

STERNE H. FOWLER.

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FEBRUARY 1, 1889.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT:

[To accompany bill S. 2924.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 2924) granting an increase of pension to Sterne H. Fowler, have considered the same and report it back to the House recommending its passage.

Your committee have had before them the papers on file in the pension claim, and have also considered the testimony filed immediately before them, and the statement of facts in the report of the Senate Committee on Pensions are correctly stated as follows:

[Senate Report No. 1821, Fiftieth Congress, first session.]

The claimant served in the war with Mexico during its whole duration as lieutenant in regular Army. He had before that time served as a private for three years. He resigned his commission in the regular Army in 1857 on account of chronic rheumatism, from which he has ever since suffered. His disease is of the most prostrating and virulent character. His disease was contracted in the service and he was treated therefor unsuccessfully while in the same.

He is now seventy-six years old, broken down, unfitted for labor of any kind, according to the testimony submitted to us, both lay and medical. He was present and commanded a company at the battles of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma, on the 8th and 9th of May, 1846; also at Monterey. He was also actively engaged at the siege and capture of Vera Cruz, and was brevetted as captain and major successively for gallant and meritorious conduct in the battles of Churubusco and Molino del Rey.

In 1862, residing at the time in Minnesota, he served as lieutenant-colonel of volunteers and as acting assistant adjutant-general upon the staff of General Sibley in the war against the Sioux Indians until the close of hostilities. He now resides in Richmond County, Dak. His wife is sixty-eight years old and a helpless invalid; both are very poor, without means of support, except the pension of \$8 per month now drawn by him under the Mexican pension law.

We think this pension, under the peculiar circumstances of the case, ought to be increased. We therefore recommend the passage of the bill, with the following amendments: In the fifth line of the bill fill the blank before the word "dollars" with the word "sixteen," and insert the words "in lieu of the pension now paid him" after the word "laws" in the sixth line of the bill.