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## THE MILITIA BILL

Several readers of The Commoner have asked for the publication of the Bill passed by the last congress and relating to the militia. The bill is as follows:

"An act to promote the efficiency of the militia, and for other purposes.

"Be it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of the United States in congress assembled, that the new militia shall consist of every able-bodied male citizen of the respective states, territories and the District of Columbia, and every able-bodied male of foreign birth who has declared his intention to become a citizen, who is more than eighteen and less than forty-five years of age, and shall be divided into two classes—the organized militia, to be known as the national guard of the state, territory or District of Columbia, or by such other designations as may be given them by the laws of the respective states or territories, and the remainder to be known as the reserve militia.

"Sec. 3. The organization, armament and discipline of the organized militia in the several states and territories and in the District of Columbia shall be the same as that which is now or may be hereafter prescribed for the regular and volunteer armies of the United States, within five years from the date of approval of this act.

"Sec. 4. That whenever the United States is invaded, or in danger of invasion from any foreign nation, or of rebellion against the authority of the government of the United States, or if the president is unable, with the force at his command, to execute the laws of the Union in any part thereof, it shall be lawful for the president to call forth, for a period not exceeding nine months, such number of the militia of the state or states or territories, or of the District of Columbia, as he may deem necessary to repel such invasion, suppress such rebellion, or to enable him to execute such laws, and to issue his orders for the purpose to such officers of the militia as he may think proper.

"Sec. 5. That whenever the presi-

dent calls forth the militia of any state or territory or of the District of Columbia to be employed in the service of the United States, he may specify in his call the period for which such service is required, not exceeding nine months, and the militia so called shall continue to serve during the term so specified, unless sooner discharged by order of the president.

"Sec. 7. That every officer and enlisted man of the militia who shall be called forth in the manner hereinbefore prescribed, and shall be found fit for military service shall be mustered or accepted into the United States service by a duly authorized mustering officer of the United States; provided, however, that any officer or enlisted man of the militia who shall refuse or neglect to present himself to such mustering officer upon being called forth as herein prescribed shall be subject to trial by court-martial, and shall be punished as said court-martial shall direct.

"Sec. 8. That court-martial for the trial of officers or men of the militia when in the service of the United States, shall be composed of military officers only.

"Sec. 9. That the militia, when called into actual service of the United States, shall be subject to the same rules and articles of war as the regular troops of the United States.

"Sec. 13. That the secretary of war is hereby authorized to issue, on the requisitions of the governors of the several states and territories, or of the commanding general of the militia of the District of Columbia, such number of the guns, slings, belts and such other necessary accoutrements and equipment as are required for the army of the United States, for arming all of the organized militia in said states and territories and the District of Columbia.

"To provide means to carry into effect the provisions of this section, the necessary money to cover the cost of exchanging or issuing the new arms, accoutrements, and ammunition to be exchanged or issued hereunder is here-

by appropriated out of any moneys in the treasury not otherwise appropriated."

### Cannon Buried 125 Years.

A cannon of the revolutionary war has been discovered buried on the farm of Ephraim Kauffman, near Warwick, Chester county, says a Reading, Pa., correspondent of the Baltimore Sun. The cannon weighs 4,550 pounds and is of cast iron. The letters "P. W. F." cut on it are taken to mean that it was made at the Pennsylvania Warwick Furnace, which operated during the revolution. The furnace made cannon for Washington's army.

During the occupancy of Philadelphia by the British under Lord Howe it was reported that Howe was about to send an expedition out to destroy the furnace, capture the cannon and then come on to this city and seize the provisions and supplies which were kept here for the American army. The people in charge of the furnace were so certain that the expedition would be made that they buried a number of cannon to keep them from falling into the hands of the enemy. The place of burial was not marked, and in consequence the cannon remained concealed until a stream running near the old furnace changed its course slightly. The change exposed one of the former banks of the stream.

Recently two men were fishing in the stream, when they noticed the top of what they supposed to be a pipe protruding from the former bank of the creek. Upon examination they found it to be the top of an old cannon. It was then dug out, and four mules were required to draw the heavy gun up the bank. The cannon is greatly rusted, and is of the type used during the time of the revolution. Marks on the gun seem to show that it weighed 4,600 pounds when it was new. As it now weighs but 4,550 pounds it is thought that it lost 50 pounds by rust in its 125 years' burial. The cannon was supposed to have been buried in the bed of the stream. The waters were turned out of their usual

course until the weapons were secreted from expected invaders, after which they were allowed to resume their usual flow. The cannon which was discovered recently was five feet below the surface. Mr. Kauffman, who owns the farm on which the cannon was discovered, removed the cannon to his home in Oley township, near Friedensburg, this county. The trip was 24 miles, by way of Pottstown and Douglassville, and took a day. Mr. Kauffman now has the gun on his lawn. It is the largest revolutionary relic in this country. The gun is 7½ feet long and 6 feet in circumference at the fuse end. The mouth is 14 inches in diameter and the opening 5½ inches.—Philadelphia Record.

### Bank for Every 200 People.

"A banking institution for every 200 people" is a new record made by the village of Radcliffe, in this county, which probably holds the record of having more banks in proportion to its population than any other town in the United States, says the Iowa Falls correspondent of the Chicago Inter-Ocean. This town is in the midst of a thrifty German settlement, and, as this class of people is noted for saving its money and making safe investments, there has been perhaps more demand for banks than there would be in most localities.

The town has a population of about 800, and four banks are flourishing and doing a nice business with the people of Radcliffe and surrounding country. Of course, there is a rivalry between the banks that makes business brisk, and the bidding up on interest rates paid on time deposits makes a good thing for the depositors, who are drawing as high as 6 per cent at some of the banks.

The bank buildings and the furniture and fixtures of these institutions are equal to those in many larger towns.

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