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## Branch of National Soldiers' Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers at Hot Springs, S. Dak.

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BRANCH OF NATIONAL SOLDIERS' HOME FOR DISABLED  
VOLUNTEER SOLDIERS AT HOT SPRINGS, S. DAK.

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JANUARY 27, 1898.—Ordered to be printed.

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Mr. SEWELL, from the Committee on Military Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany S. 366.]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (S. 366) for the establishment, control, and maintenance of the Northern Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers at Hot Springs, in the State of South Dakota, having had the same under consideration, report it back with a recommendation that it do pass.

In addition to the very full report made in the last Congress, which your committee adopt as part of their own, a letter of Assistant Inspector-General Averell, dated January 8, 1898, is made a part of their report.

**S. Rep. 1—23**

**Senate Report No. 1085, Fifty-fourth Congress, first session.**

Mr. SEWELL, from the Committee on Military Affairs, submitted the following

**REPORT:**

[To accompany S. 2791.]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (S. 2791) for the establishment, control, and maintenance of the Northern Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers at Hot Springs, in the State of South Dakota, having had the same under consideration, report it back with a recommendation that it do pass.

As is expressed in its title, this measure provides for the erection of a Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers at the city of Hot Springs, State of South Dakota. It is a location possessing advantages that can not elsewhere be acquired—advantages provided by nature and so rare in their combination that they are duplicated in only a few instances the world over. From the surrounding hills come forth unfailling streams of water, medicated and tempered in the great laboratory of subterranean earth, endowed with health-giving properties in relative proportions so exact that man, with all the skill that scientific knowledge imparts, may strive in vain to improve upon, and at last can only imitate. It is the product of centuries of processes—a part of the grand scheme of nature, which, in preparing the earth for man's habitation, made provision also to combat the ills to which man has fallen heir.

As a site for the proposed Home the citizens of Hot Springs agree to donate ground sufficient for all the needs of the Home, and to give a deed of perpetual lease of one or more of the medicinal hot springs which there abound. Under the provisions of the bill both the Home site and the spring or springs are to be selected by the Board of Managers of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, the donors of the property agreeing to abide by the choice of that organization. It is also provided that the Board of Managers are to have exclusive jurisdiction over the property.

In presenting a favorable report upon the measure your committee bases its conclusions upon these propositions:

(1) That another Branch Home is needed in fulfillment of the intentions of the Government toward its veterans, existing Homes being crowded, while the demand for accommodations is increasing.

(2) That the location of a Branch Home at Hot Springs, S. Dak., will accommodate the veterans of a region for which existing accessible Branch Homes possess inadequate facilities.

(3) That the medicinal water at Hot Springs, S. Dak., is a curative agent for ailments most common among ex-soldiers, experience having demonstrated this to the satisfaction of the officials who have watched the effect in a stated number of cases there subjected to experimental treatment.

The bill which is made the subject of this report was referred by your committee to the War Department and by the War Department to Gen. W. B. Franklin, president of the Board of Managers of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers. In response to the War Department reference, General Franklin reports as follows:

HARTFORD CONN., *April 27, 1896.*

SIR: I return herewith Senate bill No. 2791, for the erection and maintenance of the Northern Branch of the Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, at Hot Springs, S. Dak.

There is no question in my mind that another Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers should be established in the territory between the Mississippi and the summit of the Rocky Mountains, that one now in existence being constantly overcrowded and unable to meet the requirements.

The location at Hot Springs is an eligible one, and with the appropriation a hospital could be erected which would relieve the hospitals of the other Branches at once, and form the nucleus of a larger branch should one be required.

Senate bill No. 2791 is herewith respectfully returned.

Respectfully, yours,

W. B. FRANKLIN,

*President Board of Managers National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers.*

HON. DANIEL S. LAMONT,

*Secretary of War, Washington, D. C.*

On the 4th of April last, the chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs (Mr. Pettigrew) addressed a letter to General Franklin on the subject of the bill under consideration, and to that letter General Franklin replied in the following terms:

HARTFORD, CONN., *April 7, 1896.*

MY DEAR SIR: I have received your letter of the 4th instant, on the branch of the National Home contemplated at Hot Springs, S. Dak.

