"To care for him who has borne the battle, and for his widow and orphans."

The National Tribune.

(ESTABLISHED 1877.)

PUBLISHED WEEKLY.

ONE DOLLAR PER YEAR,
INVARIABLY IN ADVANCE.

Foreign postage, $1.00 in addition to subscription price.

Canada postage, 50c in addition to subscription price.

ADVERTISING RATES—FLAT.

30c per agate line for display.
20c per agate line for Classified Columns.
50c per count line for reading notices.
Advertising can be canceled at any time five days before date of issue.
No discounts for time or space.
Columns 2¼ inches wide; 21½ inches long; seven columns to the page.
Sample copies mailed on request.

Entered at Washington, D. C., Post Office as second-class matter.

JOHN McELROY, Editor.

Office: 14th and E Streets Northwest.

WASHINGTON D. C., APRIL 21, 1910

NOTICE.

When you send in your subscription always state whether renewal or new subscriber.

When you renew from another post office give former address as well.

When change of address is desired be sure to give former address.

A foot of snow on the ground at Lead, S. D., April 15 makes St. Cloud appear still more attractive.

At a Republican Convention in the 11th Indiana District a plank was adopted in the platform heartily indorsing the $1 a day pension for civil war veterans.

Cleveland has a man who has been arrested 120 times for drunkenness, and he still drinks. This brings distrust of the workhouse as a cure for inebriety.

Col. Roosevelt is engaged to dine with John E. Redmond and other leading Irish Nationalists, but this will hardly induce King Edward to recall his invitations.

Oregon claims more freak names for post offices than any other State. Bake Oven, Bridal Vail, Buncom, Echo, Greenhorn, Looking-glass, Shake, Skull-spring, Sublimity are among them.

Leland Stanford University is recovering from the damages of the earthquake. It will cost $2,500,000 to repair the damages to injuries to the building, which is being rapidly done.

South Americans are getting wise, and sending their sons to this country to be educated. They realize that their business and their interests in the future will lie with this country rather than with Europe.

Gov. Marshall, of Indiana, advises his party to strike from its platform the plank in favor of electing Senators by popular vote, which has been a feature of the Democratic platforms for 20 years.

Lord Kitchener pronounced the West Point Cadets "the smartest lot of young fellows" he had ever seen. He liked West Point so much that he recommends the Government to make it the model of a military school for Australia.

With ex-Forester Pinchot far away across the raging seas, in happy companionship with the ex-President, it is difficult for the newspapers to keep the "Ballinger-Pinchot feud" up to fever heat.

The 29th Annual Encampment of the Department of Missouri will be held at Warrensburg Wednesday and Thursday, May 11 and 12. It is expected that Gov. Hadley and Commander-in-Chief Van Sant will be present.

We fear that Dr. Cook is entitled to a place as Permanent President of the Ananias Club. A party has really scaled Mount McKinley, and placed a flag that can be seen from below. They did not find the crest at all as represented by Dr. Cook.

The murder of Lieut. Petrosino gives the police a chance to round up all the bad Italians in the country. A man with a record was arrested in Plaquemines, La., last week, on the charge of being an accomplice in the assassination.

Mayor Fitzgerald, of Boston, gives the New Yorkers a tip that they ought to increase the assessed valuation of the real estate at least $500,000,000 to bring it nearer the real values. New York real estate owners have been having their own way too much.

The Night Riders in Kentucky ran afoul of the law punishing combinations in restraint of trade, and the Federal jury at Covington has assessed heavy fines against eight prominent tobacco dealers. Kentucky will be a great deal pleasanter to live in when some of those depredators are sent to the penitentiary.

Past Commander-in-Chief Leo Rassieur and Comrades Robert Buchanan, Henry Digby, R. F. Buzard and Cornelius Yost have been appointed a committee to co-operate with a like committee of the Confederate Veterans' Association in Missouri to assist in procuring legislation by the Legislature for the erection of a State monument and to mark the lines of the Missouri commands, both Union and Confederate, engaged in the siege of Vicksburg.

The Pure Food Bureau continues its activities, and has recently seized a number of barrels of mislabeled apple cider vinegar in several States. The vinegar, which was made by different manufacturers, was found to be mainly acetic acid colored to imitate the natural product. The maple sirup, milk, flour and preserve people have also been shaken up. A man of the appropriate name of Rottenberg has been arrested for shipping liquid eggs which had been doctored to conceal their putrid character.

