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Anthony W. Bayard. (To accompany bill H.R. no. 479.).

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ANTHONY W. BAYARD.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 479.]

JULY 19, 1856.

Mr. A. OLIVER, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, made the following

REPORT.

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom were referred the petition and papers of Anthony Walton Bayard, of Pennsylvania, having had the same under consideration, report:

That, after a careful examination of the case, they recommend for adoption the accompanying bill. Their reasons will be found in the following report of a former committee of the House, which they beg to annex to this report.

JANUARY 30, 1852.

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom were referred the petition and papers of Anthony Walton Bayard, of Bellefonte, Centre county, Pennsylvania, have had the same under consideration, and report:

That this petition and accompanying papers were first presented to the 29th Congress, January 10, 1846. On the 25th February, of the same year, a favorable report was made, and a bill introduced for his relief, providing for the payment of arrearages of pension.

The case was again presented to the 30th Congress, December 15, 1847, and a favorable report was made, and a bill introduced in his favor, with a like provision.

We find the case again presented to the 31st Congress, January 5, 1850, and on the 13th March of that year Mr. Leffler, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, made a detailed report, (Rep. No. 141, vol. 1,) in which all the material facts are set forth, and your committee adopt that report; which report was also accompanied by a bill granting him a pension of three hundred dollars a year, from the 1st January, 1850, to continue during his natural life:

The facts set forth in the report of Mr. Leffler are well sustained by the papers, and are as follows, viz :

“That it appears, from the papers of the petitioner, that he is entitled to a pension in consequence of several wounds received whilst in the service of the United States, during the last war with Great Britain, and that he was accordingly placed on the pension roll, at the rate of eight dollars per month, his pension to commence on the — day of March, 1844.

“The petitioner states that at the time of his discharge he knew that he was entitled to a pension; but, being at that time possessed of some property, he declined making an application for it, supposing that, in case his circumstances should ever render it necessary, he would be entitled to receive all arrearages. He further states, that he has now become poor; that he is very helpless and decrepit; and, inasmuch as no existing law will make him any allowance for arrearages of pension, he therefore prays for the passage of a special act authorizing him to receive such sum of money as will be equal to ninety-six dollars per year from the day of his discharge from the service up to the commencement of his present pension.

“The committee, in all ordinary cases, have declined recommending the passage of any law providing for the payment of arrearages of pension; but the petitioner insists that he is entitled to it, in consequence of the number and severity of his wounds, and the importance of the services rendered his country. He states that, at the time of the battle with the Indians at Fort Harrison, the enemy had succeeded in setting fire to one of the block-houses, from which the fire was communicated to the roof of the soldiers' barracks; that the commanding officer called for volunteers to mount the roof and extinguish the fire, which was within point-blank shot of the enemy's rifles; that the petitioner and another soldier volunteered and mounted the burning roof; that his companion was immediately shot down, and he severely wounded; but that he succeeded in extinguishing the fire, and thus saving a large amount of valuable property to his country, at the imminent peril of his life. He further states that, while in the line of his duty, he upon one occasion received a rifle-ball through his leg, below the knee; that upon another he had his jaw-bone and his skull fractured; and that upon a third a splinter from a shot cut his abdomen completely open for some six inches in length; and that the combined effect of all these wounds renders him wholly incompetent to support himself and family.

“The committee, from the certificate of the surgeon and his commanding officer, are satisfied that the above statement contains the simple truth. The committee therefore deem this a case which will warrant a departure from general rules, and accordingly recommend the passage of a bill for his relief.”

“The bill then reported not being reached, and the committee agreeing with the views set forth in said report, again recommending the passage of a bill for the relief of Anthony Walton Bayard, granting him an increase of pension which, including the amount now received as regular pension, will amount to the sum of three hundred

dollars per year; said additional pension to commence on the first day of January, 1850, and continue during his natural life."

This case was again presented to the present Congress, on the 16th of December, 1851, and referred to this committee, and we concur in the opinion of the three former committees, who have reported bills for his relief, and ask leave to introduce a bill to increase his pension to three hundred dollars a year, to commence January 1, 1850, during his natural life.