A similar bill, H. R. 784, Fifty-fourth Congress, had been referred to me some time ago by the Secretary of War, from one of the Congressional military committees. The following is a copy of my indorsement on the bill, and I ought to say that my opinion was given as a member of the Board of Managers, merely, and is not necessarily the opinion of the Board:

HARTFORD, CONN., *February 11, 1896.*

SIR: I respectfully acknowledge receipt of H. R. bill 784, Fifty-fourth Congress, first session, for the establishment, etc., of a hospital as a sanitarium branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, at Hot Springs, in the State of South Dakota, referred to me for remark.

I am of opinion that it is desirable that another branch of the National Home be established in one of the States west of the Mississippi River to supplement that at Leavenworth, established in 1884, but now overcrowded, and I know of no objection to the site proposed. It may be that the use of the hot springs would be an advantage, but I am unable to speak technically of that advantage.

I think the bill would be improved by not specifying the name "hospital," but by making it simply a branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers at Hot Springs, as the name of the institution.

The appropriation is not large enough. One hundred and fifty thousand dollars is the smallest that has been appropriated, in my experience, for the construction of a branch Home.

The condition as to donation of land and springs to the institution seems correct. The second section of the bill does not, I think, need change. The bill is herewith returned.

Respectfully, yours,

W. B. FRANKLIN,

*President Board of Managers National Home  
for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers.*

HON. DANIEL S. LAMONT,

*Secretary of War, Washington, D. C.*

I think it will be well to have the name left blank, or to simply call it the Northern Branch, National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, and I also think the amount to be appropriated should be \$150,000 for the construction of the branch, in the first instance.

Respectfully, yours,

W. B. FRANKLIN,  
*President Board of Managers National Home  
for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers.*

Hon. R. F. PETTIGREW,  
*Chairman Committee on Indian Affairs,  
United States Senate, Washington, D. C.*

We have in these two communications a full indorsement of the bill for the erection of a Branch Home at Hot Springs by the president of the Board of Managers of the National Home. He approves of the location of the proposed Branch Home, and testifies to the necessity for another institution of that character for the relief of overcrowded Homes. General Franklin refers particularly to the opportunity here presented for the erection of a Branch Home with a view to future enlargement, should the exigencies of the service demand increased facilities. It appears, from the information obtained by your committee, that existing Homes are not susceptible of enlargement upon the basis of plans adopted and put in force.

Gen. W. W. Averell, assistant inspector-general of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, in a letter to Senator Pettigrew, of South Dakota, under date of February 13 last, says:

It may be well to mention that all the Branches of the Home this side of the Rocky Mountains are crowded, and they can not be enlarged for a greater population without a troublesome and expensive extension of their plants for cooking, heating, laundry, etc., which are now strained to their full capacity.

General Franklin doubtless had these conditions in view when he said, in his report to the Secretary of War, April 27, 1896:

The location at Hot Springs is an eligible one, and with the appropriation a hospital could be erected which would relieve the hospitals of the other Branches at once, and form the nucleus of a larger Branch, should one be required.

The demand upon the facilities of these homes of refuge is a growing one, and will increase rapidly for a number of years. The defenders of the nation have reached an age when many of them must succumb to physical disability and disease, and those whose declining years are attended by too frequent poverty must place themselves under the bounty of the nation. The importance, therefore, of a Branch Home that can be readily expanded to adapt itself to augmented numbers is apparent.

