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PENSIONS TO SURVIVORS OF CERTAIN INDIAN WARS.

JUNE 15, 1897.—Ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT.

[To accompany S. 344.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 344) to amend an act entitled "An act granting pensions to the survivors of the Indian wars of eighteen hundred and thirty-two to eighteen hundred and forty-two, inclusive, known as the Black Hawk war, Creek war, Cherokee disturbances, and the Seminole war," approved July 27, 1892, have carefully examined the same and beg leave to report:

A bill, almost identical in terms with this one, passed the Senate at the second session of the Fifty-fourth Congress, but failed to get consideration in the House. The only difference in the bills is that in the present one the Sac and Fox Indian war of 1831 is included, which it is estimated will add between 200 and 300 to the roll. The facts presented in the former report are as follows:

There is a remnant of the men who served in the early Indian wars in this country not yet on the pension roll. They are old and decrepit, and as a rule in circumstances of destitution. They are scattered all over the Western country, and while they recount their deeds of valor in the troublous times of the past, they naturally wonder that their names are not included in the list of those to whom the Government extends financial aid. It is safe to say that when the act of July 27, 1892, was passed, the belief was entertained that its provisions would be extended to all the survivors of the early Indian wars, but in the administration of that law it has been found that certain classes (those named in this bill) had not been given a pensionable status. The following letter from the Commissioner of Pensions, addressed to Hon. C. L. Moses, chairman of the Committee on Pensions, House of Representatives, Fifty-third Congress, fully explains the matter:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF PENSIONS,
Washington, D. C., February 7, 1895.

SIR: In compliance with your request of the 18th ultimo I have the honor to forward herewith an estimate of the probable number of persons who will be benefited by the passage of House bill 8457 and the approximate sum required to make payments thereunder.

In submitting this estimate I would state that it is based upon the best obtainable data and prepared in the manner briefly stated in notes accompanying it. As a number of the organizations were not in the military service of the United States, but

were State organizations, and for the service of which the States were subsequently reimbursed, their services are not pensionable under the act of July 27, 1892, as now construed. Then, others of the organizations which were allowed pay for thirty days, a part of which was for travel, would not come within the provisions of said act unless all of the service and travel was rendered and performed at the seat of the war of disturbance, or the travel performed from place of rendezvous to seat of war or disturbance and return therefrom to place of rendezvous.

The cost of pensions of survivors and widows, as estimated, would be, for the first year, \$730,656, and, computed by the American Table of Mortality, the average pensionable period would be seven and two-thirds years; consequently it is believed that the sum of \$5,601,696 would be required to satisfy all pensions under the bill in question.

The difficulties encountered in preparing an estimate of this kind will be readily understood when the numerous factors that enter into it, and which can not be correctly disposed of, are taken into consideration.

Very respectfully,

WM. LOCHREN,
Commissioner.

Hon. C. L. MOSES,
Chairman Committee on Pensions, House of Representatives.

A tabular estimate was furnished by the Bureau of Pensions at the same time, as follows:

Wars.	Troops engaged.	Survivors now living, average age at enlistment.		Number of pensionable survivors and soldiers' widows, January, 1895.			Cost per year, at \$8 per month.			Expectation of life, in years and fractions.	
		Survivors.	Widows.	Survivors.	Widows.	Total.	Survivors.	Widows.	Total.		
Seminole, 1817-18.....	6,911	20	94	92	5	120	125	\$480	\$11,520	\$12,000	{Survivors. 0.64 Widows .. .98
Fevre River or Winnebago dist., 1827. }	1,416	20	88	88	14	107	121	1,344	10,272	11,616	{Survivors. 1.91 Widows .. 1.91
Sabine, 1836-37.....	4,429	22	81	81	221	155	376	21,216	14,880	36,096	{Survivors. 4.05 Widows .. 4.05
Cayuse, 1847-48.....	682	22	68	65	144	82	226	12,576	7,200	19,776	{Survivors. 9.47 Widows .. 11.10
Texas and New Mexico, 1849-1855.	6,465	22	65	60	1,448	890	2,338	130,008	85,440	224,448	{Survivors. 11.10 Widows .. 14.10
California, 1851-52.....	1,265	22	67	62	476	230	706	45,606	22,080	67,776	{Survivors. 10 Widows .. 12.86
Utah, 1850-1853.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Oregon and Washington Territory, 1851-1856.	7,229	22	65	60	2,399	1,340	3,739	230,304	128,640	358,944	{Survivors. 11.10 Widows .. 14.10
Number of pensioners.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4,707	2,924	7,631	.....	.....	.....	.....
Cost of first year.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	450,624	280,032	730,656	.....
Cost of 7½ years.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5,601,696	.....

It will be seen from the above that a careful estimate placed the cost of the proposed legislation at \$730,656 the first year, and that the entire cost to the Government would be, taking the American Table of Mortality as a guide, \$5,601,696. As the average pensionable period under the bill was computed to be seven and one-half years, and over two years have already elapsed, it will be seen that the addition to the pension roll will not be very great, and in about five years from the present time will have entirely ceased.

