

IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JANUARY 24, 1832.

Read, and ordered to be printed, and 500 additional copies be furnished for use of Senate.

Mr. Foot made the following

REPORT:

The Committee on Pensions, to which was referred a bill supplementary to the act for the relief of certain surviving officers and soldiers of the revolution, report:

This bill proposes to grant annuities to the remnant of the revolutionary army, who have never received any portion of favor, liberality, bounty, or pension, for their arduous services, and severe sufferings, in the struggle for our independence.

The acts of 1818-'20, and '23, embraced all who had served nine months or longer on the continental establishment, under one enlistment, and who were in such reduced circumstances as to need the aid of their country for support. The construction generally given to the act of 1818, was, that it was designed to provide for all who had served nine months in the continental army; whether that service was continuous or not, whether on continental establishment, state troops, volunteers, or militia. This will account for the vast number of applications to the department to be placed upon the roll, and proves most conclusively, that almost the whole number of the survivors of that army did make application under that act. By returns received from the department, it appears that the whole number of applicants amounted to 33,515, of which number 20,394 have been placed on the roll under the act of 1818; of this number, 900 have been rejected because their service was not on continental establishment, and of course must have been State troops, volunteers, and militia.

In order to furnish satisfactory evidence of the fact, that nearly all the survivors of the revolutionary army have made application under the existing acts, the committee submit the following brief statement and estimate.

STATEMENT of number of troops in the service of the United States from 1775 to 1783, inclusive; showing the number furnished by each State: collected from authentic documents by A. Seybert.

STATES.	Regulars.	Militia estimated at one-half the regulars.	Total.
New Hampshire, - - -	12,496	6,248	18,744
Massachusetts, - - -	67,907	33,953	101,860
Rhode Island, - - -	5,908	2,954	8,862
Connecticut, - - -	31,939	15,969	47,908
New York, - - -	17,781	8,890	26,671
New Jersey, - - -	10,726	5,363	16,089
Pennsylvania, - - -	25,723	12,861	38,584
Delaware, - - -	2,387	1,193	3,580
Maryland, - - -	13,912	6,956	20,868
Virginia, - - -	26,678	13,339	40,017
North Carolina, - - -	7,263	3,631	10,894
South Carolina, - - -	6,417	3,218	9,635
Georgia, - - -	2,679	1,339	4,018
Aggregate, - - -	231,816	115,914	347,730

A STATEMENT of the number of non-commissioned officers and privates of the regular troops furnished by the several States during the revolutionary war, showing how many each State furnished, and the years in which they served.

STATES.	In 1775.	In 1776.	In 1777.	In 1778.	In 1779.	In 1780.	In 1781.	In 1782.	In 1783.
New Hampshire, -	2,824	3,019	1,172	1,283	1,004	1,017	700	744	733
Massachusetts, -	16,444	13,372	7,816	7,010	6,287	4,453	3,732	4,423	4,370
Rhode Island, -	1,193	798	548	630	507	915	464	481	372
Connecticut, -	4,507	6,390	4,563	4,010	3,544	3,133	2,420	1,732	1,740
New York, -	2,075	3,629	1,903	2,194	2,256	2,179	1,178	1,198	1,169
New Jersey, -	-	3,193	1,408	1,586	1,276	1,105	823	660	675
Pennsylvania, -	400	5,519	4,983	3,684	3,476	3,337	1,346	1,265	1,598
Delaware, -	-	609	299	349	317	325	89	164	235
Maryland, -	-	637	2,030	3,307	2,849	2,065	770	1,280	974
Virginia, -	-	6,181	5,744	5,236	3,973	2,846	1,225	1,204	629
North Carolina, -	-	1,134	1,281	1,287	1,214	-	545	1,105	697
South Carolina, -	-	2,069	1,650	1,650	907	-	-	-	139
Georgia, -	-	351	1,423	673	87	-	-	-	145
Total number furnished,	27,443	46,891	34,820	32,899	27,699	21,015	13,292	14,256	13,476

From which it appears that the whole number of troops of every description in the service during the war, amounted to 347,730 men; and by reference to the tables showing the expectation of life, as calculated by Professor Wigglesworth, it will be found that the result will correspond very nearly with that estimate; that of the whole number employed, 10 per cent. only could have been living in the year 1818, which would leave of the survivors of the army, 34,773; and the difference between the number of applicants 33,515, and the number as estimated by the annuity tables, leaves a balance of only 1,256 who did not apply under that act.

