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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

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MAY 3, 1892.—Ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT:

[To accompany S. 2638.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 2638) granting a pension to W. W. Harlee, have examined the same and report:

It appears from the evidence that the claimant is a resident of the city of Florence, in the county of Florence and State of South Carolina; that he served in the Florida war against the Indians as a major of infantry, commanding five companies of infantry of the South Carolina battalion in the military service of the United States, under a requisition of the Secretary of War of the United States upon his excellency P. M. Butler, the governor of the State of South Carolina, for volunteer troops in said service. Said service commenced in February, 1837; that said service continued three months—first, under the command and orders of Lieut. Col. Crane, at Black Creek, then at Lake Monroe, on the St. Johns River, in Florida, under the command of Lieut. Col. William S. Harney, under whose command the claimant served until ordered to St. Augustine, Fla., where he, with those under his command, were mustered out of the service sometime in May, 1837.

The claimant is now 79 years old; he is not a pensioner, and has made no application to the Bureau of Pensions, as there is no general law authorizing pensions in such cases. There are, however, many precedents in the action of this committee for the favorable consideration of such claims. This officer served faithfully ninety days in a campaign of great hardship and exposure against the hostile Indians.

We put these claims, in justice, on a par with those of soldiers in the war of 1812, where only fourteen days' service is required. The object of the bill is to place the petitioner on the pension roll.

We think that he is justly entitled to that relief. We therefore recommend the passage of the bill.