PENSION FOR MRS. HOWARD.

A bill to grant Mrs. O. O. Howard, wife of the deceased General, a pension of $200 a month was introduced in the Senate by Senator Frye, of Maine, who was a classmate of Gen. Howard at Bowdoin College. The Senate Committee on Pensions has cut this amount to $50 a month, and included Mrs. Howard with 25 others in a general bill. It certainly seems that the widow of a man who rendered such distinguished service to the country, not only in the field during the war of the rebellion and in the Indian Wars subsequently, but in civil life, should receive a more liberal recognition by the Government for the last few years of her life. We cannot state this case more strongly than it has been in a personal letter from our good comrade, Gen. T. S. Peck, of Burlington, Vt., who is familiar with all the circumstances:

"I may add that Mrs. Howard is the last of the widows of our leading commanders; in fact, the last commander of a separate army, and after 54 years' service by the side of her distinguished husband, except when separated by war and Indian campaigns, she has reached the advanced age of nearly 80 years in a feeble, indeed almost helpless, condition, with but a small private income of not over $900 per annum and her home, which is wholly inadequate for her support, as, owing to her ill-health, it is necessary for her to have a nurse continuously. Some time ago, I understand, Mrs. Howard had a stroke of paralysis, and has since required constant aid and attendance, and her condition is really pitiful. At most she has put a few years to live and needs speedy relief, and I hope she may receive as large a pension as possible, at least $100 per month, as then the remaining days of the widow of one of our greatest patriots and soldiers would be those of comfort and peace. Furthermore, it would please thousands who loved Gen. Howard, not only for his army service, but for his noble work since the war, and who would be deeply pained did they know of the present circumstances of his wife."

It would seem that nothing should be necessary to add to this statement of Gen. Peck's to convince Congress of the justice and decency of immediately providing for this venerable woman, who suffered so much for her country. The statement is still stronger fortified by one from Mr. H. S. Howard, one of the General's sons, in the Burlington Free Press:

"It is hard for many to remember now since Gen. Howard's brother officers of equal high command and responsibilities have all passed away, that Mrs. Howard, besides being separated from her husband during Indian wars from 1855 to 1879 and during the civil war, enabled him by her loyalty, devotion and self-sacrifice to do a great and varied work, and especially that of succor to the negro race thru the Freedmen's Bureau. In this work alone Gen. Howard expended for the benefit of the newly freed people over $12,000,000 for the Government. Mrs. Howard was a tower of strength to her husband thru these days of false accusations and trial which swept away not only the General's financial reserves, but all of her property owned at the time. Mrs. Howard has outlived almost all of her intimate friends and associates of her active life, which included Gen. and Mrs. Grant, Gen. and Mrs. Sherman, Senator and Mrs. Pomeroy, Senator Poland, of Vermont, and other leaders of those stirring times.

"In 1874 Gen. Howard began again, and by writing and other labor outside of his salary, paid his debts and kept up his modest life insurance, which was all he was able to leave to his widow.

"It was hoped that the Senate committee would recognize this long service and show their gratitude by granting my mother such a pension as would supplement her small income and enable her to continue her life in her home here left to her by my father, but I regret to say that in her feeble condition, requiring extra care and assistance as she does, this will be impossible with her slender means and the comparatively small pension. Therefore, unless this action of Congress is changed we will be obliged to offer her homestead on Summit street for sale."

It must be remembered that Gen. Howard was a tower of strength in the dark days of the war's beginning. He was a Regular Army officer, and while many of his brothers were hesitant or actually going over to the South he was decided and stalwart in his adherence to the Union. His ardent loyalty was unquestioned from the very first, and he left the Regular Army when officers were refused permission to command State troops, in order to become Colonel of the 3d Me., which he led with distinguished gallantry at Bull Run. He lost his arm while in command of a brigade on the Peninsula, but was back on duty as soon as possible, and was promoted to a division commander and then to that of the Eleventh Corps. He received the unusual honor of the thanks of Congress for his action at Gettysburg, and then, transferred to the West, he commanded the Fourth Corps until Sherman promoted him to the command of the Army of the Tennessee. During the march to the sea and thru the Carolinas he commanded one wing of Sherman's army. Such unusual service to the country should meet the generous recognition of Congress.

FRED GRANT A VETERAN.