By further examination of those tables, it will appear that, in 1828, the decrement of human life, founded on the table of expectation, before referred to, is such as to show that 50 per cent., or at least one half, must be deducted; leaving, of the whole number of survivors, 17,386. But an estimate was made by the department, that the survivors, in 1826, would not exceed 18,000. Their average age at this time cannot, it is believed, be less than 74 years, and probably 75: their decrement for 6 years, according to Rankin or Milnor's tables, would reduce their present number to about 11,500. The number now on the list, by the returns from the department, is 11,896, and on the invalid rolls, 3,868; and, under the act of 15th May, 1828, to which this is supplementary, 850, but from this number should be deducted those who have not made application for their money, and may therefore be supposed to be dead. By a letter from the 3d Auditor, of January 2, 1832, it appears that the number "unpaid and unclaimed on the 4th March, 1829, is 1,996; and of those on the list on the 4th March, 1830, 2,137," which should be deducted; and this number added to the number of those stricken from the list, whose deaths have been announced to the department, and which are estimated by J. L. Edwards of the Pension Office, at "about 400 annually," will give the number of deaths of all those who have been on the roll, and will leave at the present time to be provided for by appropriation for revolutionary pensions only, 9,759; and according to the estimate of "100 dollars per man, including officers," as made by the department, will reduce the sum required for the payment of these pensions \$97,590. Calculations made by the tables will show very nearly the same result. Mr. Edwards, of the Pension Office, in a letter of the 18th instant, says, "my opinion is, that the number of 9 months' men, of the continental army, now alive, does not exceed 1,000; and those who served less than 9 months and more than 6 months, would not exceed that number." Although the committee are of opinion that this number will not be found living, by any calculations they have made, still they are disposed to assume the number in preference to any they could fix by calculation, coming as it does from the department which has the best means of making the estimate.

The committee, from all the documents and other information which they have been able to obtain, present the following estimate of the number which will be embraced by the bill under consideration, and the amount of appropriation necessary to meet the expenditures.

From statement No. 1, it will be perceived that the number of militia, &c. is estimated at 115,914. By making the same allowances and estimates which were made in relation to the whole number, say 10 per cent., in 1818, the result would be that, of the whole number in 1818, 11,591 remained; deduct one-half or 50 per cent, leaves 5,795; which very nearly corresponds with the relative proportion at present on the pension list.

By examining the journals of Congress during the period of the war, it does not appear that more than 38,280 were, by resolutions of Congress, ordered into service for more than 6 months. The following minutes will show the only data from which the estimates have been made of militia, State troops, and volunteers.

State Troops, &c. (from Journals of old Congress.)

Vol. 1, page 123.	July, 1775,	New York,	5,000	"to secure the lakes and protect the frontiers."
				No time specified.
" "	151. Oct.	" New Jersey, 2 bat.	1,264	For one year.
" "	153. Oct.	" Pennsylvania, 1 bat.	632	Do.
" "	203. Dec.	" Pennsylvania, 4 bat.	2,528	Do.
" "	203. "	" Delaware, 1 bat.	632	Do.
" "	225. Jan. 1776,	Pennsylvania, 1 bat.	632	Do.
" "	230. "	" New Hampshire, 1 bat.	632	Do.
		" Connecticut, 1 bat.	632	Do.
		" New York, 1 bat.	632	Do.
" "	233,	" New Jersey, 1 bat.	632	Do.
" "	299, Mar.	" South Carolina,	1,264	
" "	363, June,	" Massachusetts,	2,000	Six months.
		Connecticut,	5,500	
		New York,	3,000	
		New Jersey,	3,300	
		Pennsylvania,	6,000	
		Maryland,	3,400	
		Delaware,	600	
		Flying camp,		
			<u>38,280</u>	
" "	386, June, 1776,	N. Hampshire, 4 reg's.	2,528	
" "	399, July,	" Massachusetts,	1,896	
" "	419, "	" Pennsylvania,	2,528	
		New Jersey,	1,896	
Vol. 2, page 104,	Apr. 1777,	Pennsylvania,	3,000	
" "	105, "	" Delaware,	1,500	
" "	216, "	" New Jersey, as many as Gen. W. might require.		
		" N. Hampshire,	Such number as the commanding officer shall judge sufficient.	
		Massachusetts,		
		Connecticut,		
		New York,		
		New Jersey,		
		Pennsylvania,		
" "	237, Aug.	" Maryland,	{ 2,000	Three months.
		Pennsylvania,	{ 2,000	
		Delaware,	{ 4,000	
		Virginia, one-third of the militia of 8 counties therein,	{ 1,000	
" "	499, Apr. 1778,	Maryland,	{ 5,000	
		Pennsylvania,		
		New Jersey,		

