

CHARLES ROBERTSON

FEBRUARY 23, 1927.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed

Mr. VINSON of Kentucky, from the Committee on Military Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 16597]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 16597) for the relief of Charles Robertson, having considered the same, report it back to the House with the recommendation that it do pass.

Upon examination of the records in the case we find that Charles Robertson is now 85 years of age, and was a Civil War soldier. He rendered service as a private, Company C, Forty-ninth Regiment, Indiana Infantry, from September 30, 1861, to June 17, 1863, and as a private, Company I, Sixth Illinois Cavalry, from March 3 to November 5, 1865. He was pensioned under certificate No. 720008 until September 15, 1919. Under this certificate he drew a pension for about 28 years when his name was dropped from the rolls on the ground that he was not discharged from his first contract of service. On January 12, 1924, Congressman Frank Gardner, of Indiana, filed a bill (H. R. 5375) for a pension for said Charles Robertson by a special act of Congress. This bill passed the House at the first session of the Sixty-eighth Congress, and passed the Senate at the second session of the Sixty-eighth Congress, and became a law on December 23, 1924. In granting this pension the Committee on Invalid Pensions made the following report:

H. R. 5375. Charles Robertson, aged 82 years, whose post-office address is 620 East Seventh Street, Jeffersonville, Ind., and who rendered service as a private, Company C, Forty-ninth Regiment Indiana Infantry, from September 30, 1861, to June 17, 1863, and as a private, Company I, Sixth Illinois Cavalry, from March 3 to November 5, 1865.

He was pensioned at the rate of \$19 per month under Certificate No. 720008, until September 15, 1919, when his name was dropped from the roll on the ground he was not discharged from his first contract of service. The total length of his service was 1 year 11 months and 21 days, and he was honorably discharged from his last contract of service, which was for a period of more than six months.

This committee has heretofore considered this class of claims solely upon their merits, and wherein it is shown, as in this case, the soldier rendered 90 days or more faithful service, and was honorably discharged, and is shown to be physically unfitted for self-support, and is in indigent circumstances, applicants should be rewarded and not denied financial aid in their old age, in the form of pension allowance. As shown by the medical evidence filed in support of this bill, in addition to the claimant's extreme age, he suffers from cataract of both eyes and by bilateral inguinal hernia. He is wholly unable to contribute to his own support. He is in destitute circumstances, entirely without means, property, or income from any source. No one is legally bound to his support.

It is recommended his name be restored to the pension roll at the rate of \$50 a month.

The soldier's statement as to the charge of not being discharged from his first contract of service is that he was captured by the enemy and held as a prisoner for some time, and finally escaped and returned to his home, and after a period of time, instead of reporting to the division of the Army where he was first assigned, he simply reenlisted in another division of the Army, Company I, Sixth Illinois Cavalry, on March 3, 1865. The soldier's contention is that there was no intention, on his part, of deserting the Army, and the committee so finds.

