

The Senate Committee on Pensions has referred the bill to Senator Davis, of Illinois, ex-Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court, a man of great fairness and judicial learning. Judge Davis hesitates to say what disposition will be made of the bill, but he will advise the Committee on Pensions to report it favorably. He has been furnished with all the facts bearing on the subject, and will be ready to make a report to the committee at an early date.

The whole number of persons entitled to pensions as survivors of the Mexican war is seven thousand, including many already on the pension rolls, and others who have died since the work of enrollment began; out of this number, 4,629 had been classified by regiments, &c., at the close of the last Congress. Of this fractional number, there was found an average of about forty-four survivors to forty regiments of regulars and volunteers enumerated. Now, assuming that this fractional number (4,620) covers one-half the men still living, say 9,258, which amount is 2,258 more than have been found by the agencies of the local associations, it affords a fair and reasonable basis for the congressional committee to estimate the true number of survivors. For example, the forty regiments referred to consist of four hundred companies, and embrace 3,400 survivors, being an average of 8.5 to the company. The official records of the War Department show there were 1,033 companies of men in the war, aggregating 100,454 men of all grades of rank. Multiplying the whole number of companies by the average number of survivors in four hundred companies, gives us a total of 8,780 survivors.

But, in an estimate based on the number employed in the war, (100,454,) the important facts should be taken into the account that 12,896 deaths occurred during the war from all causes; 2,778 were mustered in who were not sent to the seat of war; 6,725 deserted, and will not be eligible to pension; 9,749 were discharged for wounds and other disabilities, and were probably afterward put upon the pension rolls, besides a vast number of the three, six, and twelve-months' volunteers re-enlisted, and are thus duplicated in the grand aggregate of 100,454. Deduct the figures here given, amounting to 32,148, (without regard to the number of re-enlistments, which cannot be obtained from published reports,) and we have, as the grand aggregate, 68,306 individuals who came out of the war, which is only about eight times the number estimated by the association to be alive at the end of thirty years after the war.

SOLDIERS OF THE WAR OF 1812.

The bill granting pensions to veterans of the war of 1812 is as follows:

Be it enacted, &c., That the act granting pensions to the surviving soldiers of the war of 1812, &c., approved February 14, 1871, be amended so as to read as follows: That the Secretary of the Interior be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to place on the pension rolls the names of the surviving officers and enlisted and drafted men, including militia and volunteers, of the military and naval service of the United States who served for ten days in the war with Great Britain of 1812, and were honorably discharged, and the surviving widows of such officers and enlisted and drafted men; *Provided*, That such widows shall have been married prior to the year 1850 to such officer or enlisted or drafted men.

SEC. 2. That this act shall not apply to any person who is receiving a pension at the rate of \$8 per month or more, nor to any person receiving a pension of less than \$8 per month, except for the difference between the pension now received—if less than \$8 per month—and \$8 per month. Pensions under this act shall be at the rate of \$8 per month, except as herein provided, and shall be paid to the persons entitled thereto, from and after this act, for and during their natural lives; *Provided*, That the pensions to widows provided for in this act shall cease when they shall marry again.

SEC. 3. That before the name of any person shall be placed on the pension rolls under this act, proof shall be made, under such rules and regulations as the Commissioner of Pensions, with the approval of the Secretary of the Interior, shall prescribe, that the applicant is entitled to a pension under this act; and any person who shall falsely

take any oath required to be taken under the provisions of this act shall be guilty of perjury. And the Secretary of the Interior shall cause to be stricken from the rolls the names of any persons when it shall appear by proof satisfactory to him that such names were put on said rolls by or through false or fraudulent representations as to the right of such persons to a pension under this act. The loss or lack of a certificate of discharge shall not deprive the applicant of the benefit of this act, but other proof of the service performed and of an honorable discharge, if satisfactory, shall be deemed sufficient; and when there is no record evidence of such service and such discharge, the applicant may establish the same by other satisfactory testimony; *Provided*, That when any person has been granted a land warrant under any act of Congress for and on account of service in the said war of 1812, such grant shall be *prima facie* evidence of his service and honorable discharge, so as to entitle him, if living, or his widow if he be dead, to a pension under this act. But such evidence shall not be conclusive, and may be rebutted by evidence that such land warrant was improperly granted.

SEC. 4. That all applications for pensions under the act to which this is an amendment, heretofore, or which may hereafter be made, shall be considered and decided as though made under this act; and all laws now in force in regard to the manner of paying pensions and in reference to the punishment of frauds shall be applicable to all claims under the provisions of this act.

SEC. 5. That the Secretary of the Interior be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to restore to the pension-rolls the names of all persons now surviving heretofore pensioned on account of service of the war of 1812 against Great Britain, and whose names were stricken from the rolls in pursuance of the act entitled "An act authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to strike from the pension-rolls the names of such persons as have taken up arms against the Government, or who have in any manner encouraged the rebels," approved February 4, 1862, and that the joint resolution entitled "Joint resolution prohibiting payment by any officer of the Government to any person not known to have been opposed to the rebellion and in favor of its suppression," approved March 2, 1867, be, and the same is hereby, so far modified as to authorize the payment of claimants under this act; and section 4716 of the Revised Statutes at Large of the United States is hereby repealed.

