

R. Parker, Clerk.

*First Month 20, 1921,
has been read and approved.*

*R. Gary
of Yearly Meeting -*

Peace Committee

REPORT OF THE PEACE COMMITTEE

To The Permanent Board of the Baltimore Yearly Meeting of Friends:

Your Committee procured a delegation to go before the Militia Committee of the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of Maryland, to present the protest of this Meeting against the bill now pending to change the law governing the Militia of this State.

The bill has many objectionable features, among which we would name:

1. Lengthening the term of service of the Adjutant-General to practically a life tenure that is until he reaches the age of sixty-four years.
2. Providing that neither the Adjutant-General nor any of the commissioned officers of the Militia can be retired by the Governor without the consent of the officer.
3. Providing that no Militia organization of this State which has served or may serve under the National Defense Act of the United States shall be disbanded without the consent of the President of the United States.
4. Providing for a spy system in the matter of enrollment.
5. Providing for a draft by the Governor of men into the Militia to serve for a period of three years, to bring up to the rank to any quota required by the Federal Government.

The Committee on Militia was notified that a formal protest would be forwarded by this Meeting.

At the hearing, the Adjutant-General who was present, consented to the following amendments:

1. Eliminating the objectionable spy system, with its maximum fine of \$500.00, and restoring the law as it stood in 1908, with a fine of only \$10.00.
2. Eliminating the right of the Governor to draft men into the Militia for a term of three years, and limiting the term of service to the period of any riot or insurrection.

All the other objectionable features are retained, and the tendency of the bill must be, if enacted into a law, to permanently established in this State a military clique with large political powers.

There seems to be little prospect of defeating the bill.

Respectfully submitted.

Thomas MacKenzie
Signed on behalf of the Committee.