

PENSIONS TO TEAMSTERS AND INDIANS WHO WERE IN
THE SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES IN THE WAR OF
1812, AND TO WIDOWS WHO REMARRIED.

MARCH 3, 1879.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the
Union and ordered to be printed.

Mr. MACKEY, from the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, sub-
mitted the following

R E P O R T :

[To accompany bill H. R. 4312.]

*The Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, to whom was referred the bill
(H. R. 4312) granting pensions to teamsters and Indians who were in the
service of the United States in the war of 1812, and to widows who re-
married, having had the same under consideration, respectfully submit the
following report:*

It is the opinion of the committee, after due consideration, that the provisions of this bill are just and equitable, and should be enacted into a law. The classes named therein, who would become beneficiaries under the act, are now deprived of any benefits, under existing laws, arising from their service, although it is in evidence that the duties performed by them were as onerous and as perilous to life and health as those performed by enlisted men. It is alleged that many of those who served as teamsters and expressmen were duly enlisted into the military service, and were, in cases of emergency, detailed from their commands to perform such labor, the welfare of the service demanding the same. Having been absent from their commands for a considerable period of time performing such labor, they came to be recognized as teamsters and not soldiers, and acting as such at the time of the disbanding of their companies, they were discharged as *teamsters* and not as soldiers, although they had originally and regularly enlisted as private soldiers in the Army of the United States. They have been thus deprived of a rightful enjoyment of benefits under existing laws. This is obviously unjust.

Another section of the bill provides for the granting of pensions to surviving Indians who acted as scouts, guides, or warriors in the service of the United States for the period of fourteen days, and the surviving widows of such Indians, provided that at the time of their entering the service they resided within the jurisdiction of the United States, and have so continued to reside since the termination of said war.

It is in evidence that the service performed by these Indian allies during the said war was meritorious, and worthy of recognition by the government. It is the opinion of the committee that this service should be recognized by granting a pension to the few survivors, or to their widows.

The act of March 9, 1878, provides that a pension shall not be granted to the widow of a soldier of 1812 who afterward remarried, although she may again have become a widow. The committee are of the opinion that this provision of the act, for obvious reasons, is very unjust, and that the act should be so amended as to grant a pension to those who, having married a second time, have again become widows by the death of their second husbands.

The committee, approving all of the provisions of the bill, herewith return it to the House, and recommend the passage of the same.

○