Regarding the curative properties of the medicinal waters of the Hot Springs your committee desires to speak at length. These springs were the resort of the Indians long before the white man found his way into the jealously guarded realm of the Black Hill's country, and were considered by the aborigine as a panacea for all diseases. Their fame had penetrated the confines of civilization long before the advancing wave of white settlement had swept back the line of opposition and driven the Indians from their last rallying point. As soon as the Anglo-Saxon had possessed himself of this long-contested ground, business methods began to be applied to the medicinal springs. They were made available to the public, their properties ascertained, and their curative qualities proclaimed. An extensive hotel was erected, baths constructed, and conveniences for the sick provided. In 1879 the State of South Dakota located and erected a Soldiers' Home at Hot Springs, and it is now a large institution, filled with veterans of the late war who reside in South Dakota. The waters of the springs have

been thoroughly tested, and in every instance have been found efficacious.

Official evidence of important facts in connection with these springs comes to your committee in the form of a report from Assistant Inspector-General Averell, who says:

BATH, N. Y., February 7, 1894.

DEAR SIR: I have been requested to present to you my views regarding the advisability of and necessity for the establishment of a sanitarium at Hot Springs, S. Dak. Your committee, I presume, has my reports of three visits to the State Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers at that place made in 1891, 1892, and 1893, which contain my knowledge of the climate and of the healing qualities of the waters of the Minnekatah or Hot Springs.

The unusual number of members discharged from the State Home during the year by reason of their recovery from the disabilities which had entitled them to its care and benefits first attracted my attention, and subsequently the results of the remarkable test made last year, 1893, upon thirty disabled men selected and sent from the Western Branch of the National Home have induced my belief in the efficacy of the waters of the Hot Springs for rheumatism, sciatica, spinal irritation, and nervous prostration.

The test, which is fully described in my report, was severe, but too brief. It was upon about 30 men, 18 of whom were treated for rheumatism. In the sixty days' test, 8 of them, or 44 per cent of those who were treated for rheumatism, were practically cured, the remainder all benefited, excepting 1, and those suffering from sciatica, spinal irritation, and nervous prostration were improved. I believe the percentage cured would have been doubled with four to six months' treatment. During the year ending June 30, 1893, there were in the Central, Marion, Northwestern, and Western Branches of the National Home an average number sick of 1,590, of which 853, or 53 per cent, were treated for rheumatism in its various forms, acute, subacute, and chronic (articular and muscular). These Branches are the nearest and most accessible to the South Dakota Hot Springs, and if provision were made for the treatment of those 853 members afflicted with rheumatism at the Hot Springs, and 44 per cent of them were cured, there would ensue a saving to the Government of the cost of their maintenance in the Homes, viz, \$52,875, computed upon the per capita cost of \$140.75, per annum, and there would be something added to the producing power of the country.

In the ten State Homes nearest the Hot Springs—Illinois, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, and Colorado—there were on the 30th of June, 1895, 488 members sick, of whom a much larger proportion, over 400, were treated for rheumatism. Assuming the same percentage of cures, 44, would result from a treatment at Hot Springs, there would be 176 restored to health, and there would follow a saving of \$100 per capita to the Government per annum, or \$17,600. Thus there might be a total saving effected per annum of \$70,000.

If a sanitarium were established at Hot Springs at a cost of \$100,000, and one-half the cases of rheumatism should be cured that might be sent to it for treatment from the most convenient Soldiers' Homes, I have no doubt it would pay for itself within five years after it was ready for occupation, in saving from cost of maintenance in Soldiers' Homes without cure. Without a cent of savings in money, the rescue from pain and misery, and the restoration to health of those men for whose welfare the Government is responsible, would, I believe, fully justify the establishment of the sanitarium.

In this view, it would be an economical undertaking for the public good, which the public would appreciate and approve.

I am, General, very truly, yours,

WM. W. AVERELL, U. S. A.,

*Assistant Inspector-General, National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers.*

Gen. JOHN C. BLACK,

*Chairman Subcommittee on Soldiers' Homes, etc.*

The report in detail upon the test cases at Hot Springs, S. Dak., referred to by General Averell, runs as follows:

CASE I.—Andrew J. Arnett, B, Sixth Kansas Infantry. Forwarded to South Dakota July 6, 1893. Locomotor ataxia. Returned to Western Branch July 26. No improvement under treatment.

