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of the  
United States







*Daley*  
*Article*  
*Truman*  
*Empire*  
MILITARY AND NAVAL PENSIONS OF THE UNITED STATES.<sup>#</sup>

*Sally 115*  
I. REVOLUTIONARY PENSIONS.

In the Fall of 1776, when Washington was sitting up night after night, depriving himself of essential sleep to urge by repeated entreaties and arguments, that the Continental Congress furnish him an army, properly organized and reasonably equipped, one measure, then reluctantly granted, has become the corner stone of the pension system of the United States. It was a Joint Resolution passed August 26, which, ~~it~~ was hoped, would secure a fair pension to those soldiers who had been, or should be, disabled during the War of Independence.

Notwithstanding the danger, then much feared, of trenching upon the powers of the States, Congress granted direct Military and Invalid Pensions for about nine years; then, in 1785 the States consented and did pay the pensions on the recommendations of Congress, - the ~~the~~ <sup>Congress</sup> humbly confessing its inability to raise the necessary funds.

*Read before the Military Service Institution, Nov 23, 1889.*

*Prof Major General C. O. Howard*  
*United States Army*



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MILITARY AND NAVAL PENSIONS OF THE UNITED STATES

I. REVOLUTIONARY PENSIONS.

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the recommendations of Congress. The ~~States~~ <sup>United States</sup> hereby con-  
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Very truly yours,  
John Jay



This method was continued until September 29, 1789.

As soon as the new Constitution was launched and in vogue the power of Congress to pay pensions to soldiers and sailors was unquestioned. We then find pensions established as such for life, and regularly paid by annual appropriations.

All these pensions were confined to disability more or less pronounced; <sup>They</sup> and accrued by reason of service during the war, and were what the Pension bureau now denominates Invalid Pensions.

An Act approved April 10, 1806, limited the disability to "Known wounds received during the Revolutionary War", and extended its benefits to any one in any proper service against the common enemy.

It was not till March 18, 1818, nearly 35 years after the treaty of Paris, which closed the Revolution, that our Congress saw fit to grant service pensions, and even these were restricted to the indigent, there being monthly payments, for Indigent Officers \$20.00, <sup>and</sup> Enlisted men \$8.00.



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It was not until March 18, 1818, nearly 55 years after the

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provision for indigent officers \$30.00, enlisted men \$5.00.



Under the Invalid Pension Laws (March 23, 1792, Feb. 28, 1793, March 16, 1802 and April 10, 1806) an officer received half his pay (but not above half a Lieutenant-Colonel's) for total disability and an enlisted man \$5.00 per month. It is a notable fact that the children of Revolutionary soldiers never received a pension, - but the widows did so for five years <sup>or until re</sup> married.

Under the Act of May 15, 1828, <sup>all</sup> those who served to the end of the war, officers and enlisted men, then living, were pensioned on full pay (the highest not to exceed a captain's) and the indigent provision was omitted. These benefits were extended to all survivors by Act of June 7, 1832.

As late as June 1838, that is, 105 years after the war there were 37 <sup>worthy</sup> widows who drew pensions. During that year there had been added three <sup>widows</sup> whose ages were respectively 84, 80 and 92. The last soldiers drawing pensions <sup>had celebrated their own Centennial. They</sup> on the general roll were aged at the time of death respectively 102 and 101 years. The former died May 3, 1866 and



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the latter February 18, 1867.

Two other veterans were added to the roll in 1867. They died the one April 5, 1869 and the other March 28, 1869. Aged respectively 109 and 105 years.

The whole number of officers and soldiers and their widows who received the two sorts, to-wit; the Invalid and the Service pension for the Revolutionary War, according to the roll of 1888, was 62,069. The amount of money paid ~~therefore~~ <sup>about</sup> is \$ 38.500.000.

