

Legislative Document No. 23.

REPORT
OF THE
ADJUTANT GENERAL
OF
KENTUCKY,

DECEMBER 15, 1891.

A. J. GROSS, Adjutant General.

PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF KENTUCKY.

FRANKFORT, KY.:
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REPORT

OFFICE OF ADJUTANT GENERAL,
FRANKFORT, KY., December 15, 1891. }

To His Excellency, JOHN YOUNG BROWN,
Governor of Kentucky :

SIR: I have the honor to submit for your consideration the following report, covering the brief period I have had charge of this office.

Your most obedient servant,

A. J. GROSS, *Adjutant General.*

GOVERNOR OF KENTUCKY AND STAFF.

JOHN YOUNG BROWN, *Governor and Commander-in-Chief.*

BRIGADIER GENERAL A. J. GROSS, *Adjutant General and Chief of Staff.*

COLONEL FRANK B. RICHARDSON, *Assistant Adjutant General.*

RANK.	COMMISSIONED.	RESIDENCE.
Colonel . .	Ernest Macpherson, Judge Advocate General	Louisville.
Colonel . .	H. M. Crump, Inspector General	Bowling Green.
Colonel . .	Dr. Henry Plummer, Surgeon General	Harrodsburg.
Colonel . .	Geo. L. Willis, Paymaster General	Louisville.
Colonel . .	Thos. J. Smith, Commissary General	Hartford.
Colonel . .	Bruce Haldeman, Quartermaster General	Louisville.
Captain . .	David O'Connell, Chief of Ordnance	Frankfort.
Colonel . .	Peter Manion, Aid-de-Camp	Henderson.
Colonel . .	John S. Morris, Aid-de-Camp	Louisville.
Colonel . .	Jas. P. Whallen, Aid-de-Camp	Louisville.
Colonel . .	Jas. L. Lisle, Aid-de-Camp	Winchester.
Colonel . .	Albert M. Jackson, Aid-de-Camp	London.
Colonel . .	John Dunlap, Aid-de-Camp	Louisville.

REPORT

OF THE

ADJUTANT GENERAL OF KENTUCKY.

STATE GUARD.

The organized Militia, or State Guard of Kentucky, numbers this day thirteen hundred and ten (1310) men, rank and file.

FEDERAL AID.

The State Guard is divided into three Regiments of eight companies each. The law of Congress which provides for Federal aid to the organized militia of the several States of the Union, requires that the States shall have at least one hundred organized militia for each Senator and Representative in Congress before Federal aid will be given. It will be seen from this report that the State has the required number of men properly organized into a State Guard, and is entitled to such Federal aid. Therefore, under the existing law, as long as the State maintains an organized militia of the requisite numerical strength, she is entitled to \$11,981.56 annually, payable in ordnance and quartermaster stores. Without this material aid from the Federal Government it would be next to an impossibility to maintain an organized State Guard in any thing like a respectable and efficient condition, as the present State appropriation is only \$10,000 per annum.

STATE APPROPRIATION.

The appropriation made by the State of Kentucky for taking care of the State Guard, is made payable out of the funds derived from the Kentucky war claims; therefore, unless there is money in the State Treasury, derived from collections made from these war claims, the State Guard would, for the want of financial aid, go to pieces, and the State would be left without a military organization of any kind.

WORLD'S FAIR.

During 1893 at the World's Fair to be held at Chicago, there will be a generous rivalry between the States in their respective efforts to make an attractive exhibit and creditable showing. A strong appeal is thus made to our State pride. Kentucky should be properly represented at this Fair. The chivalry of her sons is known the world over. Her heroes lie dead on many battle-fields where they were called by their country. At this great gathering to view the victories of peace, Kentucky's Militia should be represented in a manner creditable to themselves and an honor to their State. It is to be hoped that a liberal appropriation for the purpose will be made by the next Legislature.

SECOND REGIMENT ENCAMPMENT.

