36TH CONGRESS, 1st Session. } HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. { REPORT No. 220.

ANN SCOTT.

[To accompany Bill S. No. 60.]

The Committee on Naval Affairs, to whom was referred Senate bill (No. 60) for the relief of Ann Scott, have considered the same, and adopt the Senate report, and recommend the passage of the bill.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES, *January* 26, 1859.

Mr. HALE made following report, (to accompany bill S. 533:)

The memorialist alleges that she is the widow of the late William B. Scott, who was appointed navy agent at Washington city in the year 1834, and for the faithful performance of the duties of which office he gave the bonds required; that in the year 1839, in addition to his duties as navy agent, he was charged with the payment of navy pensions, and in consequence was required to increase the penalty of his bond, under separate sureties, as navy pension agent, as well as to employ extra force in his office, for which no provision was made at the time of his appointment, and that he continued so to disburse the amounts due to said pensioners until June 5, 1849, when he ceased to be navy agent.

Your memorialist further alleges that judgment was obtained against her said husband by the United States for the sum of $6,000, or thereabouts, being money retained by him on account of services rendered in the disbursement of pensions; and that he, notwithstanding the uniform practice of allowing to other pension agents (an office entirely distinct from that of navy agent) a percentage on the disbursements made by them, was debarred an offset to said judgment in his claim for commissions for similar labor and responsibility; and further, that in order to satisfy said judgment it was necessary to sacrifice property to which she was entitled in her own right.

The memorialist, therefore, prays that the accounts of her said husband may be adjusted and settled, after allowing therein such commission as has been allowed to his successor, who went into the office of navy agent with the duty of pension agent attached thereto at the time of his appointment, and at his acceptance of said office, which, as heretofore shown, was not the case at the time of the appointment of her husband.

From facts before your committee, it appears that the said William B. Scott, besides performing the full duty of navy agent, as defined at the time of his appointment, and other onerous duties devolved upon him by the Navy Department in *payments made by him to con-*

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tractors who, by the terms of their contracts, were to be paid at other places than at Washington, and by other agents, disbursed during the period in which he acted as pension agent—about ten years—the sum of $179,491 32.

From the very large additional risk, responsibility, and labor devolved upon the said William B. Scott by these new duties, for the proper performance of which separate bond was required and given, as well as the losses of property occasioned to him thereby, and from the fact that it was not a part of his office at the time of his appointment as navy agent, as well as the further fact that his successor was allowed and paid a commission for similar services, your committee deem this a case of peculiar hardship, and that in justice and equity the memorialist is entitled to the relief from Congress she prays, for which the accompanying bill is reported, with the recommendation that it do pass.