The efforts of Comrade McDonald, Commander of the Department of Iowa, G. A. R., and Representative Hull have in part been rewarded, and a bill has passed the House mustering Maj.-Gen. Fred Grant into the volunteer army as a Captain and mustering him out so as to give him a civil war record and enable him to join the Grand Army of the Republic. This is an honor that Maj.-Gen. Grant has long coveted, and which he has repeatedly told comrades he would value more highly than all the decorations and orders that had been bestowed upon him by foreign potentates. No one need fear that this makes a dangerous precedent. The case of Fred Grant is unique, and there can be no other one like it. He is the only living son of a commanding General who was with his father in the field. McClellan's son was born after his retirement from command; Rosecrans had no son; Gen. Sherman's son, who was with his father for awhile in the Vicksburg operations, died at Memphis; Gen. Thomas and Gen. Hooker had no children, and Gen. Sheridan was not married until after the war. Fred Grant not only actually served on the firing line, but was wounded in the performance of his duties, and therefore entitled to this distinction. It is more than probable that the Senate will take favorable action on the bill.

INVITATION TO TOLEDO.

In fulfillment of the promise of Col. J. Corey Winans and the Mayor of Toledo in last week's paper, we have received the following cordial and flattering invitation from the Toledo Chamber of Commerce:

"For years the city of Toledo anticipated the time when her citizens would be honored by entertaining the members of the Grand Army of the Republic, those patriotic men to whom the present generation owes such deep and lasting obligation. When the opportunity came a few years ago it is a matter of lasting pride to our citizens to have been so honored, and to have been able to contribute in some small degree to the pleasures of the Reunions of these old comrades.

"Feeling as we do that the entertainment of these old heroes is a privilege of unpaled character, Toledo again asks the Grand Army of the Republic to hold its National Encampment in this city in the year 1911. Our previous experience has made us more appreciative of the honor.

"Toledo wants the Grand Army of the Republic once more."

This message is so generous, flattering and evidently sincere that it must at once attract the attention of all the comrades. It is no small compliment to us as veterans that the city which recently entertained us should desire us to repeat our visit so soon. It is the highest compliment that can be paid the National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic. The people of Toledo gave us as fine an entertainment as we ever received. Every home was thrown open to us, and everyone seemed to vie in making our stay within the city's gates as pleasant as possible. Nowhere have we met a more loyal and enthusiastic people than on the banks of the Maumee, and nowhere have we seen a more beautiful place. The buildings, houses and grounds of Toledo were unusually attractive, the decorations were lavish and patriotic, and there was much to enjoy wherever we went. No other city has yet invited us, but whatever one shall do so will have to make a strong showing of attractiveness to overcome the inclination that the comrades now feel toward Toledo.

HALLEY'S COMET.

Last Tuesday, at 11 p. m., Halley's comet reached its farthest point in our solar system, and turned around the sun to go back into the regions of incomprehensible space. For seven months it has been coming toward us, and when discovered, Sept. 11, 1909, it was outside the orbit of Mars and 300,000,000 miles from the earth and sun. It then appeared as a tiny star, without the slightest trace of a tail. April 8 it was still 144,000,000 miles distant from the earth. It has rapidly increased in brilliancy as it approached us, and May 1 it will be twice as bright as it is to-day. On May 19 it will be at its brightest and 35 times more brilliant than to-day. Up until May 18 the comet can be seen by looking toward the point where the sun rises about an hour before sunrise. The comet will rise tail first, and with the tail pointing directly away from the sun. April 24 the sun will rise at 5:05, and the comet will be visible for nearly two hours before that. After May 16 the comet closes in rapidly toward the sun, and on the evening of May 18 it will pass between us and the sun, after which it will be seen in the evening sky, setting after the sun. For a few days after May 19 it will present a brilliant spectacle, with its tail pointing up from the horizon for about 30 degrees, or about one-third of the distance between the horizon and zenith.

The comet has a head about 200,000 miles across, and Feb. 14 its tail measured 15,000,000 miles long. It is believed that to-day the tail is at least double that length. Its tail is exceedingly tenuous, however, so much so that very faint stars can be seen thru it. It is undoubtedly composed of some gas infinitely more tenuous than our own atmosphere. We must remember all the time that interstellar space is a vacuum, and consequently the gas can be of infinite tenuity. The comet will be closest to the earth on the evening of May 18, when we will still be 14,000,000 miles from its head. Some wild-eyed one has fulminated that there was probably bacteria as well as cyanogen gas in its tail, and direful things would happen when we passed thru it. The absurdity of this is apparent when it is remembered that bacteria have life, and no life can possibly exist in the intense cold which rules in interstellar space. The cold there is far greater than anything that we have been able to produce, and is the theoretical zero at which all matter perishes. We are surrounded by a thick curtain of atmosphere, which the exceedingly attenuated gas cannot penetrate.