I entered upon the duties of the office September 1st, 1891, at which time the Second Regiment, Kentucky State Guard, was in camp near this place. They broke camp on the morning of September 2nd, and soon thereafter bills for supplies, lumber, labor, livery, &c., furnished said Regiment during their encampment, amounting to \$4,494.23 were presented to this office for payment. I directed Col. Frank B. Richardson, Assistant Adjutant General, to examine these bills thoroughly as to their correctness, and whether they were authorized by law or not, and to report the result of his investigation to me. After a careful examination he reported exorbitant prices paid for supplies, a general lavish expenditure of money, a thing never contemplated by the law, and many articles not warranted by law or army regulations. He concluded his report by saying: "I regret to have to do so, but in justice to you as my superior officer, and in justice to myself, I herewith hand you these bills for your consideration, without my approval." I immediately sent for Col. E. H. Gaither, Colonel commanding Second Regiment, and had him go over and inspect closely each account with me. Col. Gaither stated in the outset that his entire time during the encampment was taken up in thoroughly drilling the Regiment, and in consequence had to trust the purchase of supplies to the Quartermaster and his Assistant. We had not gone far towards looking into the accounts before we saw that many articles were charged to the State not allowed by statute or army regulations, and frequently

these articles were charged at exorbitantly high prices. With the law and army regulations as our guide, we inspected closely each account and allowed such articles, both as to quantity and price, as we thought warranted by said law and regulations. Of the \$4,494.23 presented, there was \$2,011.15 allowed, and \$2,483.08 disallowed. These amounts did not include transportation, the vouchers for which were afterwards properly certified to and paid. Col. Gaither and myself approved the amount allowed on each account, and presented them to His Excellency, Governor Brown, who heartily indorsed my action in the matter, and approved the accounts as allowed.

The three Regiments composing the State Guard were ordered into camp in obedience to the following Executive order :

" EXECUTIVE OFFICE. }
" FRANKFORT, KY., May 29, 1891. }

" EXECUTIVE ORDER.

"Encampments will be held during the present summer of the three Regiments of the Kentucky State Guard, as follows:

"The 1st Regiment at Mammoth Cave, from the 21st to the 28th of June.

"The 3d Regiment at Mammoth Cave, or other convenient point, during the latter part of July.

"The 2d Regiment at Frankfort, during the last week in August, breaking camp on September 2d.

"The officers of the 8d Regiment will attend a school of instruction at the June encampment at Mammoth Cave.

"The officers of the 2d Regiment will go into a camp of instruction at Frankfort, one week before the encampment of the Regiment at the same place.

"Col. Castleman will command the camp of the 1st Regiment, including the instruction of the officers of the 8d.

"Col. Smith will command the camp of the 3d Regiment.

"Col. Gaither will command the camp of the 2d Regiment and the camp of instruction of its officers.

"The Adjutant General will issue the necessary orders to carry these instructions into effect.

" S. B. BUCKNER."

The First and Third Regiments have presented no bills for services during their encampments, but the Second Regiment presented pay rolls for services during their encampment amounting to \$5,026.25, which were disallowed, as there was nothing in the Executive Order and no law to warrant the payment of such claims. It is evident to my mind that the State never intended to pay for services in these encampments of instruction, or they would have appropriated

more than \$10,000 per annum for the maintenance of the State Guard. As will be seen from an addition of the Second Regiment's pay rolls of \$5,026.25, and bills for supplies, \$4,494.23, as originally presented, that only \$479.52 would remain of the appropriation, which would not pay the transportation bills of their own Regiment, to say nothing of money necessary to keep up the other two Regiments, and other expenses which are necessarily incurred in connection with the State Guard.

While this is not given as a reason for my refusal to allow the claims, it shows that if, in my opinion, the law warranted payment for services, and I do not think it does, it would be impossible to do so with such an appropriation.

I have not been actuated by any prejudice toward the Second Regiment in making this decision, for I have but the kindest feelings toward the entire State Guard. My decision has been rendered according to the law as I construed it; therefore, in justice to my own honor, and in justice to the tax-payers of Kentucky, I feel that I could not have acted otherwise.

MISCELLANEOUS

In conclusion, it affords me no ordinary pleasure to say that peace and good order prevail throughout the entire State. The people look with confidence to your Excellency and your co-laborers in all the departments of State for a conservative, wise and economical administration of the State affairs.

It is with great pleasure that I refer to my efficient Assistant, Col. Frank B. Richardson. He has brought to the discharge of his official duties a thorough interest, great industry and marked ability.

I can not close this report without referring to the capable manner in which Capt. David O'Connell, Chief of Ordnance, has discharged the duties of his office.

To your Excellency I desire to make my acknowledgments for courtesies, and for pleasant personal and official relations.

I have the honor to be, with sincere respect, your most obedient servant,

A. J. GROSS, *Adjutant General.*