Before closing this glimpse into the apparent liberality of our ancestors toward their soldiers permit me an <sup>expressive</sup> extract from the first annual message of President John Quincy Adams, of date Dec. 6th 1825. He says:

"The Act of 18th March, 1818, while it made provision for many meritorious and indigent citizens who had served in the war of independence, opened a door to numerous abuses and impositions. To remedy this, the Act of 1st May, 1820, exacted proofs of absolute indigence, which many really in want were unable, and all, susceptible of that delica-



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cy which is allied to many virtues, must be deeply reluctant to give. The result has been, that some among the least desrving have been retained, and some in whom the requisites both of worth and want were combined, have been stricken from the list. As the numbers of these venerable relics of an age gone by diminish; as the decays of body, mind and estate, of those that survive must, in the common course of nature, increase; should not a more liberal portion of indulgence be dealt out to them?

May not the want in most instances be inferred from the demand, when the service can be duly proved; and may not the last days of human infirmity be spared the mortification of purchasing a pittance of relief only by the exposure of its own necessities?

I submit to Congress the expediency either of providing for individual cases of this description, by special enactment, or of revising the Act of the 1st of May 1820, with a view to mitigate the rigor of its exclusions in favor of persons to whom charity, now bestowed, can scarcely *discharge* the debt of justice." ~~It was~~ subsequent



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2. 1.  
Then as now, the unworthy and fraudulent claimants cripple the just dues of the deserving.

#### A. II. PENSIONS OF THE WAR OF 1812.

When after the sudden declaration of war and the breaking out of <sup>terrific</sup> hostilities on the Canadian border, it became necessary to raise additional military force, Congress passed and the President approved, January 11, 1812, the bill for ten new regiments of Infantry, two of Artillery and one of Light Dragoons.

In this Act itself we find a section which provided for individual pensions. It was substantially a re-enactment of a section of the law of April 10, 1806 which with slight modifications had been repeated from time to time since 1790. *copy 15*

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It is most probable that this more generous pension provision put into the <sup>very</sup> Act for raising troops was intended for the purpose of stimulating enlistments; for we know from history how unpopular at its outbreak that war <sup>05/12 7/14</sup> was.



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Office

Again in January, 1813, when 20 regiments more were added to the army the same pension provision was inserted, besides some liberal grants to both officers and enlisted men; for example, refunding to officers extra expenses for attending courts martial and for forage of horses; and to enlisted men on discharge travel pay and money value for rations.

At the close of the war of 1812, the Act of August 2, 1813 extended provisions similar to those enjoyed under the general law by the regular army, to volunteers and militia.

When the smoke of the conflict had somewhat passed away, with a view to getting better pensions for officers of low rank and <sup>for</sup> enlisted men, President Madison in a special message to Congress, February 20, 1815, ventured to say:-

"I recommend to your care and beneficence the gallant men whose achievements, in every department of the military service, on the land and on the water, have so essentially contributed to the honor of the American name and to the restoration of peace."



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"The feelings of conscious patriotism and worth will animate such men under every change of fortune and pursuit, but their country performs a duty to itself when it bestows those testimonials of approbation and applause which are at once the reward and the incentive to great actions."

But no extended or substantial legislation came from Mr. Madison's earnest <sup>and appreciative</sup> appeal, so, in a subsequent message, December 15th of the same year, he again pleaded as follows:-

As an improvement on our military establishment, it will deserve the consideration of Congress whether a corps of invalids might not be so organized and employed as at once to aid in the support of meritorious individuals excluded by age or infirmities from the existing establishment, and to preserve to the public the benefit of their stationary services and of their exemplary discipline.

The response to this is found in the Act of April 16, 1816 extending the list of pensions and granting lands,



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and an Act approved April 24, 1816, increasing pensions of enlisted men and officers of low rank. It gave a first lieutenant \$17.00; a second lieutenant \$15.00; a third lieutenant \$14.00; an ensign \$13.00, and an enlisted man \$8.00 per month. These allowances were as usual for highest grade of disability - to be less for smaller hurts. These same provisions were intended to embrace the navy, and were extended to the militia which had been in the United States service.

By several Acts of Congress, the last in 1858, the limit of five years, though it had been renewed often, was removed from all pensions of widows, and children under sixteen. The Commissioner of loans in each State or District, or some other officer named by the Secretary of War, was for a long time the medium of reaching and enabling the pensioner to get his pay. In fact, until 1833 the war department paid pensions that pertained to its soldiers, and the navy department to its sailors and marines.

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1861-1865.