Contrary to all expectations, the bill to promote Gen. Sickles to Lieutenant-General on the retired list met with defeat in the House by a vote of 149 to 69. It seems that all sorts of influences operated adversely to the gallant old General, some Republicans voting against him because of a feeling that he had been too active a Democrat and a still greater number of Democrats voting against him because he had been too much a Republican. A number of the Pennsylvania members voted against him because Gen. Meade had not been made a Lieutenant-General. These reasons are scarcely worthy of the men who were influenced by them, and probably on second sober thought they will regret their action. Certainly they will if they come to look properly at Gen. Sickles's magnificent war record and his civil services to the country. Few men living can show so much of good, high-class work for the Government, and the promotion is due him not only for his own splendid service in the field to the Union, but it is still more due to the grand old Army of the Potomac, which he helped to create and of which he was an active and influential part until disabled on the field of battle. The effort will be renewed in the next session of Congress, and there is every reason to hope for a more favorable action.

Letters from St. Cloud say that the veterans have fine gardens everywhere and are luxuriating in the most delicious early vegetables. Strawberries, beans, peas, lettuce and cabbage are abundant, and the season of green corn is at hand. Think of that, while this morning's dispatches report two inches of snow in Indiana.

THE COOPER CASE.

The one-time gentlemanly practice in the South of shooting an editor has received a blow in Tennessee. Col. D. B. Cooper and his son became much incensed at articles in a paper edited and published by ex-Senator Edward W. Carmack, and they expressed their dissatisfaction in the true Southern way by meeting the editor on the street and shooting him. The case attracted general attention thruout the country, but especially in the South, where the expressions were decidedly adverse to that sort of thing. It seemed one of those bad old things unsuited to the present condition of society in the South, and there was much expression of hope that the Cooper case would be made exemplary. The lower courts found both Cooper and his son guilty of murder in the second degree, and the case was appealed to the Supreme Court of the State. That body was a good deal worried in its mind over the matter, and devoted months of study to the case, which finally culminated in an opinion which took more than two hours to read and included 76 pages of typewriting. It was the most voluminous decision ever handed down to the court. Two of the Justices affirmed the decision of the lower court, two reversed it, and the Chief Justice affirmed the decision as to Col. Cooper, but remanded that as to Robin Cooper for retrial by the lower court. Immediately that the announcement of the court's decision was made—in fact, two hours later—the Governor of Tennessee signed a pardon for Col. Cooper. The haste of the Governor to do this was commented on very unfavorably by the people. The Governor insisted that neither of the defendants had had a fair and impartial trial, and that their conviction was contrary to law and evidence. The Governor was convinced that the proofs showed that Robin Cooper fired the fatal shot, while Col. Cooper did not fire once. The Governor's reasoning was very lame, since Col. Cooper and his son quite evidently went out to kill Carmack, and both were equally guilty of the murder, no matter who fired the fatal shot. The case and the strong excitement it developed thruout the country will be of much service to society, inasmuch as it shows that public opinion in the South is rising against the frequent homicides which have been an injury and a reproach to that section.

THE TAIL OF THE COMET.

Those wearisome and vociferous people who are finding something alarming in everything, and, what is worse, scaring other timid people, have been making quite a time over what will happen when we pass thru the tail of the comet. Now, the world has passed thru the tails of comets many times without any disaster and even without being aware of it. In fact, there has never been anything happening to let people know that we were making that transition.

Scientists rather concur in the belief that there is nothing to the tail of a comet except a glimmer such as is seen in the aurora borealis. When the eminent astronomer, Sir Wm. Herschel, announced that the millions of miles of comet's tail could be packed in an ordinary valise, he was assuming that the tail was the reflection of the sun's light upon infinitely small molecules; that is, it was something like what we see when a ray of light falls upon a cloud of steam or minute rain drops or dust. This, however, is confirmed by the fact that as the comet approaches the sun its tail extends to the rear, but as it goes away from the sun its tail is in advance; that is, there is something in the inter-stellar ether like infinitely small particles of dust, water or gas, which reflect the light from the sun and the comet. As said before, there may be, probably is, nothing more to the comet's tail than a mere glimmer.

