

PENSIONS TO SOLDIERS OF THE TIPPECANOE CAMPAIGN,
1811.

JUNE 26, 1884.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

Mr. STOCKSLAGER, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 5224.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 5224) to grant pensions to the officers and soldiers of the Tippecanoe campaign of 1811, and to their surviving widows, having had the same under consideration, beg leave to report:

That the brave men who took part in this most arduous campaign against the hostile Indians, and especially those who were engaged in the bloody battle of Tippecanoe, in 1811, were as much entitled to pension as the persons who served a period of fourteen days in the war against Great Britain, which was declared the next year, there can be no doubt. That these persons are not included in the act granting pensions to the soldiers who participated in the latter war has been very properly held by the Commissioner of Pensions. It is to reach these worthy men and their surviving widows that this act is proposed.

A letter addressed to the Commissioner of Pensions, making inquiry of that official as to the probable number of persons the act would benefit, and the probable cost to the Government, elicited the following reply:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
PENSION OFFICE,
Washington, D. C., June 9, 1884.

SIR: In response to your personal reference of House bill No. 5224, "granting pension to the officers and soldiers of the Tippecanoe campaign of 1811, and to their surviving widows," with the request that you be furnished with a statement showing the probable number of persons who will be affected by this bill, and the probable cost to the Government, I have the honor to advise you that it appears from the best of obtainable data that the number of soldiers employed in this campaign was 650. If their average age was twenty-five, and their probable duration of life were computed by the American table of mortality, there would not be a single survivor. If the average age at enlistment were younger than twenty-five, and some table based upon an experience showing greater longevity were used, a few—at most a mere handful—might be shown to be still surviving.

Any estimate as to number of surviving widows must depend almost entirely upon conjecture, but the most favorable basis of calculation would show very few of them. Some of them have appeared before the office during the past five years in one way and another, but not more than a dozen in all.

2 PENSIONS TO SOLDIERS OF TIPPECANOE CAMPAIGN OF 1811.

It is not probable that fifty claimants—survivors and widows—could be found who would come under the provisions of the bill. Those who would be entitled are so very old that the total cost would be very inconsiderable.

Very respectfully,

A. W. FISHER,
Acting Commissioner.

Hon. S. M. STOCKSLAGER,
House of Representatives.

From this estimate it would appear that not more than fifty persons would be beneficiaries of this act, and their age such that the cost, as the Commissioner says, would be inconsiderable.

The Tippecanoe campaign, under General Harrison, was a very arduous one, and the battle of Tippecanoe one of the bloodiest and most sanguinary of all our battles with the Indians.

In order that long-delayed justice may be done these meritorious persons who made such great sacrifices in beating back hostile and treacherous savages from our then frontier, we recommend the passage of the bill.

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