

PENSIONS TO SURVIVORS OF INDIAN WARS.

MARCH 25, 1890.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

Mr. BROWNE, of Virginia, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 823.]

The Committee on Pensions have considered various bills submitted to them relative to pensioning the survivors of the Indian wars, embracing a period from 1832 to 1842, inclusive, having reference to what is usually known as the Black Hawk war, the Creek war, and the Seminole war, and the Cherokee disturbances.

These are House bills and numbered 3304, 2264, 3363, 46, 180, 3919, 817, and 823.

The committee find that the substantial merits of each of said bills are embodied in bill No. 823, and the same is submitted herewith, amended as indicated in the conclusion of this report.

A similar bill was reported to the House by your committee at the first session of the Fiftieth Congress, and such parts of said report as are applicable to this bill are embraced herein.

[House Report No. 1194, Fiftieth Congress, first session.]

There are no definite statistics by which the number of soldiers who served in these wars and their survivors and surviving widows can be exactly ascertained, but the same have been tabulated in an approximate estimate, together with the probable cost involved in this measure, in a statement furnished by the Commissioner of Pensions, which is herewith submitted and made a part of this report. This statement and table are as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF PENSIONS,
Washington, D. C., March 13, 1888.

SIR: I have the honor to furnish herewith additional estimates, as per your personal request of yesterday, based on the report of the Second Auditor, already furnished to you.

Very respectfully,

JOHN C. BLACK,
Commissioner.

Hon. F. G. BARRY, *M. C.,*
House of Representatives.

PENSIONS TO SURVIVORS OF INDIAN WARS.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF PENSIONS,
Washington, D. C., March 13, 1888.

SIR: In this table the number of volunteers is obtained from estimates recently received from the Second Auditor of the Treasury. His estimates embrace the volunteer soldiers; counted by companies, engaged in all Indian and other wars, and disturbances, excluding the Mexican war, from 1816 to 1858. Deducting the companies not in service during the period designated in House bill 1182, and those serving during that period, which are shown by data in possession of this Bureau not to have been engaged in Indian wars, the remainder is 1,056 companies, which, at 45 men to the company, as estimated by the Auditor, makes the number of volunteers participating in the wars and disturbances designated by the bill 47,520. Deducting 16,438, the number of those who received land warrants for service in the Black Hawk and Creek wars, we obtain 31,082 as the number of volunteers who served in the Cherokee removal and Florida war. Adding this number to the number of the Regular Army and the Navy employed in the Florida war, 45,251 is obtained as the number of those who served during the four years of the Cherokee disturbances and removal and the seven years of the Florida war.

Many of these, especially of the volunteers, served from two to four or more tours of duty or terms of service, and therefore have been counted as many times. The experience of the Bureau in making previous estimates appears to show that 33½ per cent., while abundantly large, is not an unreasonable deduction for the number of those who re-enlisted in a service extending over such a period, and who were therefore counted more than once. The Second Auditor reports that it has been ascertained that about 150, or about 10 per cent. of the 1,586 companies, served less than twenty days.

In the Mexican war the losses in the Army from all causes during the service which were reported by the Adjutant-General were above 37 per cent., almost reaching 38 per cent. The Florida war, in which the larger part of these troops were engaged, involved very arduous service as well as loss in killed and wounded. The losses in service have been put at 25 per cent. of those engaged as a fair allowance.

It is a matter of observation that away from the large towns, among simple-minded earnest country folk, the ratio of the married to the unmarried is very high, perhaps as high as 90 per cent. of the adult population, having reference especially to that class embraced in the bill; but as the larger proportion of men in the more remote portions of the country, as well as the hardships of frontier pioneer life, would tend to reduce the ratio, it has been assumed that only 80 per cent. of the soldiers and sailors of these wars who are dead were married.

Adding the 47,520 volunteers, 11,169 regulars of the Florida war, 3,000 sailors of that war, 1,339 regulars of the Black Hawk war, and 935 regulars of the Creek war together, gives a total of 63,963. Deducting 10 per cent. of the volunteers for those serving less than twenty days and 33½ per cent. of those serving in the Cherokee removal and Florida war for re-enlistment, leaves 44,128 who served more than twenty days. From this number deducting 25 per cent. for losses in service, 33,096 is obtained as the number of those who served more than twenty days and were living in 1842, and, if now alive, would be entitled under the bill. It is believed that these soldiers, many of whom were called out to defend their own homes, were at least five years older than those of the Mexican war, or thirty years of age.

Taking January, 1838, as about the middle of the period, and the soldiers as averaging thirty years of age at the time, and computing with the American Table of Mortality, the number of survivors would be 5,606 at the age of eighty. The remaining 27,490 represent those deceased; 80 per cent. of this number, or 21,992, represents those of the deceased soldiers and sailors who were married, and also the number of their wives who in 1838 were twenty-five years of age; 6,481 of these women would be now living, at the age of seventy-five. The total number of soldiers, sailors, and widows would be 12,087.

