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Applicants for Indian-war pensions.

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APPLICANTS FOR INDIAN-WAR PENSIONS.

JANUARY 11, 1893.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT:

[To accompany H. Res. 180.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the House resolution (H. Res. 180) relating to proof of citizenship of applicants for Indian-war pensions under the act of Congress approved July 27, 1892, have considered the same and report as follows:

The reasons for the adoption of the resolution fully appears in a communication addressed, under date of December 21, 1892, to the chairman of your committee by the Commissioner of Pensions. Said communication is hereto appended and made a part of this report, and the resolution is returned with the recommendation that it be adopted.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF PENSIONS,
Washington, December 21, 1892.

SIR: I have the honor to invite your attention to the fact that the second section of the act approved July 27, 1892, granting pensions to the survivors of the Indian wars of 1832, etc., contains a proviso as follows: "That this act shall not apply to any person not a citizen of the United States."

Since the passage of this act nearly 7,000 claims have been filed under it. Many of the claimants are very old persons, some of them representing themselves to be more than 100 years of age. A great many of these claimants have failed to allege and prove that they are citizens of the United States. Many of them have applied for and received bounty land warrants for their military service, and the declarations in those cases contain no statement as to citizenship.

It is obvious that there will be considerable delay in the adjudication of these claims if the claimants are required to amend their applications and furnish evidence of citizenship.

It seems to me that proof that these applicants are now bona fide residents of the United States should be accepted as sufficient evidence to establish the fact of their citizenship, and I have the honor to respectfully recommend the passage of a joint resolution to that effect.

Very respectfully,

GREEN B. RAUM,
Commissioner.

HON. ROBERT P. C. WILSON,
Chairman Committee on Pensions.