

all exemptions granted for physical disability and other causes recognized by the State law, there were left 57,558 men subject to military duty.

I would recommend that besides such encouragement of volunteer militia as the Constitution suggests, you should take some immediate measures for the organization of the force thus enrolled, and in doing so, I am inclined to think that the arrangement might be simplified, and the object in view more speedily attained, if you provided in the first instance, except in the city of Baltimore, merely for company and regimental organizations; and omitting any combination of counties for the purpose of brigade formations, and fostering by all proper means county organizations, either in companies, battalions or regiments, according to the number of their enrolled men, you would avoid to a great extent the sinecures into which militia officers have so frequently subsided, build up a more effective home force in each county, and should circumstances at any time render the brigading of such forces necessary, some authority to that end, dependent upon such contingency, might be vested in the Commander-in-Chief.

In reorganizing the militia you should, I think, so amend the oath heretofore administered to its officers as to secure, as far as it is possible by such means, the fidelity of those to whom such a trust is committed. We have in late years witnessed so many instances of men who had repeatedly sworn to support the Constitution of the United States, and with that oath fresh upon their lips taking up arms for its destruction, that some form of oath containing a more specific pledge of fidelity would seem to be necessary, and should be required not only from the military but the civil officers of the State.

The Act of 1861, Chapter 79, which repealed several sections of the Code upon the subject of State arms has deprived the Executive of all the power previously possessed for their collection and recovery. Many arms heretofore delivered to military companies, have for want of such authority probably been lost, and I recommend the immediate repeal of said repealing Act.

THE PUBLIC WORKS.

The Internal Improvement Companies in which the State holds an interest reckoned as a part of its productive capital, have generally met their obligations by the payment of the amounts due from them.

The Northern Central Railroad Company, which was, by Act of 1854, required to secure to the State the payment of an annuity of \$90,000, has fully discharged that duty, and at the close of the last fiscal year owed no arrearages.