

MARY SPRAGUE.

JUNE 7, 1898.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. HENRY, of Connecticut, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany S. 1454.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 1454) granting an increase of pension to Mary Sprague, have examined the same and the evidence relating thereto and respectfully report:

This bill proposes to increase from \$12 to \$20 per month the pension of Mary Sprague, of Philadelphia, Pa.

The Senate report states the facts, and is as follows:

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 1454) granting an increase of pension to Mary Sprague, have examined the same and report:

A similar bill was introduced in the Senate during the Fifty-fourth Congress, reported favorably, and passed the Senate.

The report was as follows, which your committee adopt, and recommend the passage of the bill:

"The beneficiary named in the bill was pensioned at \$12 per month by special act passed by the Forty-ninth Congress. She served as an army nurse from May 22, 1861, to December, 1863. Her first service was in Washington Street Hospital, Alexandria, Va., under Surg. Lawrence Sheldon, United States Army, being subsequently transferred to the Mansion House Hospital in the same city. For a part of this service she was allowed by Congress \$12 per month, which was all the compensation she received for most faithful and arduous duties. In November, 1862, she entered Armory Square Hospital, Washington, D. C., receiving no pay for her services until transferred to Island Hall Hospital, where she was allowed \$12 per month for two months.

"She was in continuous service as nurse for two years and six months, a portion of the time receiving no pay, and contributing of her scanty means for purchasing delicacies for the sick and wounded. There is an abundance of official testimony as to her faithfulness and efficiency, for which the pension of \$12 per month allowed her of recent years is but scant reward, being now 77 years old, and without other means of support. She is also rendered physically helpless by the fracture of both wrists. Your committee are of the opinion that for the few remaining years of her life she ought to have a pension sufficient to provide her with at least the necessities of life.

"Her husband, Augustus Sprague, served as a private in Company B, Second Michigan Volunteers, from May 24, 1861, to October 18, 1862, when he was discharged on surgeon's certificate of disability. He died some years ago, leaving his widow, the faithful and devoted nurse, destitute and helpless."

The bill is therefore reported back with the recommendation that it pass when amended as follows:

From lines 4 and 5 strike out the words "the name of Mary Sprague, a volunteer nurse in the late war."

In line 6, after the word "laws," insert "the name of Mary Sprague, late an army nurse."

In line 7 strike out the words "the sum" and insert in lieu thereof the words "a pension at the rate."

From lines 7 and 8 strike out "from and after the passage of this act."

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