

IRA STOUT.

MARCH 21, 1904.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. MIERS, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 3819.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 3819) granting an increase of pension to Ira Stout, submit the following report:

This bill proposes to increase the pension of the soldier named therein from \$12 to \$50 per month.

Ira Stout, now 66 years of age, who served as a corporal in Company E, Fiftieth Indiana Infantry, from September 23, 1861, to November 29, 1862, when discharged on surgeon's certificate of disability by reason of atrophy of the liver, is now pensioned under the act of June 27, 1890, at \$12 per month for total disability, the result of chronic diarrhea, disease of liver, rheumatism, disease of heart, varicose veins of both legs, loss of sight of right eye, and locomotor ataxia.

He was formerly pensioned under the general law on account of chronic diarrhoea and disease of liver at \$4 per month from discharge, and at \$6 per month from February 10, 1886.

A claim on account of additional disabilities, based upon rheumatism and varicose veins of both legs, was rejected in October, 1900, upon the ground of no record of the existence of said disabilities in the War Department, no medical evidence of treatment in the service or for years thereafter, and that the best obtainable evidence, with the aid of a special examination, failed to satisfactorily show the incurrence of said disabilities in the service.

This action of the Pension Bureau was affirmed by Assistant Secretary Campbell in November, 1902, upon the ground that the evidence in the claim as to the incurrence of these disabilities was very contradictory and that several of the witnesses in their testimony before the special examiner repudiated their statements made by affidavit.

There is, however, some testimony of comrades tending to show that the soldier suffered from rheumatism, and some that he complained of

varicose veins while in the service, and some testimony of neighbors that he continued to complain of rheumatism since his discharge.

When last examined, on January 14, 1903, the board of surgeons described his condition as follows:

Bowels flat and tympanitic. Obstinate constipation exists. Both knees and ankles are swollen and painful, motion entirely gone, due to paralysis. Veins of both legs below the knees moderately enlarged. Liver and spleen enlarged. Left eye totally blind. Suffers from locomotor ataxia with sense of constriction around waist and of cushion beneath feet. Sensibility of legs impaired one-half. Motion entirely absent in both legs. Bladder paralyzed. Bowels partially paralyzed. Some swelling of feet and ankles.

A resolution of Minor Padget Post, No. 180, G. A. R., Department of Indiana, filed with your committee, petitions Congress that the pension of the beneficiary be increased to such an amount as totally disabled soldiers should receive.

The statement of Hon. F. M. Griffith, the member who introduced the bill, filed with your committee, shows that he is personally acquainted with the beneficiary; knows that he is confined to his home and bed by reason of paralysis and requires the aid and assistance of another person; that he has no property except some household goods, and is wholly dependent upon his pension of \$12 per month.

An increase of the soldier's pension to \$30 per month is recommended; this rating being in line with many precedents in similar cases.

The passage of the bill is therefore recommended when amended as follows:

In line 8 strike out the word "fifty" and insert in lieu thereof the word "thirty."

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