

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JUNE 29, 1892.—Ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 7296.]

The committee on Pensions, to whom was referred House bill 7296, have had the same under consideration and report the same favorably with the following amendments:

In line 6, page 1, before the word "militia," insert the word "State."

In line 7, page 1, after the word "days," insert the words "or more."

In line 8, page 1, strike out the word "or."

In line 9, page 1, insert the letter "s" after the word "war."

In line 11, page 1, after the first "and," insert the following:

fifty-six, or the Oregon Indian wars of 1855 and 1856, known as the Cayuse and Rogue River Indian wars, or the Sioux Indian war in or about 1862 in Minnesota, Iowa, and the then Territory of Dakota.

Strike out all after the word "remarried" in section 1.

In line 2 of section 2, on page 2, after word "from" insert the words "the date of application."

That the title be amended to read as follows:

Granting pensions to the survivors of the Indian wars of 1832 to 1862, inclusive, known as the Black Hawk war, Creek war, Cherokee disturbances, the Florida wars with the Seminoles, the Cayuse and Rogue River Indian wars in Oregon, and the Sioux Indian war in Minnesota, Iowa, and the then Territory of Dakota.

Your committee also adopts the following report from the House of Representatives on the various House bills on this subject:

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bills (H. R. 247, 426, 2610, 2642, and 7296) having for their object the pensioning of the survivors and the widows of soldiers of the various Indian wars from 1832 to 1842, inclusive, have considered the same, and finding that bill numbered 7296 embodies the substantial merits of each of the others, said bill 7296 is herewith reported.

There are no definite statistics by which the number of soldiers who served in these wars and their survivors and surviving widows can be exactly ascertained, but the same have been tabulated in an approximate estimate, together with the probable cost involved in this measure, in a statement furnished by the honorable Commissioner of Pensions, which is herewith submitted and made a part of this report. This statement and table are as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF PENSIONS,  
Washington, D. C., March 13, 1888.

SIR: I have the honor to furnish herewith additional estimates, as per your personal request of yesterday, based on the report of the Second Auditor, already furnished to you.

Very respectfully,

JOHN C. BLACK,  
Commissioner.

Hon. F. G. BARRY, M. C.,  
House of Representatives.

## SURVIVORS OF INDIAN WARS.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF PENSIONS,  
Washington, D. C., March 13, 1888.

SIR: In this table the number of volunteers is obtained from estimates recently received from the Second Auditor of the Treasury. His estimates embrace the volunteer soldiers, counted by companies, engaged in all Indian and other wars and disturbances, excluding the Mexican war, from 1816 to 1858. Deducting the companies not in service during the period designated in House bill 1182, and those serving during that period, which are shown by data in possession of this Bureau not to have been engaged in Indian wars, the remainder is 1,056 companies, which, at 45 men to the company, as estimated by the Auditor, makes the number of volunteers participating in the wars and disturbances designated by the bill 47,520. Deducting 16,438, the number of those who received land warrants for service in the Black Hawk and Creek wars, we obtain 31,082 as the number of volunteers who served in the Cherokee removal and Florida war. Adding this number to the number of the regular Army and the Navy employed in the Florida war, 45,251 is obtained as the number of those who served during the four years of the Cherokee disturbances and removal and the seven years of the Florida war.

Deduct 25 per cent for losses in service .....	11, 032
Living in 1842 and entitled under bill .....	33, 096
Survivors living in 1888, average age 80, expectation of life 4.4 years.....	5, 606
Number dead .....	27, 490
Deduct 20 per cent for number soldiers and sailors not married.....	5, 498
Number widows in 1838 and since.....	21, 992
Number of widows living in 1888, average age 75, expectation of life 6.3 years..	6, 481
Total number pensionable.....	12, 087

The foregoing statistics and estimates bear date March 13, 1888, and embrace all soldiers who served twenty days. The bill herewith submitted fixes thirty days as the necessary term of service to give title, and after deducting the probable number of soldiers who served twenty days or more, but less than thirty days, and also deducting the probable number (computed from reliable mortality tables) who have died during the four years which have elapsed since the above tables were made, 5,500 survivors and widows, with an average expectancy of life of 3.63 years, remain to be benefited by the bill. This, therefore, will reduce the cost of these pensions to \$528,000 per year and during life to \$1,916,640.

It may be assumed that of the 5,006 of these survivors (the figures named in the tables of March 13, 1888) a reduction of 20 per cent of that number may be made, inasmuch as many of them doubtless participated in the civil war between the States of 1861-'65, and on account of casualties in battle and exposures incident to the service, as well as the hardships of that period, have died more rapidly than would be shown by ordinary tables of mortality.

It may here be stated, however, that in computing the probable number of soldiers and widows now surviving, your committee have not taken into account the extraordinary mortality that may have been caused by the late war, but have consulted the ordinary mortality tables and have given the results without reference to said war, and hence the figures now given as the probable number of survivors and widows (5,500) is apt to be far above rather than below the actual number.

A further statement contained in the former reports on similar bills may be repeated here: That it may safely be assumed that of the soldiers and widows who may now survive some will die without applying for the pension and many will not live the short space of life yet accorded them by the tables of mortality of three and sixty-three hundredths years. This will reduce the total cost very greatly, but being somewhat speculative, your committee venture no opinion of the precise amount.

The governing principle involved in this proposed legislation is the obligation of both gratitude and justice under which the Government rests towards these aged veterans and the surviving widows of those that are dead.

The debt has already been too long deferred; no time should be lost in the discharge of that small portion which it is yet possible to pay.

While these heroic soldiers did not add to our territory by wars of conquest, they performed a still nobler and more patriotic service by defending that already acquired, and protecting the homes and lives of American citizens from the depredations and cruelties of hostile Indians, thus not only making possible but expediting the development, tranquillity, and prosperity of some of the fairest portions of our Union.