

## HOUSE....No. 195.

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### Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, March 21, 1861.

The Committee on the Militia, to whom was recommitted the Resolve relating to the equipment of troops for active service, with instructions to inquire and report whether any contracts have been made, or liabilities incurred in regard to any of the matters mentioned in the Resolve ; and if any, what, when, and by what officer, and under what authority, respectfully report, that they have made the necessary inquiry of the adjutant-general, and have received from him the enclosed communication, which the Committee consider as furnishing the information asked for by the House ; and they recommend that the Resolve be passed.

For the Committee,

F. J. COFFIN.

## Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE, BOSTON, }  
March 21, 1861. }

Col. FREDERICK J. COFFIN, *House of Representatives*:—

SIR,—In answer to the inquiries made by the honorable House of Representatives, “Whether any contracts have been made or liabilities incurred in regard to any of the matters mentioned in the Resolve reported to the House relating to the equipment of troops for active service, and if so, what, when and by what authority,” I have the honor to say:

Under the direction of His Excellency the Governor, and a committee of the honorable Council, the following contracts have been made by me as Adjutant and acting Quartermaster-General:

*First.* With the Middlesex Company (Lowell,) for six thousand yards of cloth, six-fourths wide, to make two thousand military overcoats, at one dollar and thirty-seven cents a yard.

*Second.* With William Deacon, to make two thousand military overcoats, at two dollars and fifteen cents each; he finding all the trimmings, except the buttons.

*Third.* With James Boyd & Sons, to make one thousand knapsacks, (army pattern) and with Edward A. G. Roulstone, to make one thousand knapsacks, (army pattern) severally at one dollar and eighty-eight cents each.

*Fourth.* With Converse Harding & Co., for one thousand pairs of blankets, (army size) at three dollars and seventy-five cents a pair.

*Fifth.* With the Rubber Clothing Company, (Beverly,) for two thousand haversacks, at seventy-five cents each.

*Sixth.* The buttons for the coats have been contracted for with the manufacturer at Attleborough, and will cost about seven hundred and forty dollars.

*Seventh.* I was also authorized to contract for two hundred thousand ball cartridges, to suit the new rifle musket. The lowest market price for these cartridges is fourteen dollars a thousand. At the State Arsenal, at Cambridge, there has been for many years, upwards of two hundred thousand musket balls, suitable for the old smooth-bore musket. I have caused these to be recast and the cartridges made at the arsenal, so that the entire cost to the Commonwealth for the two hundred thousand new musket cartridges will not exceed fifteen hundred dollars.

The aggregate cost to the Commonwealth to fulfil these contracts will be twenty-three thousand seven hundred and seventy dollars.

To which should be added, one hundred and fifty dollars, to pay a proper person, or persons, to inspect the work when finished, to ascertain whether the parties contracted with have faithfully fulfilled their several agreements.

The Resolve appropriating twenty-five thousand dollars will cover the entire expense, and will leave a surplus sufficient to purchase 300,000 percussion caps, which it will be necessary to buy if the troops of the Commonwealth are called into active service.

With great respect,

I have the honor to be

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM SCHOULER,

*Adjutant and Acting Q. M. G.*

## Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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In the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty-One.

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### R E S O L V E

Relating to the Equipment of Troops for Active Service.

*Resolved,* That the adjutant and acting quartermaster-general be, and he is hereby authorized, under the direction of the governor and council, to provide, either by contract or otherwise, a sufficient number of overcoats, blankets, knapsacks, haversacks and other articles of equipment, camp utensils, and trenching tools, as may be required to equip two thousand troops for active service, and a sum not exceeding twenty-five thousand dollars is hereby appropriated for that purpose.