

proper means of doing such work, so as to make the cost of transportation as little as possible. It will be done at Washington Arsenal, if it can be (to ascertain which I have written a letter to the commanding Officer); and if not there, at the Frankford Arsenal near Philadelphia. To alter 500 arms will amount to the value of about 2 1/2 muskets, leaving the balance of the States quota, 249 muskets. As regards the supply of this balance in Cadet arms, I have to state that the issues to the Militia are restricted to such arms as are used by U. S. Troops; but this rule has been relaxed, so far as to authorize the issue to a limited extent, of arms suitable for State Military Institutions. The greatest extent, to which such issues have been made would authorize a supply to Maryland, taking into consideration her militia force, of 170 Cadet's Muskets. This number can be furnished on your requisition thereof, and the balance of the quota (79 muskets) in those arms of the regular pattern, or such other kind of equal value, as you may designate.

Without the restriction as to the kind of arms to be issued to the militia, you will readily perceive that there might be no uniformity among the U. S. and the State Troops in arms and equipments; that the ammunition for the one might not suit the other, and that the object of supplying the States, viz. utility or fitness for actual service, would not be effected.

Respectfully

Yours Obedt Servt  
 H. R. Craig  
 Col. Ord.

P. S. I have just ascertained that the muskets can be altered from Flint to Percussion, at the Washington Arsenal, whether they may be sent as soon as suits your convenience.

H. R. C.

War Department,  
 Washington, March 11<sup>th</sup> 1853

Sir;

at the last session of Congress an appropriation was made for the purpose of bringing water into the city of Washington, and it was provided