Vol. 3, page 42, Sept.	“ Pennsylvania,	300
“ “ 405, Nov. 1779,	The Commander in Chief to apply to any of the States for as many militia as he may judge requisite.	
“ “ 467, June, 1780,	Virginia,	5,000, and 3,000 additional.
	North Carolina,	4,000, and 2,000 additional.

The committee therefore present this, the result of their examination, as constituting the number to be provided for under this bill, if it should become a law, after making a liberal allowance over their calculations, to meet any excess arising from uncertainty, in respect to the number which may apply, by adding short terms of service at different periods, to constitute six months' service.

Of the regular army, so called,	-	-	-	-	2,000
State troops, of ten regiments, 5000 strong, estimated now					
living, one-tenth part,	-	-	-	-	500
Volunteers and militia, allowing the same proportion as is found by the best calculation of the regular army	-				6,500

Whole estimated at 10,000 men.

It is believed that the number cannot be greater, when it is recollected that a great portion of the State troops, &c. ordered into service, were ordered before the close of the year 1776. Their average ages at this time must be 77 years; and by the tables, the reduction should be near 25 per cent., even from 74.

It may, perhaps, be fairly estimated, that, under this bill, the average service will not exceed one year; and the annuity to the soldier, being one-half of his pay in the line, $\$3\frac{23}{100}$ per month, will amount to \$40 per annum—\$400,000.

By computation of the relative proportion of officers on the pension list, it may be estimated that one in thirty three are officers; and the average pay to each \$15 per month, which would make 333 at \$180 = \$59,940. But it is believed that the greater portion of the officers are already provided for, by former acts of Congress; and that the whole number of the officers cannot exceed 275—whose pay would amount to

