for the organization and discipline of the Militia of the State, expired by limitation on the 1st March, 1866, and the State is now without any militia system whatever. It seems to me, that something should be done, in this direction, without further delay, if only to place the State upon some recognized footing in this respect. There are occasions, whether in peace or war, when such aids are not only important but indispensable in maintaining the dignity, executing the laws, and guarding the peace of the Commonwealth. I have been opposed to the institution of any plan which would entail a useless burden upon the people; but I would strongly recommend the passage of some law, which if it accomplishes no more, might remand us to the position which we have always heretofore occupied, in common with other States, and enable us to guard against possible and unforeseen contingencies, in the working of our domestic system.