The cost of pensioning the survivors, if all were pensioned at once and all were to live to the end of the year, would be, for the first year, \$538,176, and for four and four-tenths years, their expectation of life, \$2,367,974. The cost of pensions to the widows under the same conditions would be, for the first year, \$622,176, and for six and three-tenths years, their expectation of life, \$3,919,708. Aggregate cost, \$6,287,682.

Very respectfully,

JAS. B. COIT,
Chief O. W. and N. Division.

Hon. JOHN C. BLACK,
Commissioner.

Table showing estimated number of soldiers and sailors in Indian wars and disturbances enumerated below, with deductions for less than twenty days' service and losses in service, and estimates based thereon of the number of surviving, and widows of deceased soldiers and sailors of these wars living in 1888.

[Estimates under House bill 1182.]

	Navy.	Regular Army.	Volunteers.
Black Hawk war.....		1,339
Volunteers engaged in various Indian wars from 1832 to 1842, inclusive.....			47,520
Creek war.....		935
Florida war.....	3,000	11,169
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Total employed.....			63,963
Deduct 10 per cent. for less service than twenty days.....			4,752
Deduct 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ per cent. of number of troops engaged in the Florida war and Cherokee removal.....			15,083
Total serving more than twenty days.....			44,128
Deduct 25 per cent. for losses in service.....			11,032
Living in 1842 and entitled under bill.....			33,096
Survivors living in 1888, average age eighty, expectation of life 4.4 years.....			5,606
Number dead.....			27,490
Deduct 20 per cent. for number soldiers and sailors not married.....			5,498
Number widows in 1888 and since.....			21,992
Number widows living in 1888, average age seventy-five, expectation of life 6.3 years.....			6,481
Total number pensionable.....			12,087
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Cost of pensions to survivors for first year.....			\$538,176
Cost of pensions to survivors during life.....			2,367,974
Cost of pensions to widows for first year.....			622,176
Cost of pensions to widows during life.....			3,919,708
Aggregate cost.....			6,287,682

The itemized statement is, perhaps, fully explained in the communication accompanying it, but it may be proper to add that the item deducting 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ per cent. of the number of troops engaged in the Florida war and Cherokee removal is so stated because the other wars referred to did not cover a period long enough to require re-enlistment. It is thought twenty days' service is deserving of a pension, because often in the desultory and sudden hostilities that marked the progress of these Indian wars there would be embraced within that period severe and decisive fighting and intense hardships and suffering peculiar to such warfare, and besides, the troops engaged therein often fought in the vicinity of their own homes, and lost no time in marching to a distant seat of war, in organizing, and in other delays and dilatory preparations peculiar to usual military operations.

It is the policy of the Government not to pay to the same person two pensions, and hence the committee insert a section to that effect in the substitute reported, which section is transcribed from the act of January 29, 1887, granting pensions to the surviving soldiers and sailors of the Mexican war. It may be assumed that of the 5,606 of these survivors, as shown in the above table, a reduction of 20 per cent. of that number may be made, inasmuch as many of them doubtless participated in the civil war between the States of 1861-'65, and on account of casualties in battle and exposures incident to the service, as well as the hardships of that period, have died more rapidly than would be shown by the ordinary tables of mortality.

It would therefore appear that only 4,485 of these survivors are alive, which would reduce the cost of pensions for them for the first year to \$430,541, and during life to \$1,894,380. This reduction of cost would amount to \$580,229, which, taken from the aggregate cost of both survivors and widows, as set forth in the above table of \$6,287,682, would leave a total cost of both survivors and widows of \$5,700,453.

It may be safely assumed that of these survivors, who now average eighty years of age, some will die without applying for the pension, and many will not live the short space of life yet accorded them by the tables of mortality of four and four-tenths years.

The same reasoning will of course apply to the surviving widows, who have now attained an average age of seventy-five years, with the scant expectation of only six and three-tenths years more. This will reduce the total cost very greatly, but being somewhat speculative, your committee venture no opinion of the precise amount.

A further reduction of the estimates in number and cost of pensioning the surviving widows may be made on account of the remarrying of the same. There are no statistics from which such number can be ascertained, but perhaps it is reasonable

to say that a reduction of 10 per cent. may be made from the estimate of surviving widows referred to in the above table.

However, the governing principle involved in this proposed legislation is the obligation of both gratitude and justice under which the Government rests toward these aged veterans and the surviving widows of those that are dead.

The debt has already been too long deferred; no time should be lost in the discharge of that small portion which it is yet possible to pay.

While these heroic soldiers did not add to our Territory by wars of conquest, they performed a still nobler and more patriotic service, by defending that already acquired and protecting the homes and lives of American citizens from the depredations and cruelties of hostile Indians, thus not only making possible but expediting the development, tranquillity, and prosperity of some of the fairest portions of our Union.

Your committee recommend that all of said bills with the exception of the one numbered 823 do lie upon the table, and said excepted bill is reported with the following amendments: Add after the words "and thirty-six," in the ninth line of the first section, the words "eighteen hundred and thirty-seven and eighteen hundred and thirty-eight;" also amend the fourth section by striking out the words "is hereby repealed as far as the same relates," in the second and third lines, and substituting in lieu thereof the words "shall not apply."

