

FRANCES H. PLUMMER.

JULY 10, 1888.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT:

[To accompany bill S. 2091.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 2091) granting a pension to Frances H. Plummer, have had the same under consideration, and beg leave to submit the following report:

Mrs. Frances H. Plummer is now on the pension rolls, under special act of Congress approved March 3, 1863, at the rate of \$50 per month, as the widow of the late Brig. Gen. Joseph B. Plummer.

The records of the War Department show the following facts concerning General Plummer's services: Graduated from West Point July 1, 1841, and appointed second lieutenant; promoted to first lieutenant March 15, 1848; to captain May 1, 1852, and major Eighth United States Infantry, April 25, 1862. Served in the war with Mexico, at Vera Cruz and City of Mexico; subsequently in Texas and the Indian Territory, where he was stationed at the breaking out of the late war, in command of Fort Cobb. While most of the United States troops in that section of the country either surrendered or were captured, Captain Plummer, after a long and tedious march, during which the troops were on short rations, succeeded in bringing his men safely into Missouri, where he arrived at that critical moment which, for a time at least, gave the Confederate forces control of the southern and western part of that State. Captain Plummer participated in the battle of Wilson's Creek, Missouri, August 10, 1861, in which General Lyon was killed and the Union forces, after a desperate fight against superior numbers, were finally compelled to retreat. Captain Plummer, while leading the regulars to a final charge, received a serious wound in hip from a large minie-ball, which was never removed. He continued the fight until he fell from exhaustion. On September 25, 1861, he was mustered in as colonel of the Eleventh Missouri Volunteers, and on October 22, 1861, he was promoted to brigadier-general. He served with his regiment in Missouri until March 1, 1862, being engaged with the enemy at Fredericktown; commanded the post of Cape Girardeau until he joined General Pope's expedition against New Madrid and Island No. 10. General Rosecrans, in general orders announcing General Plummer's death, says:

At New Madrid by General Pope's order, by heavy circuitous march, he [Plummer] seized Point Pleasant, and by skillfully placing his men in rifle-pits and covering his batteries successfully held it against numerous furious assaults of the rebel gunboats, thus cutting off all supplies by transport to Island No. 10. After taking part

in all the toils and privations of this army, which were crowned by the capture of Island 10, and the forces under MacKall, he commanded his brigade during the advance on Corinth and one of the divisions of the left wing during the 35 miles' pursuit of the rebels after the evacuation. Brave, honest, true, and experienced, the country, as well as his companions in arms, will mourn his loss.

General Plummer died suddenly on the 9th of August, 1862, at Corinth, Miss., of congestion of the brain, unquestionably brought on from overexertion and anxiety for the successful termination of the then pending conflict.

General Pope, in a recent letter filed with this committee, says:

* * * In all these operations he [General Plummer] rendered most distinguished services, and was remarkable for intrepid conduct and most excellent military judgment. * * * He died in the field from diseases contracted during the fatigues and exposures of active campaign. I know no officer of the Army of his grade who has rendered more valuable and distinguished services to his country or who is better entitled to the most favorable consideration of his Government.

Major-General Schofield, in a letter addressed to this committee, and who was personally acquainted and associated with General Plummer, speaks in the highest terms of the latter's ability and devotion to the Union cause, and his zealous discharge of every duty.

Mrs. Plummer is dependent upon the pension now received, not only for her own support, but for the maintenance of a daughter, who is a great sufferer from a nervous ailment which prevents her from making any exertions toward her support.

In view of the gallant services of the deceased officer, and the dependent condition of his surviving family, your committee are of opinion that the relief asked for should be granted, and therefore report favorably on the bill and ask that it do pass, amended, however, by striking out the words "one hundred" in line 6, and insert therein instead the words "seventy-five."