

EUGENE LEITENSORFER.

FEBRUARY 9, 1878.—Laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

Mr. JOSEPH J. DAVIS, from the Committee of Claims, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 1083.]

*The Committee of Claims, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 1083) for the relief of Eugene Leitensdorfer, have had the same under consideration, and submit the following report:*

It is alleged that Eugene Leitensdorfer, who was a wealthy and influential merchant of New Mexico in 1846 and 1847, did, by the use of his individual means and exertions, induce the Pueblo Indians in New Mexico to remain peacefully at home during the invasion of Mexico by the United States troops under General Kearney, and that his services were of great value to the government in paving the way for the occupation of Santa Fé and New Mexico without the loss of life, and that this was done at the risk of his life and property, and at great loss of time and money, and for these services the bill proposes that he be paid \$100,000.

We think the evidence establishes the fact that the claimant's services were valuable to the government, and, as he is now advanced in years and poor, and as the services rendered were in aid of the military, they might entitle him to a pension at the hands of the government if it shall be determined to grant pensions to the surviving soldiers of the Mexican war, but it would be a dangerous precedent for the government, at the expiration of more than thirty years, to pay a claim like this.

The claim of Mr. Leitensdorfer can hardly be said to be superior to those of the gallant men who risked their health and lives as volunteers in the Mexican war, or to those of the surviving families of the heroic dead who lost their lives in that war, and yet such compensation as is proposed by this bill would not be seriously thought of for them. If this claim can be allowed, every citizen who rendered patriotic services in securing enlistments of volunteers, or in any way forwarding the cause of the government in the prosecution of the war, might prefer his claim.

The bill is reported back to the House with the recommendation that it do not pass.