

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JANUARY 8, 1891.—Ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT:

[To accompany S. 4655.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 4655) to increase the pension of Mrs. Elizabeth A. Gordon, have examined the same, and report:

Mrs. Gordon is the widow of the late Maj. George A. Gordon, Fifth Cavalry U. S. Army. After the death of her husband she was allowed a pension of \$25 per month, and this bill is for the purpose of increasing her rate to a sum that will supply her with such comforts as are required in her invalid condition. As to the necessity for this increase the committee have the statement of her physician.

Dr. Yarrow, acting assistant surgeon, U. S. Army, says she has been under his care for nearly ten years, and her condition is such that she requires a mode of living entirely inconsistent with the present income. He has explained this to her, and adds:

Little care can be derived from medical advice alone, especially if the absolute necessities are wanting.

Major Gordon graduated at the United States Military Academy July, 1854, and was continuously in service to the time of his death, October 26, 1878. As to the cause of his death, Dr. Basil Norris, surgeon U. S. Army, says:

It was the result of disease contracted in the line of his duty during the month of November, 1876, while on the Powder River expedition under Maj. Gen. George Crook against the Sioux Indians.

The excellence of his army record is certified by General Sheridan, who, after Major Gordon's death, wrote to General Sherman, urging him to aid in obtaining relief for his widow, and saying:

Among the officers born in the South there were none in the service who had so many and such strong influences brought to bear on him to desert the flag as Jake Gordon (major). For these reasons, and for his manly qualities as a soldier, I have always looked after him during his life, and sought to appreciate him for his manly course.

Brig. Gen. George Crook testifies that Major Gordon served under his command in the Department of Arizona and of the Platte, speaks in the highest terms of his conduct as an officer, and says that protracted exposure in that inclement and cold climate, added to the hardships he was compelled to encounter, were the cause of the sickness that terminated in his death.

The records of the War Department show that during the war of the rebellion, from April, 1862, to the surrender of General Lee, April 9,

1865, he participated in forty-two engagements. From the time he graduated, in 1854, to the date of his death it appears that there was scarcely any interval to his active and arduous service. The highest pay he drew was that of a major of cavalry, from which it was impossible for him to make any provision for the support of his family in the event of his death. His widow is now in delicate health, dependent solely upon the meager pension provided by the general law; and in view of her husband's large and faithful service, the committee do not think it will be an excess of liberality to pass this bill for her relief.

The bill is reported favorably with a recommendation that it do pass.