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1812 was granted by the Government in 1871, fifty-seven years after the war closed.

The provisions for this service pension of \$8.00 per month from February 14, 1871, embraced all survivors, officers and enlisted men, the army and navy included, who had had a service of 60 days with some specific cases that had served less than 60 days, and widows of soldiers in that war who had been married before the close of it. Proof of loyalty was required. The Act of March 8, 1878 removed the conditions of date of marriage and of loyalty, reduced the necessary service to fourteen days or service in a battle. Widow's pensions under these Acts were increased by Act of March 19, 1886, to \$12.00 [the number increased was 72,989.] The whole number of pension claims allowed for this war (1812) is reported to be 60, 670, and the cost, ~~from 1871~~ to June 30th 1888, has been \$30,310,256.04. The pensions of invalids and widows and children of deceased officers and men granted under the general pension laws are not included in this sum, except



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where since 1871 the invalid pension has been consolidated with the service pension.

### 2. III. THE MEXICAN WAR PENSIONS.

The veterans of the Mexican war and their families have a similar pension history; first, the usual invalid pension, to the wounded and disabled, to the widows and to the children, substantially the half pay system was kept up till the service pension was established January 30, 1887, 50 years after the close of the war with Mexico.

The service pension, after deducting death, had increased the rolls of June 30, 1887, by 17,000 survivors.

A total of 23,471 The total Mexican war pension claims so far allowed have been 24,724 and 6,400 widows. The cost to the government 213,000,000.00

### 3. IV. THE REGULAR ARMY PENSIONS.

In the regular army the regular army has not been so separate in pension matters from the volunteers as to give a separate and individual history.

There has been an occasional spasmodic increase and then a dropping back to normal numbers on a peace footing. The army has always been more or less refreshed by numerous Indian conflicts on the frontier and a few metropolitan or village riots. The system of pensions <sup>however,</sup> according to the statutes established for the regular force has been till late years the basis for the militia and volunteers; and the naval officers and men have been cared for on a corresponding apportionment, first <sup>on</sup> the half pay system never excluding that of Lieutenant-Colonel's pension for total disability, and \$5.00 per month for enlisted men.

#### Afterwards

For cases rated as total disability there <sup>w</sup> ~~was~~ ~~was~~ an increase to \$30.00 for Lieutenant-Colonel and upwards. \$25.00 for Major, \$20.00 for Captain, \$17.00 for 1st Lieutenant, \$15.00 for 2d Lieutenant, 10.00 for Cadet-  
Midshipman and certain warrant officers, and \$8.00 for all other enlisted men.

In the Pension Reports we find grouped under the head of Army and Navy, not only the Regular Army and Navy Pen-



There has been an occasional epidemic increase and then a dropping back to normal numbers on a peace footing. The army has always been more or less refreshed by new recruits. The Indian conflicts on the frontier and a few metropolitan "Indian" riots. The system of pensioning has been established for the Indian force has been still later years the basis for the militia and volunteers; and the naval officers and men have been called for on a corresponding proportion. First the call pay system was established. That of Lieutenant-Colonel's pension for total disability was \$5.00 per month for enlisted men. For grades rated as total disability there has been an increase to \$20.00 for Lieutenant-Colonel and above. \$25.00 for Major, \$30.00 for Captain, \$15.00 for 1st Lieutenant, \$10.00 for 2nd Lieutenant, \$5.00 for 3rd Lieutenant, \$2.50 for 4th Lieutenant and certain warrant officers and \$2.00 for all other enlisted men.

In the Pension Reports we find grouped under the head "Army and Navy, Total" the following figures for the year 1900:

sions but all pensions granted for disability or to widows and children (except the various service pensions) ~~and~~, therefore, we must consider the Regular Army as being entitled to Invalid Pensions only, ~~and~~ <sup>regular</sup> ~~and~~, except for those officers and men who took part in the two wars for which service pensions have <sup>already</sup> been granted. Among these pensions are placed the very large number granted by Acts allowing larger sums for specific disabilities in the war of the Rebellion <sup>larger</sup> than is allowed by the general law for total disability, ~~and~~ <sup>These, all</sup> to ~~which~~ <sup>these</sup> of the Regular Army <sup>Y</sup> disabled in that war ~~and~~, as well as the volunteers <sup>are</sup> entitled.

