

one hundred thousand men. If these men were paid the bounty proposed by the bill, it would make a total payment, for forty-eight months, of eight hundred and eighty million dollars. One half of this amount would represent the total amount due for bounties, provided that not a dollar had been paid.

The Paymaster General of the Army, in April, 1876, stated to the Military Committee of the House of Representatives, that the total bounty paid by the United States Government up to March 31, 1876, was three hundred and eighty-five million nine hundred and seventy thousand six hundred and eighty-one dollars. This amount deducted from the four hundred and forty million, which would be half of the amount named above, would leave fifty-four million eighty-two thousand three hundred and eighteen dollars as the difference between what has been paid under the present bounty laws and the amount which would have been paid under this bill, provided that the average force of one million one hundred thousand men were entitled to bounty; but it is estimated that of this force, there were at least five hundred and twenty-one thousand men who were not entitled to bounty. This would leave to be paid twenty-eight million thirty-two thousand three hundred and eighteen dollars. These are the figures of the Paymaster General, and it is probably the most liberal estimate.

Adjutant General Townsend's estimate, as stated above, is much less a sum. Other prominent officers of the army, who are equally capable of judging, have even gone so far as to assert that ten million dollars would be all that would be required to pay the amount this bill calls for.

On account of the vast amount of clerical labor and investigation that will be necessary to insure the proper payment of this bounty, when the bill has been passed, it will require at least ten years to settle all the claims against the Government that will be brought under it; so that, taking twenty million dollars as the total amount required, it would only be a draft upon the Government of between one and two million dollars a year after the first year or two, when the cases that are the most apparent could be immediately decided upon. The public debt is now being reduced three or four times that amount each year, and a generous government ought to devote a portion of this reduction to rewarding her faithful and patriotic soldiers. Twenty millions of dollars is not too high a price to pay for an act of justice. If there are any who think it is, let them reflect a moment on the great work accomplished and the value of the services rendered. The nation is burdened with a debt. The interest that is annually paid on this debt is a staggering load to bear, but the times are becoming more prosperous. The money to be paid under this bill will not impoverish the Union, but on the contrary, it will lift from the industries of the country a burden that has long rested upon them. It will relieve want, inspire activity, and find its way into the business channels, and, like life infused into the sinking frame, will impart life and vigor. It will go, not into the pockets of the capitalists, but into the hands of the poor, the industrious, the deserving, and, in the shape of products of labor, will contribute to the general wealth, and in time be restored to the nation that gave it. The wealth of a nation is not merely an accumulation of gold and silver. It is to be found usually in the happiness of its people, and in the loyal satisfaction expressed by them in the wisdom and justice of its laws. To promote this happiness, to rekindle the affection of the soldiers who have just cause for complaint, this bill demands attention.

THE ROLL OF HONOR.

The following members of the House of Representatives of the Forty-fifth Congress, which meets on the 15th of October, were members of the last House, and voted, on the 20th of June, 1876, for the passage of the Bill to Equalize Bounties. The soldiers will remember them:

ATKINS, Democrat, of Tennessee.
 BAKER, Republican, of Indiana.
 BAKER, Republican, of New York.
 BALLOU, Republican, of Rhode Island.
 BANKS, Republican, of Massachusetts.
 BANNING, Democrat, of Ohio.
 BLAIR, Republican, of New Hampshire.
 BLAND, Democrat, of Missouri.
 BURCHARD, Republican, of Illinois.
 CANNON, Republican, of Illinois.
 CASWELL, Republican, of Wisconsin.
 CLARK, Democrat, of Missouri.
 CLYMER, Democrat, of Pennsylvania.
 COOK, Democrat, of Georgia.
 CUTTER, Republican, of New Jersey.
 DANFORD, Republican, of Ohio.
 DENNISON, Republican, of Vermont.
 DIBRELL, Democrat, of Tennessee.
 DUNNELL, Republican, of Minnesota.
 EAMES, Republican, of Rhode Island.
 EDEN, Democrat, of Illinois.
 FINLEY, Democrat, of Florida.
 FORT, Republican, of Illinois.
 FOSTER, Republican, of Ohio.
 FRANKLIN, Democrat, of Missouri.
 FREEMAN, Republican, of Pennsylvania.
 FRYE, Republican, of Maine.
 FULLER, Democrat, of Indiana.
 GLOVER, Democrat, of Missouri.
 HARALSON, Republican, of Alabama.
 HARTZELL, Democrat, of Illinois.
 HATCHER, Democrat, of Missouri.
 HAMILTON, Democrat, of Indiana.
 HENDEE, Republican, of Vermont.
 HENDERSON, Republican, of Illinois.
 HEWITT, Democrat, of Alabama.
 HEWITT, Democrat, of New York.
 HUBBELL, Republican, of Michigan.
 JONES, Democrat, of New Hampshire.
 JOYCE, Republican, of Vermont.
 KELLEY, Republican, of Pennsylvania.
 LANDERS, Democrat, of Connecticut.
 LEVY, Democrat, of Louisiana.
 MACKAY, Democrat, of Pennsylvania.
 MAISH, Democrat, of Pennsylvania.
 McMAHON, Democrat, of Ohio.
 METCALE, Democrat, of Missouri.
 MONROE, Republican, of Ohio.
 MORGAN, Democrat, of Missouri.
 MORRISON, Democrat, of Illinois.
 MUTCHLER, Democrat, of Pennsylvania.
 OLIVER, Republican, of Iowa.
 O'NEIL, Republican, of Pennsylvania.
 PAGE, Republican, of California.
 PHILLIPS, Republican, of Kansas.
 RAINEY, Republican, of South Carolina.
 RANDALL, Democrat, of Pennsylvania.
 REA, Democrat, of Missouri.
 REILLEY, Democrat, of Pennsylvania.
 RICE, Democrat, of Ohio.
 ROBBINS, Democrat, of North Carolina.
 ROBINSON, Republican, of Indiana.
 SAMSON, Republican, of Iowa.
 SAYLER, Democrat, of Ohio.
 SINNICKSON, Republican, of New Jersey.
 SMALLS, Republican, of South Carolina.
 SMITH, Republican, of Pennsylvania.
 SOUTHARD, Republican, of Ohio.
 SPRINGER, Democrat, of Illinois.
 STRAIT, Republican, of Minnesota.
 STENGER, Democrat, of Pennsylvania.
 TURNEY, Democrat, of Pennsylvania.
 VAN VOORHEES, Republican, of Ohio.
 WAITE, Republican, of Connecticut.
 WALSH, Democrat, of Maryland.
 WILLIAMS, Republican, of Wisconsin.
 YEATES, Democrat, of North Carolina.