From an elaborate and interesting report made to the House of Representatives in the Fifty-third Congress favoring the proposed legislation (which same recommendation was made by the House Committee on Pensions in the Fifty-fourth Congress) the following is taken:

Your committee find that, on examination of the Department records, muster and pay rolls of the Government, there still remain of the Seminole war of 1817-18 but 5 survivors and 120 widows. Of the "La Fevre" Indian war, which occurred sixty-eight years ago, there remain but 14 survivors and 107 widows. Of the Sabine war

of 1836 there remain but 221 survivors and 155 widows. Of the Cayuse war of 1817-18 there are 144 survivors and 82 widows. Of the Texas and New Mexico Indian wars there still survive 1,448, with 890 widows. Of the California Indian wars there still survive 476, and 230 widows. Of the Indian wars of the Territories of Oregon and Washington, prior to 1856, there still survive 2,399, and 1,340 widows.

In many regiments serving in these Indian wars an examination of the names shows a repetition, caused by the same person enlisting in different companies, and this, it is estimated, will still further reduce the number of beneficiaries at least 700, leaving the total survivors of the Indian wars at about 4,000.

The last of these wars occurred forty years ago, and the estimated age of the survivors is fixed at 65 years, while the estimated age of the Seminole survivors is 94 years. Of the inestimable services of these pioneer men and soldiers we deem it unnecessary to refer. History recognizes the results they achieved. In the South and West they endured the greatest of privations, sacrifices, and sufferings. We owe to them largely, if not entirely, the acquisition of the vast empire of the Pacific Northwest.

It having been the policy of the Government and the uniform course of legislation that service pensions should be granted at the expiration of forty years following the wars for which such pensions have been granted, it will be seen that this period has been now reached as to all the wars mentioned in the present bill, while as to some over seventy-seven years have elapsed since the war. Most of these old survivors are in needy circumstances, while all are in old age, and, as estimated by the Commissioner of Pensions, the average pensionable period can not extend beyond about seven years hence. Many of these aged men were omitted from the act pensioning survivors of Indian wars between 1832 and 1842, and for this reason the present bill is the more just, since it includes all the survivors of the recognized Indian wars prior to 1856.

The language of the bill has the approval of the Interior Department.

In the Seminole war, 1817-18, there were 1,000 regulars and 5,911 volunteers, and the estimate for this war is based upon the percentage of survivors of the war of 1812 and widows of soldiers of that war who were drawing pensions June 30, 1890, the period between the two wars being practically the same as that embraced between June 30, 1890, and this date.

Five survivors and 120 widows are estimated to be now living.

In the "La Fevre" or Winnebago disturbance, 1827, there were 900 regulars and 516 volunteers engaged. Of these troops there were probably 50 per cent, or 708, who served in the Black Hawk war or other Indian wars and have pensionable service under act of July 27, 1892, or other acts, leaving 708 remaining at the close of disturbance.

The disturbance occurred sixty-eight years ago, and from an examination of claims on file it is estimated that the soldiers now living were 20 years of age at enlistment.

Taking the percentage above noted and computing with the American Table of Mortality, it is estimated that 14 survivors and 107 widows are now living and would be beneficiaries.

SABINE DISTURBANCE, 1836.

The War Department reports 1,323 regulars, and the Auditor for the War Department reports 3,106 volunteers, making a total of 4,429 soldiers called into service during said disturbances. From former reports from War Department it is shown that practically all of the regular soldiers served in either the Creek Indian or Florida Indian war, or Cherokee disturbance, and come within the provisions of existing laws. Of the 3,106 militia it is fair to estimate that 40 per cent of them, or 1,242, also served in one of the wars or disturbances mentioned. As there was no fighting and few casualties in the Sabine disturbance, it is estimated that 1,800 of the remaining 1,864 soldiers survived at the close of the disturbance. As it has been nearly fifty-nine years since the service was rendered, and age at enlistment being estimated at 22 years, the survivors would now be 81 years of age.

Taking this estimate and computing with the American Table of Mortality, the number of survivors should be 221. The remaining 1,579 represent those deceased. It is assumed that 80 per cent, or 1,263, were married and left widows, 155 of whom are now living at the age of 81.

CAYUSE, 1847-48.

There were 682 volunteers and no regular troops engaged.

The estimate as to Cayuse war is based upon the percentage of survivors of the Mexican war and widows of soldiers of that war, who are now alive and have pensionable service, the Cayuse war having occurred while the Mexican war was in progress.

It is shown that 12 per cent of claims filed by Mexican war survivors and 10 per

cent filed by soldiers' widows have been rejected on conditions that do not enter into the Indian war act, to wit, a service of less than sixty days and age limit, etc.

Taking this estimate and computing with the American Table of Mortality, there should be 144 survivors and 82 widows now living.

