

RACHEL BARNES.

MAY 2, 1890.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. DE LANO, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 2965.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 2965) granting a pension to Rachel Barnes, have considered the same and respectfully submit the following report:

The claimant's late husband, William Barnes, was a private in Company I, Second United States Infantry, and served from February 24, 1838, to February 24, 1841. During a part of his term of enlistment the soldier participated with his command in the Florida Indian war.

On the 3d of July, 1880, William Barnes filed an application for pension in the Pension Bureau, declaring that he contracted disease of eyes in Florida in 1840-'41, and considerable testimony tending strongly to sustain his claim was filed, but the Pension Bureau refused to accept the evidence as sufficient to establish the claim and rejected it. The soldier died March 24, 1882, and his widow (the beneficiary under this bill) filed an application for pension, but her claim was also rejected. Ground: "Soldier's death from insanity forty-one years after service had no connection with the service."

The claimant is now about seventy-four years old, and as numerous precedents have been established by Congress for the pensioning of the aged widows of the soldiers of the old Indian wars, the bill is reported back with the recommendation that it do pass. Amend as follows: Add to the last word of said bill the words "and pay her a pension at the rate of eight dollars per month."