### Rates of Pensions

Turning to the Pension Report of 1888 we find a table which covers a page with figures, with this heading: "Table VII. Statement showing the different monthly rates of pensions, and the number pensioned at each rate, of the army and navy invalids, and of the army and navy widows, minors and dependents (War of 1861) on the roll June 30th 1888."



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McGinley

15.

In that table 262 army and ~~11~~ navy invalids receive one dollar per month, while 124 army and 29 navy receive \$72.00 per month. Between these rates of one dollar and seventy-two dollars there are 122 grades. <sup>of pay</sup> The largest number of beneficiaries <sup>in any one grade</sup> is 69,210 [at four dollars, the <sup>out</sup> next largest 63,142 at \$8.00.] By special Acts two invalids and three widows are pensioned at \$100.00 per month; four widows, minors or dependents at \$166.66 2-3 per month and three at \$466.66 2-3.

~~There are 24,000 of these grades of pay.~~  
~~Regular Army and Navy.~~

V.  
~~N. IV.~~ THE PENSIONS FOR THE WAR OF THE REBELLION.

The Act of Congress July 22, 1861, which authorized the first 500,000 volunteers against the rebellion, in its sixth section provided, that any volunteer that might be wounded or disabled in service should have all the benefits conferred in the regular service, and that the widow or heirs in the case of death in addition to arrears of



12

O'Brien

In that table 282 army and 11 navy invalids receive one dollar per month, while 124 army and 28 navy receive \$28.00 per month. Between these rates of one dollar and seventy-two dollars there are 128 grades. The largest number of beneficiaries is 28,210 at four dollars, the next largest 23,148 at \$2.00. By special Act two invalids and three widows are pensioned at \$100.00 per month; four widows, minors or dependents at \$100.00 & 2-3 per month; and three at \$400.00 & 2-3.

~~There are also 1,000 beneficiaries at \$100.00 & 2-3 per month, and 1,000 at \$400.00 & 2-3 per month.~~

## V. THE PENSIONS FOR THE WAR OF THE REBELLION.

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pay and allowances should receive \$100.00. July 25 brought further authority for raising volunteers not to exceed 500,000, to be placed upon the same footing in all respects with similar corps in the United States Army. Again, the Act of August 6, 1861, legalized the acts, proclamations and orders of the President touching the army, navy, militia and volunteers which had been done or issued from March 4, 1861 to that time. So that, even before special pension provisions, the great army and navy of 1861, so suddenly called into the field, was put, in respect to death, wounds or other invalidship, on the same general basis as the regular army.

But lest there should be any class of military or naval servants of the Republic secluded by the general law, the lengthy bill entitled:- "An Act to grant Pensions,"- became a law July 14, 1862.

This does not depart from the highest rates already given, but is quite specific; and an act passed two days later, lays down <sup>The</sup> assimilated rank of the army and navy, e.g.,



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Rear Admirals corresponding to Major Generals,  
Commodores " " " " Brigadier Generals,  
Captains " " " " Colonels, &c., &c.,

Since the enactment of this law, on account of <sup>the</sup> abundant legislation and the prevailing desire to meet cases of great hardship, <sup>old</sup> the system of rating ~~the~~ the disability of enlisted men, disabled in the war of the rebellion, has, of late years, been departed from. The gradual lifting up of the amounts allowed for the various specific disabilities has at last virtually overturned all the regular <sup>arrangement</sup> ~~to~~ to which we have referred. To closely exhibit the present status of pension legislation I have copied a brief table of disabilities with their respective ratings.

8 (Table from page 195 "The Statesman." ) 8







179

DISABILITIES.

