

· THOMAS ALLCOCK.

MARCH 23, 1886.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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

R E P O R T :

[To accompany bill H. R. 1576.]

*The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 1576) granting an increase of pension to Thomas Allcock, having had the same under consideration, beg leave to submit the following report:*

It appears that the petitioner is an invalid soldier of the Seminole war, having served as private, Company F, Third United States Artillery, and honorably discharged after three years' service. He applied for pension in 1852, and was informed that claim was not admissible on the proof under general law. On the 21st of June, 1872, there appears to have been an application filed by him, alleging "that he served in said Florida war three years; that he received a sunstroke while in said service, and while on duty as sentry on the 6th day of July, 1839; and that Thomas Haley, mentioned in the annexed affidavit, was present at the time; that in consequence of such sunstroke he was totally blind for six days, and has lost the sight of one eye entirely; that a written discharge was granted him by Maj. Thomas Childs, at Fort Pierce, Florida, which is in the Department at Washington, filed on application for bounty land."

The Adjutant-General's Office reports him sick in hospital at the time alleged by him; and there is ample proof in the case to show that it is a just and meritorious one, well worthy of consideration.

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, House of Representatives, reported favorably in the case as far back as February 4, 1858, and say then:

For this permanent injury to his eyes, rendering them perfectly useless for the remainder of his life, received in the service of his country, the committee think he is justly entitled, in some degree, to the consideration of the Government.

It appears that an act was passed by the Forty-seventh Congress granting a pension to this soldier at the rate of \$8 per month, dating from March 2, 1883, the date of the approval of the act therefor.

It appears that the man is now seventy-two years old, has a wife, and that they are in utterly dependent circumstances in consequence of his blindness, which is now total. He requires the attendance of some person at all times in going about, and has no means. It appears conclusively that the soldier contracted his disability in the army and in the line of duty.

Your committee beg leave to refer to the petition of the said soldier hereto annexed, and to the affidavits of the claimant, and of Robert Y. McConnell, a reputable citizen of Rochester, annexed.

In conclusion your committee recommend the passage of the bill.

To the honorable the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States :

Your petitioner, Thomas Allcock, of Rochester, in the State of New York, respectfully shows to your honorable body, that he was a soldier of the United States Army in the Seminole war, having enlisted in December, 1836, and was discharged in December, 1839. That his honorable discharge from that service is now on file in the Pension Office at Washington. Your petitioner further shows that while in the service, and shortly before his discharge, he was prostrated by a sun-stroke, from which he has never recovered. That in consequence of that sun-stroke he was made blind and has remained so up to the present time. That by reason of his blindness he has been unable to do anything for the support of himself and family, and much of the time has been supported at public expense. That he repeatedly applied for a pension and none was ever granted him until, in the last session of the Forty-Seventh Congress, an act was passed, which became a law, giving him a small pittance of \$8 per month, from the date of the passage of that act. This sum is insufficient for his support, and considering the long period of time during which he should have been paid a pension he submits to this honorable Congress that he should either have an arrears of pension allowed him, or, if that cannot be done, that the amount of his pension should be increased. His disability is total, and he is compelled to have the attendance of some person to feed him and take care of him. Under the rule of rating pensions in such cases, he is informed and believes that he could not have less than \$24 per month at the lowest rate allowed for pensions to private soldiers. He has never had any gratuity from the Government except a bounty land warrant for 160 acres of land, for which he got \$110.

He therefore prays that Congress of the United States will increase his pension to at least \$50 per month. He is now seventy-two years of age, and the time during which the Government will have the privilege of paying him a pension will in all human probability not be very great.

And your petitioner will ever pray.

THOMAS ALLCOCK.

JANUARY 4, 1886.

In the matter of the application of Thomas Allcock.

MONROE COUNTY,

City of Rochester, ss :

Thomas Allcock, being duly sworn, says he is now seventy-two years of age ; that he is and has been totally blind for the last forty-six years in the right eye, and that for the last two years the left eye has become so bad that deponent is now unable to see scarcely anything at all ; that he has to be led around as if he were totally blind, and especially so when the sun is not shining brightly ; that deponent is a married man and his wife is still living ; that she is in feeble health and unable to work and support herself and deponent ; that deponent has no means whatsoever of earning his living, and is in the most destitute circumstances imaginable.

THOMAS <sup>his</sup> + ALLCOCK.  
mark.

Witness :

GEORGE R. LOSEY.

Sworn to before me this 15th day of February, 1886.

GEO. R. LOSEY,  
Commissioner of Deeds, Rochester, N. Y.

STATE OF NEW YORK,

Monroe County Clerk's Office, Rochester, N. Y. :

I, Maurice Leyden, clerk of the county of Monroe, of the county court of said county, and of the supreme court, both being courts of record, having a common seal, do certify that George R. Losey, esq., the person before whom the foregoing affidavit was taken, was, on the 15th day of February, 1886, therein mentioned, a commissioner of deeds, in and for said city, duly authorized to take the same ; that I am well acquainted with the handwriting of the said George R. Losey, and verily believe that the name of the said officer subscribed to the said certificate is his genuine signature.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said county and courts this 15th day of February, A. D. 1886.

MAURICE LEYDEN, Clerk.

In the matter of the application of Thomas Allcock.

MONROE COUNTY,

*City of Rochester, ss :*

Robert Y. McConnell sworn, says he has known said Thomas Allcock for over thirty years, and is well acquainted with his circumstances at present; that said Allcock is so blind that he cannot get around only as he is led; that he is in destitute circumstances and without any means of support; that he has a wife who has to work all she is able to to support herself and said applicant; that said Allcock is a most worthy man and needs all the help that he can get to support him in these, his last days.

ROBT. Y. McCONNELL.

Sworn to before me this 15th day of February, 1886.

GEO. R. LOSEY,

*Commissioner of Deeds, Rochester, N. Y.*

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