CASE II.—Nathan J. Axtel, H, Fourteenth Illinois Infantry. Forwarded to South Dakota July 6, 1893. Muscular rheumatism, lumbago, nervous prostration, cystitis. Returned to Western Branch November 9. Rheumatism improved after treatment. Lumbago cured. Cystitis not benefited. Commenced Keeley treatment April 9,

1894, for tobacco; no influence on general health. No treatment in Western Branch Hospital.

CASE III.—Adam P. Bann, E, One hundred and sixteenth Indiana Infantry. Forwarded to South Dakota July 6, 1893. Chronic articular rheumatism; spinal irritation. Returned to Western Branch November 9. Rheumatism cured. Spinal irritation not materially benefited. Commenced Keeley treatment February 24, 1894. Health now completely restored. Is one of the most competent nurses in hospital at this time.

CASE IV.—Ira D. Chamberlain, D, Seventh Indiana Infantry. Forwarded to South Dakota July 6, 1893. Sciatica. Returned to Western Branch November 9. Since return from South Dakota (under treatment of Home surgeon) showed marked improvement. Used two crutches and suffered continual pain when he commenced treatment; now very much improved; uses only one cane. Now absent with leave at Washington, D. C.

CASE V.—Thomas Concannon, G, Sixty-ninth Illinois Infantry. Forwarded to South Dakota July 6, 1893. Chronic articular rheumatism and lumbago. Returned to Western Branch November 9. Greatly improved on return. Swellings all gone from hands and feet. Gained in weight and strength. Commenced Keeley treatment February 22, 1894. Physical condition greatly improved.

CASE VI.—Martin W. Cozine, D, Twelfth Missouri Cavalry. Forwarded to South Dakota July 6, 1893. Chronic articular rheumatism. Returned to Western Branch November 9. Very much improved by treatment. Is now absent with leave from hospital.

CASE VII.—Clark Eldridge, A, Third Rhode Island Cavalry. Forwarded to South Dakota July 6, 1893. Nervous prostration. Returned to Western Branch November 9. Claims to be not improved by treatment. Examination shows less tenderness of spine. Is hypochondriacal. Now in barracks.

CASE VIII.—Charles A. Gifford, H, Fourth Illinois Cavalry. Forwarded to South Dakota July 6, 1893. Diabetes mellitus. Returned to Western Branch November 9. Improved under treatment. Now in convalescent Company K.

CASE IX.—Patrick W. Gilligan, D, Thirteenth Indiana Infantry. Forwarded to South Dakota July 6, 1893. Lumbago; spinal irritation. Returned to Western Branch November 9. Improved under treatment; gained 4½ pounds. Now in barracks.

CASE X.—Gillman D. Grove, United States Navy. Forwarded to South Dakota July 6, 1893. Nervous prostration and lumbago. Returned to Western Branch November 9. Improved under treatment. Now in barracks.

CASE XI.—James Hanson, alias John Kerwin, H, Eleventh United States Infantry. Forwarded to South Dakota July 6, 1893. Chronic articular rheumatism. Returned to Western Branch November 9. General improvement in condition. Now in barracks.

CASE XII.—Philander Hudson, D, One hundred and seventh New York Infantry. Forwarded to South Dakota July 6, 1893. Chronic articular rheumatism. Returned to Western Branch November 9. Greatly improved by treatment. Swellings entirely disappeared from joints. Is now in barracks.

CASE XIII.—William H. Hughes, A, Ninth Ohio Cavalry. Forwarded to South Dakota July 6, 1893. Muscular rheumatism, with spinal irritation. Returned to Western Branch November 9. Rheumatism practically cured. Spinal irritation improved. Commenced Keeley treatment April 23, 1893. Left the Home at his own request July 29, 1893.

