

JOSEPH FORTIER.

JULY 8, 1892.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

MR. HARRIES, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 6508.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions have considered the bill (H. R. 6508) granting a pension to Joseph Fortier and submit the following report:

The petitioner was a member of the Renville Rangers, Minnesota State Militia, commanded by Lieut. James Gorman from August 15, 1862, to December 15, 1862, and was wounded in the left ankle in an engagement with the Sioux Indians at Fort Ridgely, Minn., August 20, 1862. These facts are shown by the petitioner's sworn statement and by the following evidence on file in the Pension Bureau with his claim No. 476999.

Dr. Alfred Muller, of New Ulm, Minn., testifies that he was an acting assistant surgeon, U. S. Army, at Fort Ridgely, Minn., and in charge of military hospital there from June 1, 1861, to February 1, 1867; that while there he became well acquainted with Joseph Fortier, a newly enrolled soldier, and that he was at said Fort Ridgely on the 20th of August, 1862, shot through the foot while in line of duty and helping to repulse an attack of the hostile Indians on said Fort Ridgely; deponent well recollects treating said Fortier for this wound at the hospital at Fort Ridgely.

Frank Stay, of Camp Release, Minn., testifies that he was a member of the Renville Rangers, and well knew Joseph Fortier of that organization; was present with him in the battle with the Indians at Fort Ridgely, Minn., August 20, 1862, and personally knows that Fortier was on that day "wounded in said fight by being shot through his left ankle with a rifle ball."

In view of these facts your committee recommend the passage of the bill after being amended as follows:

In line 5, after the word "laws," insert the words "at a rate proportionate to the degree of disability from gunshot wound of left ankle."