

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, December 19, 1864.—Ordered to be printed.

[By Mr. VILLERE.]

AMENDMENT

To the Bill to be entitled "An act to authorize the consolidation of companies, battalions and regiments."

1 SECTION 1, line 10th, after "prescribe," insert "*Provided, That*
2 no such consolidation shall be made until it shall clearly appear
3 to the satisfaction of the Secretary of War, that such companies,
4 battalions and regiments cannot be sufficiently recruited within
5 a reasonable time by the assignment of conscripts, or other-
6 wise." Line 10th, after "*Provided,*" insert "*further.*"

1 SEC. 2. (Remain as it is.)

1 SEC. 3. Strike out and insert "That the officers of the old or-
2 ganizations, over and above the number requisite for the new,
3 shall be entitled to retain their rank and commissions, if pro-
4 nounced worthy and competent by the examining boards above
5 provided; said judgments to be approved by the General and
6 Secretary of War, and may, if they elect, they and all other
7 officers without commands, organize themselves into a corps of
8 cavalry, to be commanded by the senior officers joining the com-
9 mand, subject to the approval of the President. Said corps

10 shall perform such special duty as the Secretary of War or
 11 the General commanding the Department, or separate army,
 12 may order. All officers not joining the above corps, may be
 13 assigned to such appropriate duties as the Secretary of War
 14 may prescribe; or may enlist in any of the regular organiza-
 15 tions of the army upon tender to the proper authorities of their
 16 resignation, for that purpose."

1 SEC. 4, line 11th, strike out "unfit," and insert "fit." Same
 2 line, strike out "shall be dropped from the rolls, but." Line
 3 13th, after "third," insert "and fifth."

1 SEC. 5. Strike out all down to the word "act," inclusive 8th
 2 line, and insert "all field, staff and company officers, within
 3 sixty days after the execution of the above recited act, and all
 4 officers who are now prisoners of war, within sixty days after
 5 their exchange, shall be assigned to duty by the Secretary of
 6 War, or shall join the above named corps, or shall enlist in the
 7 army. At the expiration of that time they shall be held liable
 8 to conscription."