CASE XIV.—Thomas W. Jones, I, First California Cavalry. Forwarded to South Dakota July 6, 1893. Chronic articular rheumatism. Returned to Western Branch November 9. Was considerably improved under treatment. Now in barracks.

CASE XV.—Edward F. Kingsland, H, Second Colorado Cavalry. Forwarded to South Dakota July 6, 1893. Chronic articular rheumatism. Returned to Western Branch November 9. Greatly improved by treatment. Gained in strength, weight, and appearance. Now in barracks.

CASE XVI.—Alphonzo Longacre, G, One hundred and eighteenth Pennsylvania Infantry. Forwarded to South Dakota July 6, 1893. Locomotor ataxia. Died at Hot Springs, S. Dak., September 1, 1893.

CASE XVII.—John Mahony, C, Forty-third Ohio Infantry. Forwarded to South Dakota July 6, 1893. Muscular rheumatism and lumbago. Returned to Western Branch November 9. Greatly benefited. Pain entirely disappeared from back and shoulders. Gained in weight. Commenced Keeley treatment October 21, 1893. Is now orderly for Home treasurer and in good health.

CASE XVIII.—Albert Mueller, E, Second Illinois Light Artillery. Forwarded to South Dakota July 6, 1893. Chronic articular rheumatism. Returned to Western Branch November 9. Great improvement, but still swelling and pain in left ankle and left wrist. Gained in weight.

CASE XIX.—Edward McGloin, E, Third New Jersey Cavalry. Forwarded to

South Dakota July 6, 1893. Chronic articular rheumatism. Returned to Western Branch November 9. Worse than before treatment. Is now in hospital (Western Branch) under treatment.

CASE XX.—Evi T. Nichols, E, First Ohio Light Artillery. Forwarded to South Dakota July 6, 1893. Chronic articular rheumatism and lumbago. Returned to Western Branch November 9. Practically a well man; gain of 11 pounds in weight. Now in barracks.

CASE XXI.—Rozell Randall, K, Forty-ninth Wisconsin Infantry. Forwarded to South Dakota July 6, 1893. Nervous prostration. Returned to Western Branch November 9. Marked improvement. Spinal irritation less marked. Now in barracks.

CASE XXII.—Michael Shea, H, Twenty-seventh New Jersey Infantry. Forwarded to South Dakota July 6, 1893. Chronic articular rheumatism. Returned to Western Branch November 9. Improved in matter of less pain, which was principal reason for sending him to the Springs. Is now in hospital (Western Branch) under treatment.

CASE XXIII.—Patrick A. Somers, F, Two hundred and thirteenth Pennsylvania Infantry. Forwarded to South Dakota July 6, 1893. Chronic articular rheumatism. Returned to Western Branch November 9. No better for the treatment. Now in barracks.

CASE XXIV.—Abram Steadman, A, Thirty-first Ohio Infantry. Forwarded to South Dakota July 6, 1893. Chronic rheumatism. Returned to Western Branch November 9. Rheumatism entirely gone. Cystitis no better. Now in hospital (Western Branch) for latter.

CASE XXV.—John Walsh, United States Marine Corps. Forwarded to South Dakota July 6, 1893. Chronic muscular rheumatism. Returned to Western Branch November 9. Some improvement. Legs still painful. Commenced Keeley treatment February 2, 1894. Now in barracks as well as a man of his age could expect to be.

CASE XXVI.—Richard Youmans, hospital steward, United States Army. Forwarded to South Dakota July 6, 1893. Nephritis, lumbago, and rheumatism. Returned to Western Branch November 9. Rheumatism and lumbago both disappeared. Nephritis worse. Now in barracks.

CASE XXVII.—Frederick Zeigler, B, First Missouri Light Artillery. Forwarded to South Dakota July 6, 1893. Chronic articular rheumatism. Returned to Western Branch November 9. Rheumatism all gone.