Men or women

	FROM JULY 4, 1864	FROM MARCH 3, 1865	FROM JUNE 6, 1866	FROM JUNE 4, 1872	FROM JUNE 4, 1874	FROM FEB. 28, 1877	FROM JUNE 17, 1878	FROM MARCH 3, 1879	FROM MARCH 3, 1883	FROM MARCH 3, 1885	FROM AUG. 4, 1886	FROM AUG. 27, 1888	FROM FEB. 12, 1889.
Loss of both hands.	\$75			\$31.25	\$50		\$72						\$100.
Loss of both feet.	\$20			31.25	50		72						
Loss of both eyes or the sight of both eyes.	75.			31.25	50		72						
Loss of an eye, the sight of the other having been previously lost.		\$75.		31.25	50.		72.						
Loss of one hand and one foot.	\$40			24.00		\$36.							
Total disability in one hand and one foot.		\$40		24.00		36.							
Total disability of one arm or leg.											\$36.		
Loss of a hand or of a foot, or total disability therein.		\$15.	18.00						24.	30.			
Amputation of a limb at or above elbow or knee.		15.	18.	24					30	36			
Amputation at hip joint.		15	18.	24				\$37.50		45.			
Total disability in both hands.		25	31.25	50			72						
Total deafness both ears.			13.00									30	
Amputation at shoulder joint.									37.50	45.			



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DISABILITIES

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*Amey Salt 18*

Mr. Ohren, in "The Statesman" for July, remarks: "In 1865 a special rate of \$20.00 a month for a permanent disability to perform any manual labor was created.

In 1872 this rate was increased to \$24.00 and in 1883 to \$30.00. By this last act the private was placed upon the same footing as the Lieutenant-Colonel. x x x x "

An officer or any member of his command is <sup>now</sup> entitled to \$100.00 for the loss of both hands, and the same principle of equality distinguishes all the rates of \$30.00 and upwards.

When the pension laws were consolidated in 1873, provision was made for an \$18.00 rate for any disability less than that arising from the loss of a hand or foot and under this rating most of the pensions have ranged from \$1.00 to \$18.00 per month.

In addition to the eight and eighteen dollar rates there are three higher grades for non-specific disabilities.

Third grade \$24.00, second grade \$30.00, first grade \$50.

The \$24.00 rate which has been spoken of already is paid



Mr. Owen, in "The Statesman" for July, remarks: "In 1893 a special rate of \$30.00 a month for a permanent disability to perform any manual labor was created.

In 1898 this rate was increased to \$34.00 and in 1903

to \$50.00. By this act the private was placed upon

the same footing as the Lieutenant-Colonel: x x x

An officer or any member of his command is entitled to

\$100.00 for the loss of both hands, and the same principle

of equality distinguishes all the rates of \$30.00 and up-

wards.

When the pension laws were consolidated in 1893, pro-

vision was made for an \$18.00 rate for any disability less

than that arising from the loss of a hand or foot and

under this rating most of the pensions have ranged from

\$1.00 to \$18.00 per month.

In addition to the eight and eighteen dollar rates there

are three higher grades for non-specific disability.

First grade \$34.00, second grade \$50.00, third grade \$50.

The \$34.00 rate which has been spoken of already is paid

on account of <sup>those</sup> permanent disabilities, which medical experts consider are equivalent to a loss of a hand or foot.

The \$30.00 rate is awarded for disabilities incapacitating veterans from the performance of any manual labor; and there is a sentiment in favor of the adoption of this rate as the basis for all ratings for non-specific disabilities.

To have a rate of \$8.00 for total disability for the performance of manual labor, with the intermediate rates of \$18.00 and \$24.00 and another rate of \$30.00 for a total disability from the performance of any manual labor, is a slight verbal distinction, with a \$22.00 difference, that creates a good deal of confusion of thought in military circles on the subject of pensions.

The sum of \$30.00 can be divided as readily as the sums of \$8.00 or \$18.00 and its adoption as a common standard would obviate the necessity of keeping constantly in view, subordinate standards of stiffened joints and amputated extremities. x x x x x x x x x x x

The \$50.00 rate is paid in cases in which there is a



on account of permanent disabilities, which medical ex-  
 perts consider are equivalent to a loss of a hand or foot.  
 The \$20.00 rate is awarded for disabilities incapacitat-  
 ing veterans from the performance of any manual labor;  
 and there is a sentiment in favor of the adoption of this  
 rate as the basis for all ratings for non-specific dis-  
 abilities.

