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Report : Petition of R. Grattan

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MARCH 3, 1881.—Ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT :

[To accompany bill H. R. 1830.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 1830) granting a pension to Peter Grattan, have examined the same, and report as follows :

The facts are stated in the House report, which we adopt :

It appears, from the evidence filed with your committee, that the petitioner's only son, John L. Grattan, graduated at the Military Academy at West Point in 1853; was appointed second lieutenant Company G, Sixth Regiment United States Infantry, and stationed at Fort Laramie, then in Nebraska Territory, on or about August 19, 1854. That, in obedience to orders of Lieut. Hugh B. Flemming, acting commander of the post, Lieutenant Grattan, with twenty-nine men, was sent out to hold a parley with a large body of Indians threatening the fort; that, in the execution of his orders, he and the entire command with him were massacred by the Indians on that day. The mother of Lieutenant Grattan died June 25, 1835, and his father, the petitioner, now seventy-nine years of age, asks relief from the government in the way of a pension, for the services of his only son, of whom he has been so long bereft. It appears that the son, during his lifetime, contributed of his means to the father's support, at one time sending him an entire month's pay.

It is also proved that the applicant is now eighty years of age and very poor. This son, if surviving, would for many years past have been the chief source of his support. The father is, and long has been, almost totally disabled.

We recommend the passage of the bill.