These volunteers were not mustered into the United States service, but under a subsequent act of Congress the State of Oregon was reimbursed for their service by the United States.

TEXAS AND NEW MEXICO, 1849-1855.

The War Department reports that there were 5,050 regular army soldiers engaged in the Texas and New Mexico Indian disturbances in 1849-1855. As enlistments in the regular service were for five years, with the exception of the men who composed the additional regiments raised for the Mexican war, it is presumed that at least 20 per cent, or 1,010 of the 5,050, rendered service in the Mexican war and have title under the act of January 29, 1887. As the same organizations, or a large proportion of them, served in more than one of the disturbances during the period mentioned, probably 25 per cent, or 1,010 of the remaining 4,040, should be deducted, for the reason that they were counted more than once in War Department report. Of the remaining 3,039, probably 15 per cent, or 454, served in the United States Army during the war of the rebellion and have pensionable status under other acts. Of the 2,576 remaining, 15 per cent, or 386, should be deducted for death in service, desertions, and for those who were discharged for disabilities resulting from service, which gave them title to pension under the general law.

This would leave 2,190 who were living in 1855. An examination of a large number of bounty-land cases based on the services of these soldiers shows that their average ages at this time is about 65½ years. The American Table of Mortality shows that 48 per cent of people at that age are living, but as the war of the rebellion occurred shortly after the disturbances in question, it may be presumed that quite a number of the survivors entered the Confederate service, consequently the mortality would be increased by that service say 6 per cent, or 131, leaving 2,058 survivors, and 513 widows.

The Auditor for the War Department reports that there were 1,415 militiamen who served thirty days or upward. Of this number 685 were from Texas. It is known to the Bureau that a considerable percentage of the Texans rendered prior service in the Mexican war, and also that a number of them rendered more than one service in the Texas and New Mexico war. Probably 40 per cent, or 274, should be deducted for this estimate, which would leave 411. Of the 730 New Mexicans who served probably 25 per cent, or 182, rendered more than one service, leaving 548.

Thus the total survivors of said wars alive in 1855 would have been—

Regulars.....	2,058
Texans	411
New Mexicans	548
Total	3,017

Of these 3,017, at the average age of 65½ years, there should now be living, according to the mortality table, 1,448 survivors with pensionable status for thirty days' service.

It is believed that a fair estimate of the number of widows surviving is obtained by taking the percentage of Mexican war widows with Mexican war survivors. This would give 890 widows of soldiers of Texas and New Mexico disturbances living.

CALIFORNIA INDIAN DISTURBANCES.

The War Department reports 265 regular soldiers engaged in said disturbance. The Auditor for the War Department reports that the State of California was reimbursed in bulk for the services of her soldiers in the Indian wars, and was not required to furnish rolls, consequently an estimate as to the number of men other than the regulars can not be given. Of the regulars probably 80 per cent, or 212, served in the Mexican war, leaving 53.

The records of this Bureau show that over 900 bounty land warrants were issued for this service, and estimating the volunteers as 1,000 and regulars as 53, and computing with the American Table of Mortality, there should be now living 476 survivors, and, computing on Mexican war basis, 230 widows.

As the California militia were not in "the military or naval service of the United States," they will not come within the provisions of the act of July 27, 1892.

In Utah disturbance of 1850-1853 the War Department reports 10 regulars, all of whom probably served in other wars. The Auditor for the War Department reports 530 militia, none of whom served thirty days, consequently they have no pensionable status under act of July 27, 1892.

IN THE OREGON AND WASHINGTON TERRITORY WARS.

The War Department reports that 850 regulars were engaged, and the Auditor for the War Department 6,379 militia. Of the regulars probably 75 per cent, or 637, served in the Mexican war and other wars, leaving 213, and of the militia 20 per cent, or 1,276, served in other wars or rendered more than one service in the Oregon and Washington Territory wars, leaving 5,103 militia; a total of regulars and militia of 5,316. Of this number deduct 6 per cent, or 319, for desertion and casualties, which would leave 4,997 survivors at close of the wars.

From an examination of a number of claims it appears that these survivors should now be $65\frac{1}{2}$ years of age, and from the American Table of Mortality 48 per cent, or 2,399, are now living.

The number of widows is based upon the percentage of widows of Mexican war soldiers who are living, which would show 1,340 widows of soldiers of Oregon and Washington Territory disturbances living.

To-day the annual reunion of the Indian war veterans of the North Pacific Coast will be held in Portland, Oreg. It is the fiftieth anniversary of the Cayuse war, and the forty-first anniversary of the Yakima and Rogue River Indian wars. It will be gratifying to them to receive a message that this bill has been favorably reported, and that this long-delayed act of justice is in process of settlement. These men average 15 years older than the veterans of the late civil war, and that statement alone is sufficient to show that at least the bounty of the Government can be bestowed upon them for a very brief time.

Your committee recommend early and favorable action on the bill.