Each one of these gentlemen, as far as we can learn, can be depended upon to vote in favor of the bill when it comes up again in the Forty-fifth Congress. There are a number of other members who were absent at the time this vote was taken, but who can be depended upon to support the measure, and will make a sufficient number

to secure its passage, even without the aid of the new members, many of whom will no doubt be in favor of the bill.

PENSIONS NOT A GRATUITY.

It is a common mistake, on the part of pensioners and the public, to suppose that a pension given by the Government is a mere gratuity to its patriotic soldiers. This is not so. To give a pension to a soldier disabled by wounds, injuries, or diseases, or the family of a dead soldier, is merely the fulfillment of a CONTRACT made by the United States with every man who enlists in its military service.

The soldiers of the rebellion and their families have a warm and active friend in Adjutant General Townsend of the Army. He appreciates, as fully as any man, what is due to those who are entitled to pensions, and makes it a labor, not only of duty, but of love, to secure their rights. Much of the clerical labor and investigation incident upon pension matters is performed in the office of the Adjutant General, and we take pleasure in acknowledging, in behalf of the pensioners of the Government, the unremitting attention which General Townsend always devotes to his duties, in this particular. He has been of great service, too, in aiding the passage of laws by Congress remedying the defects in the present system of paying pensions.

Plain Words About Justice.

Last session, when General Logan was endeavoring to persuade the Senate to consider the bill to equalize bounties he uttered the following words:

"I desire to say to the Senate that this bill has passed the House since the year 1863 five different times and the Senate once, and it is now before the Senate again, having passed the House by a great majority at this session. I deem it just to the soldiers of this country who were defrauded out of their bounty that this Government should pay it at some time, and I think that they have waited long enough for it. I feel that I can demonstrate to the Senate or any other body that there is no one asking bounty by this bill except those who are entitled to it, and who ought to have had it long ago. I give notice now that I will call it up every morning, and I will call the yeas and nays as to whether it shall be taken up or not, until the country shall fully understand whether or not these men are to be longer deprived of that to which they are justly entitled."

But the Senate refused to take up the bill, by a vote of twenty to twenty-five, as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Allison, Boutwell, Cameron of Wisconsin, Conkling, Dawes, Ferry, Hamlin, Harvey, Hitchcock, Ingalls, Key, Logan, McMillan, Mitchell, Morton, Paddock, Wadleigh, West, Windom, and Wright—20.

NAYS—Messrs. Authouy, Bayard, Bogy, Booth, Caperton, Christiancy, Cooper, Davis, Eaton, Edmunds, Frelinghuysen, Gordon, Hamilton, Kelly, Kernan, McCreery, Maxey, Merrimon, Morrill of Vermont, Sargent, Saulbury, Sherman, Wallace, Whyte, and Withers—25.

ABSENT.—Messrs. Alcorn, Barnum, Bruce, Burnside, Cameron of Pennsylvania, Clayton, Cockrell, Conover, Cragin, Dennis, Dorsey, Goldthwaite, Howe, Johnson, Jones of Florida, Jones of Nevada, McDonald, Morrill of Maine, Norwood, Oglesby, Patterson, Randolph, Ransom, Robertson, Sharon, Spencer, Stevenson, and Thurman—28.

COMMISSIONER BENTLEY'S NEW PLAN.

We can give the heartiest approval of the manner in which Commissioner Bentley has conducted the affairs of the Pension Office, but we must take issue with him over a new plan he has proposed to abolish the present system of examining surgeons, and establish another, which we think will not be as advantageous to the Government, or to the pensioners as that at present in operation.

In his last report to Congress, Commissioner Bentley describes his plan as follows:

"In place of the present system, under which the claims are established by *ex parte* affidavits, generally framed by the claimant's attorney, of persons unknown to the office, and by the certificates of examining surgeons whose relations to the claimant, as the neighborhood practitioner, constitutes a powerful temptation to unduly favor him, a system should be adopted which will give to the office an opportunity to closely question both the claimant and his principal witnesses, and secure medical examina-