

ELIZABETH S. ROBERTS.

APRIL 16, 1878.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. JOYCE, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 4294.]

*The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 4294) granting an increase of pension to Elizabeth S. Roberts, widow of Bvt. Maj. Gen. Benjamin S. Roberts, Unstated States Army, have duly considered the same and make the following report:*

That the said Benjamin S. Roberts entered the military service of the United States as a cadet from the State of Vermont at the Military Academy, from which he graduated in 1835, and was appointed brevet second lieutenant in the First Dragoons, and served on the western frontier as second lieutenant and first lieutenant in that regiment until January 28, 1839, when he resigned.

On the 27th May, 1846, he again entered the military service as first lieutenant in the Mounted Rifles, and served with his regiment throughout the Mexican war with high distinction, taking part in most of the serious engagements. He was promoted captain in the Mounted Rifles February 16, 1847, and was brevetted major for gallant and meritorious conduct in the battle of Chapultepec, and lieutenant-colonel for similar conduct at Matamoras and Galaxarra.

At the close of that war he went upon frontier duty, and remained in that service until 1861.

On the 13th May, 1861, he was promoted major of the Mounted Rifles, and assigned as major to the Third United States Cavalry August 3, 1861, and served in the defense of New Mexico until June, 1862, receiving the brevet of colonel for gallant and meritorious conduct at the battle of Valverde, in New Mexico.

July 16, 1862, he was appointed brigadier-general of volunteers, and was on duty as chief of cavalry and inspector-general of the Army of the Potomac, participating in the battles of Cedar Mountain, Rappahannock Station, Sulphur Springs, and Manassas.

As inspector-general of the Department of the Northwest, he was in command of an expedition against the Chippewa Indians in November, 1862.

In February and March, 1863, he was in command of the upper defenses of Washington, and was otherwise actively engaged in duty commensurate with his rank in Western Virginia, Louisiana, and West Tennessee until the close of the civil war.

He received on March 13, 1865, the brevet of brigadier-general of the

Army of the United States for gallant and meritorious service at the battle of Cedar Mountain, and the brevet of major-general of volunteers for gallant and meritorious conduct at that battle and also at that of Manassas.

He was mustered out of the volunteer service January 15, 1866, and promoted lieutenant-colonel of Third United States Cavalry July 28, 1866.

The disability or the injury for which the pension of twenty dollars per month was granted the said Elizabeth S. Roberts was received by General Roberts in the Mexican war, while he held the rank of captain.

The evidence also shows that General Roberts invented a very valuable improvement in fire-arms, including the leading principles of the breech-loading rifle which are now in use by the government.

The widow is in need of money for her support, and prays for an increase of thirty dollars per month.

In view of the long and patriotic services of General Roberts, the committee are of opinion that the pension of the said Elizabeth S. Roberts ought to be increased; and they therefore recommend the passage of the bill with the following amendment: Strike out "fifty," in line 7 of the bill, and insert *thirty*.