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Report : Petition of M. Hewston

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 16, 1886.—Ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT:

[To accompany bill S. 329.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 329) to increase the pension of Michael J. Hewston, having examined the same, make the following report:

Michael J. Hewston enlisted in the Eighth United States Infantry in 1852, in which company he served until 1857. In 1858 he again enlisted in the Army, and while on duty in New Mexico, September, 1860, he was wounded by an Indian arrow. In 1862 he again entered the Army, and served until regularly discharged, January, 1865. He filed his application for a pension, which was allowed, and subsequently increased until at present he is allowed \$16 per month for disabilities arising from the wound made in his shoulder by the Indian arrow and disease of the eyes. He now asks for an increase of his pension on account of heart disease resulting from the wound in his shoulder. His claim was filed with the Commissioner in June, 1883, and was rejected on the ground "that he was now in receipt of a rate commensurate with his present disability." There is no evidence whatever going to show that the disease of the heart was brought on by the wound in the shoulder, or that it was contracted while in service.

The certificate of the board of surgeons who last examined him shows that the claimant is now in receipt of a rate commensurate with his present disability.

Your committee therefore think the claim for increase was properly rejected, and recommend that the bill be indefinitely postponed.