

CALIFORNIA MILITIA.—In reference to the organized militia of the State, Gov. Stanford makes the following showing and suggestions :

From the Report of the Adjutant General, it appears that the organized militia of the State comprises one division, six brigades, five regiments, four battalions, and sixty-two companies unattached, forming in the aggregate a force of eight thousand four hundred and eighty officers and men. This number is made up of companies as follows :

Infantry Companies	-	-	-	-	95
Cavalry Companies	-	-	-	-	15
Riflemen Companies	-	-	-	-	8
Artillery Companies	-	-	-	-	3
Sappers and Miners, Companies	-	-	-	-	1

Total - - - - - 122

The organizations during the year have been :

Infantry Companies	-	-	-	-	41
Cavalry Companies	-	-	-	-	11
Riflemen Companies	-	-	-	-	4
Artillery Companies	-	-	-	-	2

Total - - - - - 58

Under the Act of April 25th, 1863, amendatory of, and supplemental to the Militia Law of 1862, there has been held one Camp of Instruction and four Brigade Encampments. The Adjutant General estimates the cost of these Encampments to the State at \$140,000, exclusive of camp equipage which the State now owns, and which, with care, may be used for the same purpose for years. This estimate gives an expenditure for transportation, pay, and subsistence, of thirty-five dollars to the man, or three and a half dollars per day for the ten days they were in camp. For details of these expenditures and their probable results your attention is called to the thorough exposition of the Adjutant General.

Independent of their necessary cost, the policy of maintaining Brigade Encampments may be questioned, on the grounds that they may interfere with the willingness of our citizens to enter the volunteer force, knowing that they will be subjected to the loss of time from their ordinary avocations, in attending to this duty as required by law. Men can devote the necessary time for company drill and are willing to do so, while

company unit, and are willing to do
the attendance upon a distant encampment might
involve a more serious sacrifice than they would
voluntarily incur.

The last Legislature provided for the support
of armories for the different companies a sum
not exceeding \$50 per month; for each regiment
\$150; and for light batteries, not less than \$250.
In the aggregate these proportions will be found
to swell to a large and burdensome amount.—
This should be remedied. Our expenditures for
military purposes are in any event necessarily
large, and in view of the importance of sustain-
ing the militia upon a sound and permanent
footing, there is an especial reason that the ap-
propriations therefor should be made in a spirit
of wise and judicious economy. This term can-
not be applied to the experience of the last year,
and I would particularly urge you to consider
what may or may not be required to maintain
in an efficient manner, and at the same time to
increase the militia organizations of our State.

In serviceable arms and equipments for the
companies already formed our State is deficient.
While the question of supply was under discus-
sion in the Legislature last Winter, and a propo-
sition was before it for arming the State, I was
informed by the Secretary of War that arms
should be forwarded to this State to the extent
of five field batteries (rifled guns), nineteen
thousand improved muskets and three thousand
sets cavalry arms.

This information was received from the War
Department in a telegraphic dispatch, on the
twenty-fifth of March, 1863, and its general fea-
tures were communicated to the Senate on that
day. The State has received since that period
three thousand muskets, six hundred pistols, and
a few old-style rifles. As the number of our or-
ganized militia increases, the necessity of having
a full supply of arms becomes more and more
apparent, and I would call the attention of the
Legislature once more to this important question.

A militia, well organized and equipped, is a
reliable means of defense, and the cheapest that
can be devised; and while it has no tendency to
overawe or endanger the liberties of a State, it
will always prove in times of great danger a
more powerful force than any regular one that
could be maintained, or that safety could admit.
A few millions of dollars, equal only to the cost
of supporting a few regiments of regular troops,
appropriated each year by the General Govern-
ment, for a thorough development of the militia
system, would secure to it a force sufficient for
any emergency. There is a well-founded impres-
sion existing that in the future the United States
must have a strong military force to rely upon,
but I trust the nation will never fall into the
folly of maintaining a large standing army.

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ly Newspaper, Independent in Politics, and Devoted to the Advancement of Home Interests.

WEAVERVILLE, CALIFORNIA, DECEMBER 26, 1863.