

2-20-1851

Report : Petition of S. Floyd

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IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 20, 1851.

Submitted, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. HALE made the following

REPORT:

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the petition of Hector St. John Beetley for arrears of pension, beg leave to report:

That said petition was first presented and referred on the 20th of January, 1848. On the 28th of July of the same year, the committee reported adversely—which report, as appears by an endorsement on said petition, was agreed to on the 12th of December following. The petition was taken from the files, and again referred to the committee, on the 4th of February, 1850. It sets forth that the petitioner, while a soldier in the army of the United States at New Orleans, lost his left hand by the premature discharge of a cannon, on the 4th of July, 1814, while he was, under the command of Captain David McClellan, assisting in firing a salute; that he was honorably discharged at New Orleans on account of said disability; that, on his return to the State of New York, on foot, he lost his money, papers, and clothing, in April, 1815, while crossing a river in the Choctaw nation; that, in 1817, he applied for a pension, but failed to obtain one through the negligence or ignorance of his agent; that, owing to his poverty, he did not again apply until 1840, and then again failed of success from similar causes; that, in 1843, he renewed his application, and in April, 1845, he was placed on the pension roll, at the rate of eight dollars a month. The communications from the Commissioner of Pensions show that there was not sufficient proof on file in the department to warrant him in placing the name of the petitioner on the pension roll until the time above specified. It was not shown that he was disabled in the line of his duty; nor was there the usual honorable discharge, nor the surgeon's certificate of disability. The committee do not deem it expedient, in this case, to depart from the provisions of the act of the 4th of February, 1822, and recommend the adoption by the Senate of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the petition of Hector St. John Beetley be not granted