I herewith respectfully submit my final report of the experimental test upon the details sent here (the Hot Springs of South Dakota) July 7, 1893, from the Western Branch National Military Home, Kansas, of the curative properties of the waters and climate of Hot Springs, S. Dak., for certain chronic diseases, the nature and history of which are fully given in detailed report above.

The number of men sent was 30, and time given for the test, sixty days; age of youngest patient, 46 years; oldest, 71 years; average age, 52 years.

As will be observed, the cases of locomotor ataxia, arthritis deformans, and aberration of the mind, conceded to be incurables, and sent only with the hope that some alleviation of suffering might be obtained, as well as others on account of age, poor constitutions, and complication of diseases, makes this an exceedingly severe test; and, contrary to expectations, cures have been effected and permanent benefits secured.

It is to be regretted that incurable cases, such as locomotor ataxia and senile decline, were sent here for two reasons: First, others could have been sent in their places who would have been cured; second, a better average and fuller credit given for cures and the treatment by the waters and the climate of this place.

As will be seen, almost every man was afflicted with rheumatic or nervous troubles, the same being cured in almost every instance. I am satisfied that a careful inspection by the medical board on the return of the men will bear me out in saying that all things considered, age of patients, shattered constitutions of some of them, variety and complication of diseases, and the chronic nature of all, that the result of this test, as shown by detailed report, is in every substantial sense highly satisfactory. A realization of all the claims put forth by the promoters of this experiment as to the virtues of the waters and climate of Hot Springs, S. Dak., and the desirability of this place for the location of a United States sanitarium for the treatment of such chronic diseases as most usually affect the old soldier is fulfilled.

I can not speak too highly of the courtesy and assistance given me by Gen. Joseph Knipe, and the excellent conduct of all men while under my care. Col. E. E. Clough, and the board of managers of the South Dakota Soldiers' Home, Commandant McGrew and wife, and all the officers of the Home have done all in their power to aid in securing the comfort of the men, and many thanks are due them for their untiring efforts to do so much good.

Very respectfully,

R. D. JENNINGS,  
Surgeon in Charge.



WESTERN BRANCH NATIONAL HOME  
FOR DISABLED VOLUNTEER SOLDIERS,  
September 9, 1893.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith my report on the condition before and after treatment of the patients sent to Hot Springs, S. Dak., to test the efficiency of the waters for various diseases.

Very respectfully, etc.,

O. C. McNARY,  
*Assistant and Acting Surgeon.*

Gen. W. W. AVERELL, U. S. A.,  
*Assistant Inspector-General National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers.*

To sum up:

Of the patients suffering from rheumatism and lumbago, eight are practically cured of that disease; the balance, except one, McGloin, are improved. McGloin is worse. Cases of sciatica improved, cases of cystitis were not benefited, cases of spinal irritation improved, cases of nervous prostration improved, cases of diabetes mellitus improved, case of nephritis worse.

Of the cases of locomotor ataxia one, Arnett, was sent home after two weeks on account of an aggravated renewal of the pains, no improvement; and one, Longacre, died at the Springs September 1, 1893.

The treatment by baths and drinking of the waters was supplemented by internal and external medication (in all or most cases, I believe), and in some cases by electricity.

The experiment would have been a better and truer test of the efficacy of the waters had this medication and electricity not been employed. As it is, we can not judge of the true virtues of the water. We can only judge of the results of the treatment employed as they present themselves.

The patients themselves, with two or three exceptions, believe their improvement would have been more perfect and lasting had they remained longer under the treatment. This I believe myself.

However, the benefits received by the patients sent are, in most cases, quite satisfactory.

Very respectfully submitted.

O. C. McNARY,  
*Assistant and Acting Surgeon.*

Your committee have been furnished with a copy of the analysis obtained by the superintendent of the South Dakota Soldiers' Home of the water of three of the springs in the Hot Springs group, and deem it of sufficient importance to incorporate within this report.

An analysis by Prof. G. A. Meringer, chemist, Chicago, resulted as follows:

MINNEKAHTA SPRINGS.

