

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

APRIL 16, 1890.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. PADDOCK, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 5456.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 5456) granting an increase of pension to Richard W. Spain, late sergeant Company A, Second Dragoons, U. S. Army, have examined the same and report:

The report of the Committee on Invalid Pensions of the House of Representatives, hereto appended, is adopted.

It appears to be a meritorious claim, and the passage of the bill is recommended.

HOUSE REPORT.

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 5456) granting an increase of pension to Richard W. Spain, have considered the same and report:

The claimant was a sergeant in Company A, Second United States Dragoons, and served in the war with Mexico. He is receiving a pension at \$8 per month on account of said service, and the bill proposes to increase the amount to \$25 per month.

The claimant's service was long and faithful and altogether covered a period of a quarter of a century, and included service in both the Mexican and the late war. Under date of April 22, 1869, Maj. Gen. D. Hunter, U. S. Army, certified that the claimant "served in the Army twenty-three years, was wounded in Florida, and was a good soldier." The records of the Government contain the following statement by Surgeon-General J. K. Barnes, U. S. Army:

"I have known Mr. Spain since 1845, when he was a sergeant in the Second Dragoons and was considered by all his officers as a most worthy and reliable man. During twenty-three years' service he has taken an active part in the Seminole war, the war with Mexico, and throughout the whole period of the war of the rebellion. His health has been impaired by his long and arduous service."

C. H. Crane, Assistant Surgeon-General, U. S. Army and General George D. Ruggles, U. S. Army, also certify to the claimant's long and faithful service, untiring devotion to duty, and good character and habits.

The claimant is now in the seventy-sixth year of his age, and has no property or income except the pension of \$8 per month above referred to. He is now too old and too much disabled to work and has sought and gained admission to the Soldiers' Home in Washington. His wife, who is a consumptive and requires the constant attention of a physician, has no means of support other than his said pension, and it is chiefly because of his desire to secure for her the bare necessities of life and proper medical attention that he prays Congress to grant the relief contemplated by this bill.

In view of the claimant's great age, disability, long and faithful services, and destitute condition, your committee think the case a meritorious one, and the passage of the bill is therefore recommended.

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