As the cost of living is complicated with the expense of the present system of delivery of purchased goods, it has always been a wonder why some method of co-operation was not adopted by the retailers. It seems that this has at last come. In Algona, Iowa, there are five grocers who have been running a delivery wagon each, and all five of the wagons went over the same route from two to a dozen times a day. The retailers got together, and found that it cost them $50 a month to maintain a delivery wagon, and so they made a contract with a man to furnish three wagons, which would do the business at a cost of $200 a month and make money out of the contract. Thus each of the five grocers saves $10 a month, and the service is equally satisfactory. In Pawnee City, Neb., the delivery has been made more comprehensive, with the hardware, clothing, drug and dry-goods stores entering into combination with the grocers and paying from $1 up to $15 a week, according to the amount of their business.

The Suffragets showed that they had not even learned the A, B, C's of politics when they presumed to hiss the President of the United States. We regret that women should show themselves so grossly ignorant of what the dullest male voter knows. We may disagree violently with the President—probably most of us have at one time or another—but, all the same, we treat the person holding that office with the greatest respect. Not to do so is no injury to him, but it pronounces the person guilty to be lacking in ordinary decency and knowledge of American citizenship.

A significant incident has recently happened in St. Cloud which shows stronger than anything else the marvelous development in that city. A comrade who had come in under the first proposition of $50 was dissatisfied, and another party immediately took his share, paying him full price and interest. Last week a native Floridan paid $500 in cash for the town lot alone without the five-acre tract. The significance of this is that the price was not paid by a veteran, but by a resident of the County, who was entirely familiar with the values, and wanted to get into the community at any price.

It appears that during the Revolution a recommendation was made to George III to create George Washington Duke of Virginia, with sufficient money and estates to maintain the dignity of the position, on the condition that he would ask for peace with England and accept equitable and just terms. We have no record as to how the proposition was received by the pig-headed old King, except the inference that he did not look favorably upon it, since the offer was not formally made. Possibly the King in one of his intervals of common sense saw the folly of such an offer. George Washington could not have stopped the Revolution if he would, and certainly would not have done so if he could, even for so glittering a bauble as a Dukedom. It was the people who were making the Revolution, and not the leaders, and if one leader had been bought off his name would have been execrated and another would have risen in his place. George Washington understood this as well as anybody, nor did he have any penchant for the titles of nobility, which were even then falling into discredit in England. Tho he has been accused of being intensely aristocratic, his aristocracy was that of achievement, and he had little use for that which came by the mere accident of birth. His strong common sense showed him that this sort of an aristocracy had no place and would have little regard in the new free country, where every man stood on his own ground and carried his sovereignty under his own hat. We know what Washington's feelings were with regard to a titled aristocracy by his refusal of all titles except those of the offices which he occupied, and his quick return to the station of a private citizen when public duties permitted.

BURIALS AT ANDERSONVILLE.

Capt. J. M. Bryant, the Superintendent of the National Cemetery at Andersonville, is engaged in the laudable work of correcting the burial register of the cemetery, but finds himself embarrassed by many errors. In a number of instances the soldier is credited to the wrong State, and he has found 286 of these mistakes in the New York list alone. The number of these errors has induced him to ask the assistance of the comrades in making his corrections, and he wishes that anyone having the facts regarding the death of any soldier at Andersonville would write him, making the letter as brief as possible, and giving as much of the service, dates, etc., as they can in small compass.

The Zion project seems to be a failure. Israel Zangwill, who has been the leading spirit in the movement, is becoming discouraged. He does not find that the Jews want to establish an independent State of their own or even a State under the protection of another. They seem to prefer to be a religious minority in another community, and therefore he thinks that it is better that they should become Americans, and he recommends that efforts henceforth shall be directed to getting the Jews out of the congested districts on the seacoast and scattering them thru the sparsely inhabited regions of the West. Mr. Zangwill came into conflict with a large portion of the Zionites who were fanatics upon returning to Jerusalem and would have nothing else. It was in vain that Mr. Zangwill pointed out that the colony which he proposed to establish in Mesopotamia would be on grounds much more identified with Jewish history than Palestine.

The Kissimmee Gazette, which has no reason to exaggerate as to St. Cloud, since the Kissimmee people feel that St. Cloud is a competitor, says that their enumeration of the houses at St. Cloud shows the number to be 700, with several hundred more in course of construction. This evidence from a community which rather feels like belittling its competitor is valuable. St. Cloud is going to become the greatest town in central Florida, and the center from which developments will radiate, so that the growth of St. Cloud makes for the general improvement of that section. The veterans of St. Cloud are giving the people of Florida most astonishing evidences of what can be done within a short time in the way of building up that country of infinite possibilities.

