

In the first place, the undersigned would suggest a change the mode of providing for the enforcement of the Militia laws. These laws actually bristle with penalties for their infraction. Heavy fines are to be imposed upon officers of all grades, and privates, sufficient, if enforced, to raise a large revenue; but practically, the penalties are never enforced, and the laws remain a dead letter.

Since indiscriminate *punishments* have been found ineffectual to prevent neglect of duty, might it not be well to try the effect of *rewards*? This change has been found beneficial in the marine service, and has been carried out in our Militia system in the city of Baltimore. In the city of Baltimore, the Uniform Volunteer Companies, which shall make the four parades as prescribed by law, are entitled to receive one hundred dollars each from the city. Reports of these parades are regularly made to the Adjutant General, by the colonels of the regiments to which the companies are attached and upon obtaining the certificate of the Adjutant General that it appears from the reports filed in his office that they have complied with the law requirements, the money is paid; and in the city of Baltimore alone do we find the system even moderately efficient. Would not a like system, if adopted throughout the State, be productive of beneficial results? I think it would. While the amount thus paid by the counties, in support of Volunteer Companies within their bounds, would be insignificant, when compared with the protection and security thrown around the homes and property of the citizens of the State.

In addition to this provision, I would suggest that each private or officer who regularly performs Militia duty as required by law, should be furnished with a certificate to that effect by the commanding officer, which, when presented to the County or State Collector, shall authorize them to make a deduction from his tax bill of a certain per cent., and a certificate for a certain sum of money, to be made assignable, might be given to such as have no taxes to pay, and thus an incentive would be afforded to the tax-paying and non-tax-paying volunteer. The Legislature might further provide for the payment of ferriage or tolls incurred by the volunteer in repairing to the place of meeting, or might allow each militia man, in attendance at a parade, a per diem; and there are numerous other ways in which they might confer substantial benefit upon the individual, at small charge to the public.

There are, in our State, large numbers of men who are willing to abstract from their vocations time enough to devote to the acquirement of military knowledge, and to assume the duties of the soldier, with the patriotic view of being ready