

GEORGE HUNTER.

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FEBRUARY 13, 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 H. R. 12510.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 12510) granting a pension to George Hunter, have considered the same and report:

This case comes to the committee with the recommendation that a special act of Congress be passed in favor of the claimant, as indicated by the following letter of the honorable Commissioner of Pensions, transmitted through the honorable Secretary of the Interior:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
BUREAU OF PENSIONS,  
*Washington, D. C., February 1, 1889.*

SIR: Pursuant to the provisions of the resolution of May 29, 1830, which directs that "a several list" shall be furnished to the Senate and House of Representatives of such persons "as shall have made application for a pension," and as, in the opinion of the Department charged with the execution of the pension laws, "ought to be placed upon the pension-roll," and "for doing which they have no sufficient power or authority," I have the honor to transmit, for submission to Congress if thought proper, the claim of George Hunter, captain of Company A, Columbia County (Washington Territory) Volunteers, in the war against the Nez Percé Indians in 1877, who appears by evidence in the case to have been wounded in the shoulder and neck in such service.

This is a claim of great merit, which this Bureau has been obliged to reject in compliance with the provisions of the third paragraph of section 4693, Revised Statutes of the United States, the officer not having been enlisted or mustered into the service of the United States, and the act of March 3, 1881, "for the relief of citizens of Montana," not having made any provisions for citizens of Washington Territory.

Very respectfully,

JOHN C. BLACK,  
*Commissioner.*

Hon. WILLIAM F. VILAS,  
*Secretary of the Interior.*

It thus appears (and also by the records and evidence in the case) that this claimant, a soldier in the Nez Percé Indian war of 1877, is deprived of his pension for wounds received in such service, under the act of March 3, 1881, because said act by its title restricts its application to citizens of Montana, while this soldier enlisted from Washington Territory and is a citizen thereof.

Your committee recommend the passage of the bill.

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