Newman Grove, Iowa, is afflicted with "too much Johnson." Eric Johnson, the cashier of the Newman Grove State Bank, has found it impossible to do business with the 958 Johnsons who live in the town without some other distinction than their Christian names. Of the 958 Johnsons, 629 are John Johnsons, consequently no order or indorsement of John Johnson will be accepted at the bank or any of the stores. Therefore, a number has been assigned to each one, and this number must be part of his signature. The Johnsons are taking kindly to the idea, and in writing to their friends they affix their numbers to their signatures and request that this be put on the answer.

Department Commander Orlando A. Somers, by General Orders No. 5, directs the convening of the 31st Annual Encampment of the Department of Indiana at Terre Haute, May 25-26-27. Good hotel rates have been secured and reasonable private accommodations. The Central Passenger Association will allow a rate of one and one-half fares, but a better rate is hoped for. The parade will be on Thursday, May 26, under the charge of Chief Marshal Jesse Robertson. The monument to the soldiers of Vigo County will be unveiled on the first day. Commander-in-Chief Van Sant has promised to be present.

While we know a good deal about comets, it is only a straw in the stack of what we don't know. The comet is many times larger than our earth. We know that by comparison with other heavenly bodies. We also know that it is much lighter, because of its very trifling influence upon those bodies it passes. Astronomers have imagined that it is a great rush of widely separated particles of gravel, say, in about the proportion of a golf ball to a cubic mile. In this view is the difficulty that it is self-luminous. There must be a nucleus giving off great light. The tail itself is probably lighted from the sun. The comet itself gives off its own light.

THE VOLUNTEER OFFICERS' BILL.

The Present Status of the Measure—The Arguments for It—The Enlisted Men's Clause.

On the 13th instant, in Congress, Mr. Prince, of Illinois, representing the Committee on Military Affairs, submitted to the House a favorable report on the so-called Warner-Townsend volunteer retired list measure, being Mr. Townsend's House Bill No. 18899, with the recommendation that it pass, with certain important amendments. The original of this bill is now pending in the Senate, as Senate Bill No. 4183, having been introduced by Senator Warner, of Missouri, former Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic. The House bill as amended by the Committee on Military Affairs is given below:

Warner-Townsend Bill as Amended.

"Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That there is hereby created in the War Department and Navy Department respectively a roll designated as 'the civil war volunteer officers' retired list.' Upon written application made to the Secretary of the proper Department, and subject to the conditions and requirements hereinafter contained, the name of each surviving officer of volunteers who served as an officer in the Army, Navy or Marine Corps of the United States in the civil war, and was honorably discharged from service by muster-out, resignation or otherwise, shall be entered on said list as of the highest rank held by him during said service. Each surviving officer so entered on said list shall have served in said Army, Navy or Marine Corps in said war not less than six months, shall not have been retired with continuing retired pay, and shall not belong to the United States Army, Navy or Marine Corps: Provided, That a surviving officer who lost an eye, an arm or a leg in the line of duty, or who was honorably discharged from service by muster-out, resignation or otherwise because of a wound or other bodily injury received or incurred in the line of duty, or because of disability incurred in the line of duty while a prisoner of war, shall, if otherwise eligible under the terms of this act, be entitled to be placed on said list, and to receive the full benefits of this act, without regard to the length of his said service: And provided, further, That in computing the length of service of any surviving officer, for the purposes of this act, there shall be included, in addition to the service as an officer of any rank, all such service as he shall have rendered in said war as an enlisted man or as an appointed petty officer. Applications for entry on said list shall be made in such form and under such regulations as shall be prescribed by the War Department and Navy Department respectively, and proper blanks shall be furnished for said purpose upon request made to the proper Department by surviving officers claiming the benefits of this act. A certificate of service and of enrollment under this act, properly prepared in the War Department and Navy Department respectively, shall be furnished to each surviving officer whose name shall be entered on said list.

"Sec. 2. That surviving officers who served as officers in the Regular Army, Navy or Marine Corps of the United States during the civil war, and who were honorably discharged from service by muster-out, resignation or otherwise, and have not been reinstated in said service nor retired with continuing retired pay, shall, upon application duly made, be entered on said list and receive the benefits of this act on the same conditions that are herein prescribed for surviving volunteer officers, except that they shall not be required to have served as volunteers.

