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Lilla Thomasson.

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LILLA THOMASSON.

FEBRUARY 19, 1898.—Laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

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

ADVERSE REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 1465.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 1465) granting a pension to Lilla Thomasson, have considered the same, and report as follows:

The claimant is the adult daughter of Beverly D. Thomasson, deceased, who served in the Georgia Volunteers in the Creek and Cherokee Indian wars of 1836 and 1838. His widow, Mrs. Sarah Thomasson, was a pensioner, by special act of Congress, at \$17 per month at the time of her death, February 19, 1896.

Lilla Thomasson, the daughter, is now about 35 years old, and the testimony on file shows that she is totally blind and has been since birth; and, further, that she has no income and no property except an interest as heir in a homestead worth about \$600.

There are no precedents, so far as your committee is informed, for pensioning the adult children of soldiers of the Indian wars, and it is believed that Congress can not safely extend the benefits of the pension laws to the grown children and other descendants of soldiers, no matter what their physical or financial condition may be. The service of the soldier has already been recognized by the allowance by private act of a pension to his widow, which pension was more than double in monthly rate than that allowed to other Indian-war widows under the provisions of the general Indian-war act of July 27, 1892.

The deplorable condition of the claimant is fully appreciated, but your committee is clearly of the opinion that the case is not a proper one for Congressional action, and the bill is therefore returned with the recommendation that it do not pass.