[Constituents, in grains.]

Silica .....	2.464
Peroxide of iron .....	Trace.
Calcium sulphate .....	16.352
Magnesium sulphate .....	4.320
Sodium sulphate .....	25.620
Potassium sulphate .....	13.790
Sodium chloride and potassa .....	62.546

*Analysis of two of the prominent springs by Prof. Charles B. Gibson, of Chicago, Ill.*

MAMMOTH MINERAL WATERS.

[Constituents, in grains, per gallon of 58.329.]

Total residue .....	83.1000
Inorganic and nonvolatile .....	71.0000
Organic and volatile .....	12.1100
Sulphate of sodium .....	23.2628
Sulphate of potassium .....	5.6272
Sulphate of calcium .....	36.1125
Chloride of calcium .....	5.5887
Chloride of ammonium .....	.0291

Chloride of magnesium.....	4. 1144
Nitrate of magnesium.....	. 3024
Phosphate of magnesium.....	. 0996
Carbonate of magnesium.....	3. 5057
Iron sesqui-oxide.....	. 1490
Alumina.....	. 2710
Silica.....	1. 5483

## LAKOTAH OR INDIAN SPRING MINERAL WATER.

[Constituents, in grains, per gallon of 58.329.]

Total residue.....	57. 2100
Inorganic and nonvolatile.....	49. 1600
Organic and volatile.....	8. 0500
Sulphate of sodium.....	8. 8241
Sulphate of potassium.....	3. 3312
Sulphate of calcium.....	16. 2909
Chloride of calcium.....	8. 4990
Chloride of ammonium.....	. 0491
Chloride of magnesium.....	3. 1403
Phosphate of calcium.....	. 3110
Nitrate of magnesium.....	. 1507
Carbonate of magnesium.....	3. 0445
Iron sesqui-oxide.....	. 2600
Alumina.....	. 0210
Silica.....	1. 8300

Commandant Lucas, of the South Dakota Soldiers' Home, located at Hot Springs, in a report to Assistant Inspector-General Averell, says:

After a careful observation of the results in the treatment of our sixty-odd veterans for severe and desperate cases of rheumatism, I am constrained to say that I have no longer doubts about the curative properties of the waters. Every case that has been treated in the Home (not an exception) has resulted in a perfect cure, or the patient is approaching it. These results I regard as little less than miraculous, when the enfeebled and broken-down condition of these men is taken into account. The waters are equally good and effective in treating cases of indigestion, scrofula, and all skin or cutaneous diseases.

The Hot Springs of South Dakota are located in the mountainous western end of the State—a region abounding in delightful scenery and all the health-giving influences of nature in the rough. No more charming surroundings can be found at any of the health resorts of the world. These springs lie within the boundaries of Fall River County, and about them has accumulated a community of a couple of thousand people, incorporated as a city of the second class. Its buildings are constructed with a generous display of architectural skill and taste. The city can be reached over two lines of railway. Its altitude is 3,400 feet above sea level. The atmosphere of that region is dry and bracing. Lying in a sheltered valley it is protected from winter's rigors, and it is altogether a most satisfactory abiding place for invalids or for those in search of recreation.

In closing this report your committee append a preamble and resolution adopted by the managers of the Soldiers' Homes of Colorado, Minnesota, and Kansas, in which the Congressional Representatives of those States are asked to give their support to the bill which is the subject of the favorable action of your committee.

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Whereas it is the policy of the National Board of Managers for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers' Homes to provide a sanitarium for the treatment of ex-soldiers who are afflicted with rheumatism and kindred diseases; and

Whereas from the published reports by General Averell and other indisputable evidence it has been demonstrated by thorough and fair tests that the hot water at Hot Springs, S. Dak., cures more than 60 per cent of such cases; and

Whereas an effort is being made to secure the location of such a sanitarium at Hot Springs, S. Dak.; and

Whereas we are satisfied from information furnished us that no better place has been yet discovered: Therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That we favor the location of a sanitarium at Hot Springs S. Dak., and urge our Representatives in Congress to support and aid in the passage of such bills as may be presented for that purpose.