Maximum and Minimum Limitations.

"Sec. 3. That, subject to the maximum and minimum limitations of retired pay hereinafter contained, each surviving officer whose name shall have been duly entered on said list, who shall have served as aforesaid in the civil war a term or terms aggregating two years or more, shall receive, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, one-third pay, according to his former highest rank and former branch of service as entered on said list, which one-third pay shall be equal to one-third of the initial pay now received by officers of like or equivalent rank in the United States Army, Navy or Marine Corps, respectively; and each surviving officer whose name shall have been duly entered on said list, who shall have served as aforesaid in the civil war a term or terms aggregating less than two years but not less than six months, shall receive, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, each according to his aggregate term of service, an amount bearing such proportion to the pay herein granted to officers of the same or equivalent rank for two years' service as the aggregate term of service bears to said term of two years. The retired pay provided for by this act shall begin upon the date of the passage of this act and continue during the natural life of the beneficiary; it shall be payable quarterly, and shall not exceed, in the case of any surviving officer, two-thirds of the initial pay now received by a Captain in the United States Army; it shall not be less than $600 per annum in the case of any surviving officer whose name is duly entered on said list and whose term or terms of service during the civil war aggregate two and one-half years or more, and it shall not be less than $400 per annum in the case of any surviving officer whose name is duly entered on said list: Provided, That the provisions of this act shall not apply to any person until he shall have arrived at the age of 70 years.

"Sec. 4. That each surviving officer who shall receive pay under this act shall thereby relinquish all his right and claim to pension from the United States after the date of the passage of this act, and any payment of such pension made to him covering a period subsequent to the passage of this act shall be deducted from the amount due him on the first payment or payments under this act. The pay allowed under this act shall not be subject or liable to any attachment, levy, lien or detention under any process whatsoever; and persons whose names are placed upon said roll shall not constitute any part of the United States Army, Navy or Marine Corps.

"Sec. 5. That any person who served as an enlisted man 90 days or more in the military or naval service of the United States during the civil war and who has been honorably discharged therefrom, and whose physical or mental condition is of such degree of disability as to require the frequent and periodical aid and attention of another person, shall, upon application, have his name placed on the volunteer retired list created by this act, and shall receive, in lieu of all pensions, retired pay at the rate of $30 per month during the period of his natural life.

"Sec. 6. That this act is in recognition of sacrifices made and services rendered in the civil war for the defense of the United States Government and the preservation of the Union, and shall take effect immediately."

(It is intended that certain unimportant defects of phraseology in the bill, resulting from the changes made in committee, shall be corrected during passage, and it is expected that the 70-year age limit will be either eliminated or reduced.)

The Committee's Report.

"It will be observed that the principal amendments recommended by the committee are, first, a reduction of the proposed retired pay of surviving officers from one-half of the active pay of officers in the Regular Service as provided in the original bill, to one-third thereof; second, the introduction of a 70-year age limit; and, third, provision for the benefit of wholly disabled enlisted men. The two first-named changes are designed so to reduce the cost of the measure as to obviate any reasonable financial objection to it, and thus practically to assure its early enactment. Elsewhere in this report it will be seen from the official estimate made by the Secretary of the Interior that the intended reduction of cost has been effected. With three score and ten as the minimum age limit under the amended bill, the average present age of immediate beneficiaries is about 74. This statement needs no comment.

"The average age of all surviving officers is about five years greater than that of surviving enlisted men—that of the former being about 73 and that of the latter about 68. About 60 per cent of the present surviving officers were promoted and commissioned from the ranks for service and merit in the field.

Provisions for Disabled Enlisted Men.

"The amendment providing for aged and wholly disabled enlisted men carries its own vindication. Not only are these stricken and rapidly departing veterans entitled to the relief thus furnished in lieu of the insufficient pensions which they now receive, but, inasmuch as the disability provided for is not required to be of service origin, this legislation will go far to render unnecessary, and therefore to discontinue, the present unbusinesslike and costly, but hitherto apparently unavoidable, system of passing thru each Congress a great number of special private pension bills, which are in many cases so belated as to be of little value to the beneficiaries. It is also due to the general body of surviving veterans of the Union army, who are now fraternally aiding these old and helpless comrades, that the latter should be thus systematically and adequately cared for in their closing days directly by the Government which they helped to preserve.

Gen. Nettleton's Argument.

