

IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 11, 1846.

Submitted, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. PEARCE made the following

REPORT :

*The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the petition of Caroline E. Sanders, report :*

The petitioner states that she is the widow and legatee of Wm. G. Sanders, who, in 1836, volunteered at the head of a company of friendly Indians, and was "accepted in the service" of the United States by General Gaines, at Tampa Bay. That he served from the 12th February to the 9th of March, 1836; that on the 28th February he was wounded in the chest by a rifle ball; that he suffered severely from time to time from the effect of said wound, which finally occasioned his death in 1845. During his life Captain Sanders applied to the Commissioner of Pensions, but was refused a pension on the ground that the invalid pension laws do not extend to the cases of the friendly Indians, nor to those who commanded them. The petitioner prays that the pension to which her husband was equitably entitled may be given to her.

The act of 1836, chapter 434, provides invalid pensions, and pensions to the widows of volunteers and militia regularly called into service for the suppression of Indian depredations in Florida, and declares such volunteers and militia only to be provided for as were ordered into service by the commanding General or Governors of States and of the Territory of Florida under authority from the War Department.

This act seems to have been intended to exclude the cases of volunteers irregularly called into service, such as Capt. Sanders and his friendly Indians. Besides, the proofs in this case are deficient, inasmuch as they do not show that the petitioner is the widow of Capt. Sanders, that his death was occasioned by his wound, or that he was disabled, or in what degree disabled, thereby.

The committee, therefore, recommend the following resolution :

*Resolved, That the prayer of the petitioner be not granted.*