

The price of bayonets is,.....\$1.44

Should the Legislature pass an act to have the work done, I would suggest that all the muskets which are intended to be altered may be concentrated in one or two places, with a view to their examination by an agent of the Department as to their fitness for alteration.

Respectfully,

Your ob't serv't,

H. K. CRAIG,

COL. OF ORDNANCE.

P. S.—The within prices paid for altering muskets have been named, on the supposition that the guns to be altered are of one model. Should there be much of a variety of models, however, the cost of work may be considerably increased thereby.

I would therefore suggest, before coming to a final conclusion in the matter, that you will give me a full account of the different models, the names of the manufacturers, and years of manufacture.

H. K. C.

I suggest that the Adjutant General should be authorized to cause the work to be done, and that the Governor should be empowered to pay the expenses of the same from the State Treasury.

But all other endeavors to encourage a proper military spirit will be ineffectual, without some provision for the diffusion of correct military knowledge among the people. Without properly drilled officers the men will never become perfected in the exercises of the field. They cannot be made to listen to the confused orders of officers, as inexperienced as themselves of the commonest military duties. With competent officers, it will always be easy, in this country, to raise an army sufficient for purposes of defence. The recent experience of our National Government, during the Mexican war, shows that nothing is required but the educated officer; and the West Point Academy has established its claim to the national gratitude, upon the field of battle, during the war. Several of the States of the Union have followed this example of the United States, and the military schools of Kentucky and Virginia, in particular, are successful imitations of the West Point Academy. Virginia has built up her Military Institute at Lexington, at an expense of \$112,250; and has contributed towards its annual support since the year 1839, the sum of \$127,760. The annual appropriation of the State to its support is now upwards of \$10,000. It has been constantly filled with an increasing number of students, of whom it has graduated 359 young men, who have returned to their homes in different parts of the State, thoroughly drilled, and