The report quotes with approval the following paragraph from the recent statement presented to the Committee on Military Affairs, by Gen. A. B. Nettleton, as Chairman of the National Association of Surviving Union Volunteer Officers of the Civil War:

"Let us not be misunderstood. We ask of the Government no gratuity—no charity. We present to the Government no appeal and make upon it no arbitrary demand. We simply point to the record, and request the Government to render equity to men who believe they have earned and thus far failed to receive equity. The present request for our proposed legislation is based on this fivefold sanction: (1) The general merits of the case, including the magnitude, results and value of the service rendered, National expediency and patriotic gratitude; (2) the pledges given by Congress and President Lincoln at the opening of the civil war to the several States and to the volunteers furnished by them; (3) the action and policy of the Government since the war in extending to practically all surviving officers of the Regular Army and Navy special rewards exclusively for civil war service, which, contrary to the pledges referred to, have thus far been withheld from surviving volunteer officers; (4) the commanding precedent furnished by the United States Government in 1828 and 1832 in granting to the aged surviving officers of the Revolutionary Army full pay, limited to that of a Captain, during the remainder of life; (5) present public sentiment in the Nation, as shown, among other proofs, by the unanimous action of the Legislatures of 10 States, speaking for nearly 30,000,000 of our people, recommending the enactment of such a measure."

Volunteers and Regulars.

The report continues:

"The records indicate that the Government's wartime pledge of equality of treatment has been faithfully kept as between the enlisted men of the Regulars and the enlisted men of volunteers who served during the civil war. Equal provision is made for the disability and old age of both. But as between the officers of Regulars and volunteers of similar civil war service that pledge has been, and still is, wholly ignored. During the civil war the volunteer troops formed 96 per cent of the armies of the United States and achieved 96 per cent of the historic results. On the other hand, of the honors and rewards since extended by the Government to Regular and volunteer officers as such, exclusively in recognition of their civil war service and its results to the Nation, Regular officers, thru no fault of their own, have received all and volunteer officers nothing.

The Revolutionary Officers.

"The surviving officers of the Revolutionary Army received approximately full retired pay according to previous rank and service, at a time when money had much greater purchasing power than now. All Regular Army officers, whether serving in peace or war, receive after the age of 64 three-fourths retired pay, which after five years' service ranges from $1,402 per annum for a Second Lieutenant to $4,500 for a Brigadier-General. All Regular Army officers of any civil war service also receive a legislative addition or bonus of one grade in retired rank and pay as special recognition and reward for such civil war service. That special reward is $1,500 per year for a Colonel and a ratable amount for the lower grades. Former enlisted men of the Union army are receiving average age pensions exceeding their full pay proper during service. For surviving volunteer civil war officers as such * * * the Government has made no provision of pension or retired pay. * * * That the passage of the pending bill at this time is supported by public approval and demand is clearly shown in many ways. The Legislatures of the 10 States of New York, Illinois, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Maine, Wisconsin, Kansas, Wyoming and Colorado have, regardless of party lines, adopted joint resolutions approving and requesting the enactment by Congress of a volunteer retired list measure. * * * Seldom in the past has any measure pending before Congress received so strong indorsement from disinterested sources, entitled to the weightiest consideration."

Estimate of Cost.

The committee's report includes an estimate from the Secretary of the Interior of the first year's cost of the amended measure, including both former officers and enlisted men. The net cost above present pensions is placed at $9,264,012. The Secretary's estimate includes the following facts:

The average annual retired pay accruing to surviving officers of all grades, according to length of service, is:

10,221 served two years or more, $740.

3,279 served one year and less than two, $412.

2,531 served six months and less than one year, $400.

Average annual retired pay accruing to surviving officers over 70 years of age, of all grades and all terms of service from six months upward, each $620.

Average annual retired pay to all surviving officers above present pensions, $412.

Estimated number of wholly disabled enlisted men whose disability is not necessarily of service origin, 12,000.

Gen. Nettleton, who as Chairman of the Association of Surviving Volunteer Officers is looking after the progress of this measure, makes the following comment:

"I believe the Warner-Townsend bill is to become law at the present session. It does not contain all that any one element among surviving civil war veterans would prefer to see in it, but it does constitute an advance step in the right direction, it embodies a certain degree of justice, and especially it paves the way to the ultimate and equitable system of beneficial legislation in the interest of civil war veterans of all former grades. With fraternal feeling and united action, all that equity requires in the future can be obtained, and with the hearty approval of all fair-minded citizens."