FRANCIS FORBES

JANUARY 14, 1926.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed

Mr. SPEAKS, from the Committee on Military Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 1721]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to which was referred the bill (H. R. 1721), providing for the relief of Francis Forbes, having considered the same, report thereon with the recommendation that it do pass.

This bill is similar to one favorably reported by your committee in the Sixty-eighth Congress.

The merits of the measure were carefully gone into by the subcommittee of the Military Affairs Committee at that time and the report made in the preceding Congress contains all the pertinent facts. That report is accordingly made a part of this report as follows:

[House Report No. 798, Sixty-eighth Congress, first session]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 6775) for the relief of Francis Forbes, having considered the same, report thereon with a recommendation that it do pass.

The official records of the War Department show that Francis Forbes was enrolled September 5, 1862, and was mustered into service October 30, 1862, at Elmira, N. Y., as a private in Company I, Tenth Regiment New York Cavalry, to serve three years. He is shown present or properly accounted for on the rolls of that organization to April 30, 1864. On the rolls subsequent to that date he is reported as follows: June 30 to October 31, 1864, absent at dismounted camp; December 31, 1864, to April 30, 1865, absent, sick in hospital; July 19, 1865 (date of company muster-out roll of Company I, First Regiment New York Provisional Cavalry, to which transferred by consolidation), absent, sick; no discharge given.

This soldier enlisted and served honorably for three years. No charge of desertion rests against his record, as is shown by the official records. He was absent, sick in the hospital at the time of muster out of his company and he undoubtedly did not appreciate the importance of securing a discharge. There is no record of his ever having applied for a discharge.

The evidence in this case shows that Mr. Forbes has always been self-supporting until the winter of 1924, when his health failed completely, and he is now unable to work. He has no property other than a small wagon shop worth approximately $300, nor has he any income.
REPORT

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whose attention was referred the matter of a reorganization of the Indian schools, through the agency of a secret bureau, as provided by the act of June 25, 1871, for the purpose of promoting the best interests of the Indian children, and for the purpose of securing the most efficient instruction of such children, reported as follows:

The committee having had the matter under consideration, respectfully recommend:

1. That the General School Board be and is hereby created, with powers and duties as follows:
   a. To establish and maintain schools for the instruction of Indian children, both male and female, within the several reservations, and to provide for the maintenance and support of such schools.
   b. To determine the number and location of schools to be established, and to appoint suitable teachers for the same.
   c. To make rules and regulations for the government and management of such schools, and to provide for the discipline of such schools.
   d. To determine the qualifications of teachers, and to provide for their compensation.
   e. To direct the expenditure of funds appropriated for the support of such schools, and to provide for the maintenance of such schools.

2. That the General Superintendent be and is hereby appointed, with powers and duties as follows:
   a. To exercise general supervision over the Indian schools, and to superintend the performance of the duties of the General School Board.
   b. To make visits to the several schools, and to report thereon to the General School Board.
   c. To make reports to the President of the United States, on the progress and prospects of the Indian schools, and to make recommendations for their improvement and development.
   d. To determine the number and location of schools to be established, and to appoint suitable teachers for the same.
   e. To make rules and regulations for the government and management of such schools, and to provide for the discipline of such schools.
   f. To determine the qualifications of teachers, and to provide for their compensation.
   g. To direct the expenditure of funds appropriated for the support of such schools, and to provide for the maintenance of such schools.

The committee also recommend that the General School Board be authorized to purchase and convey all lands necessary for the maintenance and support of the Indian schools, and to take such steps as may be necessary to secure the best interests of the Indian children, and to promote their education and welfare.