

12-20-1860

Report on Arming a Military Company

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

DECEMBER 20, 1860.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. DAVIS made the following

REPORT.

[To accompany bill S., 520.]

The Committee on Military Affairs and the Militia, to whom was referred the Bill S. 520, having had the same under consideration, report:

The bill authorizes and directs the Secretary of War to arm and equip the "Lexington Old Infantry" of Lexington, Kentucky, a military company which has been in existence at that place, under various commanders, since 1789, and is, with one exception, the oldest military organization in the Union; but is at this time unarmed.

This company deserves much at the hands of the government, as it has rendered efficient services to it upon memorable occasions—in the Indian wars on the Miami, at the battle of the Raisin, and in the war with Mexico. The State of Kentucky has drawn and issued the quota of arms to which she is entitled under the law of 1808. The company, therefore, applies to Congress for the necessary arms and equipment.

The sixteenth paragraph of the eighth section chapter one of the United States Constitution gives to Congress "the power to provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining the militia;" and the committee, in view of the extraordinary merits of this case, report the bill back to the Senate with the recommendation that it pass.