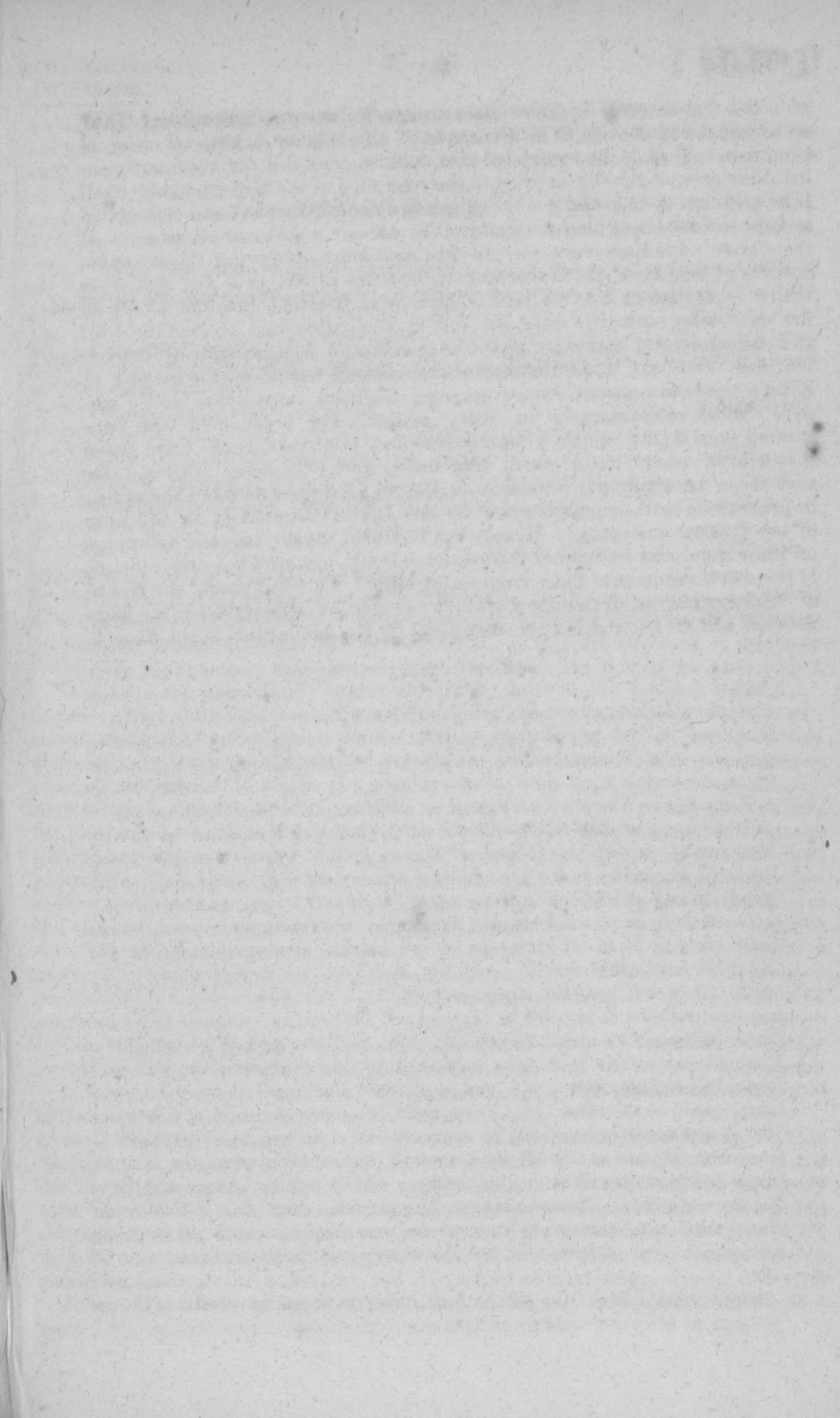
To which add estimate for men	-	-	-	-	49,500
					400,000

Making total amount - - \$449,500

Under the operation of this bill, this amount may be found necessary for three years; and afterwards, a deduction of at least 25 per cent. may be expected for four years more, which, according to the tabular estimates, will leave but few pensioners on the rolls.

This bill embraces no new principle, except one of equal justice. If the fact be, as has been estimated, that two-thirds of the whole number of the pensioners were of those who enlisted after the year 1780, and saw very little service, and endured little suffering—were comparatively well fed and comfortably clad, and have received more than \$1300 since the year 1818, is it unreasonable to allow to the small remnant of those who fought the battles, endured the sufferings and privations of that army, during the most eventful period of the war, the little pittance proposed by this bill? Is it

objected that this bill includes State troops, volunteers, and militia? They were called into service to fill the ranks of the regular army, by order of Congress. Will it be contended that because they did not voluntarily enlist, they are not equally entitled to the liberality of the Government? Shall it be said that an American was impressed into the service, and compelled to fight the battles of his country, and not receive a just compensation? If there is any one class more meritorious, and more deserving the favorable notice and bounty of the Government, than any other, is it not that class which is embraced by this bill? Those who breasted the first shock of the war—who rushed to meet the foe at Lexington and at Bunker hill; at Bennington and Saratoga; at White plains and Long island; at Princeton and Trenton; at Germantown and Brandywine; at Yorktown; at King's mountain and at Eutaw springs; Guilford court house and Camden? Who shared largely in every battle? The brave men who constituted your flying camps, your minute-men, your volunteers, your brave invincibles; under the devoted, the heroic, and chivalrous Marion. Or shall those be excluded, who were drafted to fill up the ranks of the army, to prevent its total dismemberment in the face of the enemy, in the time of our greatest extremity? History has recorded the services and sufferings of these men, and let her not record the nation's ingratitude—nor injustice to this small remnant of the revolutionary army! This bill passed the House of Representatives, at the last session, by a vote (as appears from the journals) of 132 to 52, and is now submitted, by the committee, to the Senate.



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