OFFICE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SOLDIERS AND SAILORS' HOME OF COLORADO,  
Room 4, Capitol Building, Denver, December 5, 1895.

The above preamble and resolution were brought before the board and, after due consideration, the secretary was authorized to state on behalf of the board that both were unanimously indorsed and that this action shall form part of the permanent records of the commission.

Attest:

W. P. HARBATTLE, *Secretary*.

The above preamble and resolutions were adopted at a meeting of the board of trustees, Minnesota Soldiers' Home, February 11, 1896.

HENRY A. CARTH, *President*.  
J. R. B. BERBERG, *Secretary*.

This is to certify that the board of managers of the Kansas State Soldiers' Home indorsed the foregoing resolution on this 5th day of December, 1895.

By order of the board:|

J. H. STEWART, *Secretary*.  
Col. C. M. CUNNINGHAM, *Commandant*.

BATH, N. Y., January 8, 1898.

MY DEAR SENATOR: I hear that there is a movement in Congress toward the establishment of a sanitarium at Hot Springs, S. Dak., for the treatment of disabled volunteer soldiers afflicted with rheumatism or other complaints. As I have been inspecting the South Dakota Soldiers' Home at that place annually since 1891, I have had uncommonly good opportunities to note the results of the use of the water by rheumatics. I have seen there many ameliorations and apparent cures of rheumatism.

A considerable percentage of members have been annually discharged from the Home, at their own request, having been cured and having become able to work at manual labor. At my first visit in 1891 I noticed a man painting a dado along the wall ascending the main stairway. He was working rapidly and skillfully and I congratulated the commandant on having so good a workman, and he remarked that the man had been brought into the Home in a blanket only a few weeks before, helpless with rheumatism. This seemed almost incredible, but it invited me to an investigation from which, after two more inspections, came the conviction that I had learned enough to justify the recommendation of a careful, professional, and official test.

This purpose, and the reasons which supported it, were submitted to General Franklin, president of the Board of Managers of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, and he authorized me to take the action that you may find described in my report of 1893, page 191. In this you will find that thirty members of the Western Branch of the National Home were selected from those who were most afflicted with rheumatism, which in several of the cases was complicated with other diseases, and some were incurable. All were thoroughly and carefully examined by a surgeon of the Home, and the diagnosis of each was recorded before their departure. On their arrival at Hot Springs the thirty members were again carefully examined by another competent surgeon, who made a similar record to the one which had been made at the Western Branch. The same examination and record were made on their departure from Hot Springs and on their return to the Western Branch as was made sixty days before.

These patients remained under treatment only sixty days.

That so many complete cures and great ameliorations of the disease of rheumatism should be effected in a period so brief is at least remarkable, and that when this disease was complicated with other diseases and it alone was eliminated, it is reasonably certain that the water is efficacious for rheumatism.

A description of the locality of Hot Springs and the analysis of the water are given in my annual report of 1891, page 40.

There is a complete set of all my reports in the library of the Military Committee of the House. Rheumatism is one of the most prevalent diseases in the Soldiers' Homes. There is a large percentage of afflicted members who are not incurables and might be cured and restored to industry for a while.

There is no question of the necessity for such a sanitarium. If several hundreds who are afflicted with rheumatism, and not too old to be moved, were sent from the

Homes to an adequate sanitarium at Hot Springs, they would at once make room for worthy, needy, and eligible soldiers who are pressing for admission, and if the sanitarium was full, some of those that were cured might make their way and leave room to be filled with fresh accessions.

With the hope that this important project will receive the favorable consideration of a generous and patriotic Congress, I am, respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

WM. W. AVERELL, U. S. A.,

*Assistant Inspector-General, National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers.*

Hon. R. F. PETTIGREW,  
*United States Senate.*