SEC. 6. That the surviving widow of any pensioner of the war of 1812, where the name of said pensioner was stricken from the pension-rolls in pursuance of the act entitled "An act authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to strike from the pension-rolls the names of such persons as have taken up arms against the Government, or who have in any manner encouraged the rebels," approved February 4, 1862, and where said pensioner died without his name being restored to the rolls, shall be entitled to the arrearages of pension due said pensioner at the time of his decease; and the marriage of such widow shall not prevent her from receiving such arrearages of pension. In case there is no surviving widow, then such arrearages of pension shall, upon similar proof, go to the minor children of such pensioner.

This bill has been before Congress repeatedly. It is now introduced again, and referred to the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions of the House, which has not now and is not likely to have any other business before it. The members of this committee are Mr. Mackay, of Pennsylvania; Mr. Bland, of Missouri; Mr. Ellis, of Louisiana; Mr. Benedict, of New York; Mr. Steele, of North Carolina; Mr. Martin, of West Virginia; Mr. Kinsnell, of Maryland; Mr. Patterson, of New York; Mr. Gardner, of Ohio; Mr. Evans, of Pennsylvania; and Mr. Norcross, of Massachusetts. A very little pushing on the part of these gentlemen would hurry this bill through.

THE EQUALIZATION OF BOUNTIES BILL.

The faithful friends of the soldiers in Congress at once, upon the opening of the session, set the ball a rolling, and have introduced bills for the equalization of bounties to soldiers who served in the late war for the Union. Representative men of both parties have stepped forward and taken this matter in hand, and there is clearly a majority in favor of the passage of the measure in the House of Representatives at least. The majority is less in the Senate, and the danger there is the same that defeated the bill last session, namely, the opposition of men like Edmunds, who will interpose dilatory motions so as to keep a continual postponement of the bill, until it expires at the end of the session. Many Senators will resist these dilatory motions, and hurry the measure forward.

The bill introduced by Senator Ingalls, which is similar in all its provisions to the one which has heretofore been before Congress, provides that there shall be allowed and paid to each and every non-commissioned officer, musician, arti-

ficer, wagoner, and private soldier, sailor, and marine, including those borne upon the rolls as slaves and Indians, who faithfully served as such in the military service of the United States, who have been honorably discharged from such service the sum of eight and one third dollars a month for all the time which was actually so served between the twelfth day of April, eighteen hundred and sixty-one, and the ninth day of May, eighteen hundred and sixty-five. The provisions of this act extend to all soldiers who were mustered into the service of the United States, and were subsisted, clothed, and paid by the Government of the United States.

In case of the death, either before or after the passage of this act, of any such non-commissioned officer, musician, artificer, wagoner, or private soldier, sailor, or marine, it is provided that the allowance and payment will be made to his widow, if she has not remarried, or if there be no widow, or she has remarried, then to the minor child or children. In computing and ascertaining the bounty to be paid to any non-commissioned officer, musician, artificer, wagoner, or private soldier, sailor, or marine, or to his proper representatives under the provisions of this act, there will be deducted therefrom any and all bounties already paid under the provisions of any United States laws.

The bill provides that no bounty under the provisions of this act shall be paid to or on account of any soldier who served as a substitute in the army, or who was a captured prisoner of war at the time of his enlistment, nor to any one who was discharged, on his own application or request for other cause than disability incurred in the service, prior to the nineteenth day of April, eighteen hundred and sixty-five, unless such discharge was obtained with a view to re-enlistment, or to accept promotion in the military or naval service of the United States, or to be transferred from one branch of the military service to another, and such person did actually so re-enlist or accept promotion, or was so transferred; and no bounty shall be paid to any soldier discharged on the application or at the request of parents, guardians, or other persons, or on the ground of minority. It is required that every petition or application for bounty shall disclose and state specifically, under oath, what amount of bounty has been paid under the provisions of any United States laws to the non-commissioned officer, musician, artificer, wagoner, or private soldier, sailor, or marine by whom or by whose representative the claim is made.

The bill provides that any attorney or agent who shall receive from any claimant a sum greater than ten dollars for the prosecution of any claim under the provisions of this act shall, upon conviction, pay a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars, or imprisonment for a term not less than one year, or both, as the court or jury may adjudge, and shall forever thereafter be excluded from prosecuting claims of any nature whatsoever against the Government of the United States.

It also provides that it shall not be lawful for any soldier to transfer, assign, or sell his discharge, final statement, descriptive-list, or other paper, for the purpose of transferring, assigning, or selling any interest in any bounty under the provisions of this act. And all such transfers, assignments, or sales heretofore made are declared null and void as to any rights intended to be so conveyed by any such soldier.

In any case, where a person entitled to receive payment of bounty under the provisions of this act, shall make application therefor, or where such application shall be made by the proper