

MRS. EMELINE ANDERSON.

MAY 14, 1888.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT:

[To accompany bill S. 2366.]

*The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 2366) granting a pension to Mrs. Emeline Anderson, submit the following report:*

The facts in this case are fully and clearly set forth in the accompanying report of the Senate Committee on Pensions, which is adopted, and the passage of the bill recommended.

[Senate Report No. 1015, Fiftieth Congress, first session.]

The husband of claimant under the bill was late a private in Company K, First Regiment Minnesota Cavalry, which was organized for and employed in the campaign against the Sioux Indians in 1862-'66, and while in such service contracted asthma and heart disease, under circumstances which are detailed in the affidavit of John Emerson, a comrade, as follows:

"I was well acquainted with said Jeff. Anderson previous to enlistment, and enlisted at the same time, about November 1, 1862, and occupied the same quarters with him at Saint Peter and Kasota, Minn., until the following spring, and was with him on Samuel Sibley's Indian expedition in the summer of 1863, and was discharged with him at Fort Snelling, Minn., November 28, 1863, and afterwards been living in the same settlement until he died, September 27, 1879. I further testify, from personal knowledge, that said Anderson contracted a severe cold in the fall after enlistment at Saint Peter, Minn., on account of being obliged to do duty, exposed to the severe cold weather, without sufficient blankets and clothing. That said Anderson and myself enlisted with the expectation to receive Government clothing when we arrived at Saint Peter, but got only one blanket for each man, and received no clothing till towards spring, and we were obliged to live in a very cold building, and perform duty in very cold weather, without sufficient clothes to wear or sleep under to keep off the cold. That said Anderson was taken with a very severe cold, which resulted in asthma, and afterwards his heart became affected, and I remember he was doctored for these diseases while we were in the Army. I knew said Anderson well after discharge, and know the asthma troubled him more and more every year, so that the last ten or twelve years he lived he was unable to perform any labor of any kind whatsoever, and he was never free from heart trouble after discharge until he died, to my personal knowledge. I was not present when he died, but learned he died very suddenly. I further testify that Anderson was a very temperate man during all the time I knew him.

Dr. Rhodes, assistant surgeon of soldier's regiment, who, after death of surgeon in July, 1863, had charge of all the sick, testifies:

I remember claimant was a Scandinavian and was troubled with asthma and heart disturbance, the latter apparently functional at that time. He often reported at sick call for treatment, and my memory of his case was distinct, as there was unusual con-

gestive action about his lungs and heart in what appeared to be a recent case. After treating him for some weeks, without much improvement in his general symptoms, we were separated by order and I saw him no more.

Dr. Foster, a practicing physician of thirty years, knew soldier before enlistment, and knew him as a stout, hearty man. He treated him immediately after his discharge in 1863 and in the following year for asthma, which resulted in heart disease, and with which he was badly afflicted, and this, in deponent's opinion, was the direct cause of his death.

Knute Johnson lived near soldier before enlistment and after discharge; knew him to be a strong, healthy man before, and that he suffered with asthma after discharge in 1863 to death in 1879; knows that he was treated for asthma by Drs. Winch and Story, both dead. Understood him to have died of heart trouble brought on by asthma.

No more specific or official testimony was furnished by claimant, either of sickness in service or immediate cause of death, because the Adjutant-General's Office reports "regimental hospital records not on file" covering service, and the sparsely settled district of Minnesota, in which soldier died, rendered the attendance of a physician during last illness and a coroner's inquest after death impracticable. But, lacking evidence of the highest grade, the available testimony is direct, plain, and conclusive, and justifies the committee in a favorable report.

The bill is recommended for passage.

○