

JAMES SLEETH.

JANUARY 17, 1905.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 11399.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 11399) granting an increase of pension to James Sleeth, submit the following report:

An increase of pension from \$12 to \$36 per month is sought in the bill.

The officer named in this bill, now 82 years of age, served as assistant surgeon of the Sixth Michigan Cavalry from March 1, 1863, to November 7, 1865, when honorably discharged.

The medical records of the War Department show that he was under treatment at various dates during the period of his service for diarrhea; and the files of the Pension Bureau show that he is now pensioned under the act of June 27, 1890, at \$12 per month for total disability, the result of hernia, rheumatism, and disease of heart.

When last examined, on October 7, 1891, the board of surgeons found an indirect inguinal hernia of the left side, rheumatism of left shoulder and right kneejoint, and organic disease of the heart.

Proof filed with your committee shows that the officer is in needy circumstances, he being a poor man and with little, if any, means, and medical evidence filed shows that the officer is barely able to be about with the use of a cane, greatly enfeebled, suffering from a hernia and a bronchial trouble, which has kept him confined to his bed and room during the past winter.

In view of the claimant's advanced age, his faithful services of over two years, and his inability to earn a support by manual labor by reason of physical disabilities, a reasonable increase of his pension may very properly be allowed to aid in his support.

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

In lines 7 and 8 strike out the word "thirty-six" and insert in lieu thereof the word "twenty-four."