

CHAPTER MCMXL.

AN ACT TO PROVIDE ARMS FOR THE USE OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

[Section I.] (Section I, P. L.) Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That the governor be, and he is hereby, empowered and required to procure, as speedily as may be, twenty thousand stands of arms, of a size and quality best adapted for field service, one-half by immediate purchase, and the other half to be made or manufactured within the United States, the whole to be of the fashion or pattern of the French Charleville musket, and of the dimension following, to wit, the length of each barrel to be three feet eight inches, and to receive a ball of the size of eighteen to the pound, each barrel to undergo the same degree of proof as is now in use for the proof on those made for the service of the United States, and to be stamped, or marked, near the breach with the letters C. P., the locks to be upon the best construction, double bridled, on a flat plate, and marked with the letters aforesaid, the mounting iron with bands and swivels and springs to each band, the ramrods to be of well tempered steel, the bayonets to be fifteen inches in the blade, made of steel well tempered and polished, the stock to be made of well seasoned walnut, the length of the but of the musket to be fifteen and an half inches from the breech end of the barrel to the heel plate, the side pins, breech pins and trigger to be case hardened, the weight of musket and bayonet thus completed not to exceed eleven pounds.

[Section II.] (Section II, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That as soon as one moiety, or half part, of the arms, directed to be provided in the foregoing section, shall be had and completed, agreeably to the intention of this act, the governor shall direct such arms to be distributed between the city of Philadelphia, and the several counties of this state, in proportion to the number of representatives in each,

that is to say, the said arms are to be delivered into the care and charge of the brigade inspector of the city and each county, who shall give his receipt for the same, and it shall be the duty of the said inspectors to deliver the said arms to the field officers of each regiment, or battalion, of infantry within his brigade, in proportion to the number of men in each, and the field officer of each regiment or battalion shall give their joint receipt for the arms so delivered, declaring themselves personally responsible therefor, and that they shall be kept in good order, and the said brigade inspectors respectively shall provide a proper place for depositing, and safe keeping, the arms of each of the regiments, or battalions, within his brigade, which place or places of deposit shall be fixed on by and with the consent and approbation of the field officers of each respective regiment and battalion, and it shall be the duty of the respective brigade inspectors to deliver the receipts given by the said field officers as aforesaid, to the adjutant general, who shall cause the same to be filed and recorded in his office, and the regimental quarter master shall report to the brigade inspector the situation of any of the arms of the regiment which may be injured, or out of repair, and the said inspector shall cause the same to be repaired, without delay, and shall also, when occasion may require, employ a suitable person to cleanse and oil the arms belonging to the respective brigades, and the register and comptroller general shall allow all necessary expenses, which may be incurred in consequence of this act, in settling the respective accounts of the brigade inspector. Provided always, That the field officers shall not be responsible for any of the arms which shall, by order of the inspector, be put into the possession of any person or persons for the purpose of cleaning or repairing, until they shall be by them returned in order to be deposited, but the brigade inspector shall be personally responsible therefor until they shall be returned to the place of deposit. And provided also, That, upon the death, resignation or removal of any field officer, it shall be the duty of the brigade inspector, within six weeks thereafter, to examine and ascertain whether the arms committed to the care of any such field officer are in their respective places of deposit, and in good order, and if found so, the said brigade inspector shall certify

the same to such field officer if resigned or removed, or to his executors or administrators if dead, upon which certification, or upon the neglect of the brigade inspector to make such examination, the responsibility attached to the field officer, or his estate, shall cease and be void.

[Section III.] (Section III, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That it shall be the duty of the brigade inspectors to visit the place or places in which the arms of the several battalions and regiments, within their respective brigades, are deposited, at least once in every six months, and, at every such visit, they shall carefully examine the condition and number of arms in each place of deposit, and, if it shall appear to either of the said inspectors, that any of the arms belonging to the regiments or battalions within his brigade are misplaced, lost, or embezzled, he is hereby authorized and required to cause suits to be commenced against the persons or persons through whose neglect such loss, embezzlement, or misconduct has arisen, so that the said arms may be restored, or replaced, without delay, and it shall be the duty of the quartermaster of each respective regiment, on notice from the brigade inspector, (which notice he is hereby required to give), to attend at the examination made by the inspector of the arms of the regiment to which the said quarter master belongs, and he shall give to the said inspector such information respecting the arms as the case may require, and shall aid and assist the inspector in examining the same, and if any regimental quarter master shall, after due notice given, neglect or refuse to attend at the time of such examination, or refuse to give such information as the case may require, he shall forfeit and pay the sum of twenty dollars for every such neglect, or refusal, to be recovered, by the brigade inspector, in the manner, and for the like uses, that the militia fines are directed to be applied.

[Section IV.] (Section IV, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That as soon as the remaining moiety of arms are provided, they shall be distributed in the manner before mentioned, and the officers, respectively, shall be responsible for the same, in the manner herein provided, respecting the first moiety of arms to be provided.

[Section V.] (Section V, P. L.) And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the sum of two hundred and forty thousand dollars is hereby appropriated for the purposes mentioned in this act, to be paid on warrants, drawn by the governor upon the treasury of this commonwealth, out of the fund for the support of government.

Passed March 28, 1797. Recorded L. E. No. 6, p. 182.

CHAPTER MCMXLI.

AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE GOVERNOR OF THIS COMMONWEALTH TO INCORPORATE A COMPANY FOR ERECTING A BRIDGE OVER THE RIVER LEHIGH, NEAR THE TOWN OF NORTHAMPTON.

Whereas it has been represented to the general assembly, by a number of the inhabitants of this commonwealth, that the erection of a good and permanent bridge over the river Lehigh, near the town of Northampton, will be of considerable public utility:

[Section I.] (Section I, P. L.) Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That William Tilghman and George Eddy, of the city of Philadelphia, Peter Roads, Peter Ealer, Henry Haughenbaugh and Thomas Mawhorter, of the county of Northampton, be, and they are hereby, appointed commissioners, to do and perform the several duties hereinafter mentioned, that is to say, they shall and may, on or before the first day of June next, procure one or more books, as they shall think necessary, and therein enter as follows, "We whose names are hereunto subscribed, do promise to pay to the president, managers, and company for erecting a bridge over the river Lehigh, near the town of Northampton, the sum of fifty dollars, for every share of stock in the said company set opposite to our respective names, in such manner and proportions, and at such times, as shall be