To have a rate of \$8.00 for total disability for the  
 performance of manual labor, with the intermediate rates  
 of \$12.00 and \$24.00 and another rate of \$30.00 for a  
total disability from the performance of any manual labor,  
 is a slight verbal distinction, with a \$22.00 difference,  
 that creates a good deal of confusion of thought in mil-  
 itary circles on the subject of pensions.

The sum of \$30.00 can be divided as readily as the  
 sum of \$2.00 or \$12.00 and its adoption as a common stan-  
 dard would obviate the necessity of keeping constantly in  
 view, subordinate standards of afflicted joints and im-  
 paired extremities. x x x x x x x x x x x x  
 The \$30.00 rate is paid in cases in which there is a

permanent disabled condition requiring the regular aid and attendance of another person. But some soldiers so disabled are receiving \$72.00 per month because Congress when it passed the act creating this grade, ordained that all those pensioners receiving \$50.00 June 16, 1880, or had a claim pending at that date upon which they were entitled to \$50.00 a month should receive \$72.00 a month; but that all persons who filed their claims subsequent to that date should receive but \$50.00 a month. This is virtually a proclamation that those who from patriotism, perhaps, did not file their claims, until want compelled them to, are to be placed at a disadvantage, and paid \$22.00 a month less for a given disability than those who were on hand bright and early June 1880. There are a

good many of these inequalities in the pension laws, ~~as~~ <sup>into law</sup> 3,370 ~~laws~~ <sup>bills</sup> have been enacted granting pensions to individuals that were ~~not~~ <sup>not</sup> entitled to pensions under the general ~~legislation~~ <sup>legislation</sup> or, not to pensions of a satisfactory size.

From this casual glance which could easily be carried to the cases of widows and other dependents, it is evi-



20.  
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and attendance of another person. But some soldiers so  
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great many of these inequalities in the pension laws, and  
\$2,500 have been enacted granting pensions to indi-  
viduals that were ~~not~~ entitled to pensions under the  
General Law, or not to pensions of a satisfactory size.  
With this casual glance which could easily be carried  
to the cases of widows and other dependents, it is evi-



dent that great inequalities, and consequent injustice have grown out of attempts to remedy existing specific evils and individual misfortunes. There are great difficulties in the way, not only of the makers of the laws, but of those who are called upon to execute them.

The numbers of pensions, that had, up to June 30th '89, come upon the rolls of the Government from the Rebellion, including the small number occasioned by the service of the regular army and navy in peace, were, viz: invalids 284,895, widows, minors and other dependents 245,131 that is, a total of 530,026 beneficiaries; which have cost the Government over 1,000 million dollars.

### # The Pension management.

The number of pensioners attributable to the rebellion, remaining on the roll at the end of the last fiscal year was about 470,000. For a bird's eye view of our present pension establishment I quote a few items from the "Encyclopaedia Britannica."

There is in the present bureau of pensions, "In all a force of 1,554 persons directly engaged in settlement of claims for pensions. In addition to these there are at various points throughout the country 2,515 surgeons whose duty it is to examine all applicants for invalid pension



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The number of pensions, that had, up to June 30th '92,  
come upon the rolls of the Government from the rebellion,  
including the small number occasioned by the service of  
the regular army and navy in peace, were, viz: Invalids  
1,462, widows, minors and other dependents 843,141 that  
is, a total of 2,305,083 beneficiaries, which have cost the  
Government over 1,000 million dollars.

The Pensioners' Movement.  
The number of pensioners attributable to the rebellion  
remaining on the roll at the end of the last fiscal year  
was about 450,000. Now a bird's eye view of our pres-  
ent pension establishment I quote from a letter from the  
"Encyclopedia Britannica."



who may be ordered before them, and report to the Commissioner of Pensions as to the degree of the applicants disability. This makes over 4,000 persons under the management and direction of the commissioner. In addition to this there are 18 pension agents for the payment of pensions, conveniently located through the country. x x x The salaries and expenses of this large force, amounted in the aggregate to \$3,262,524.67 for the fiscal year ending June 30th 1888. x x x x x x"

*File* "The total amount expended by the bureau of pensions, during that year was \$82,038,386.59 being 21½ per cent of the Government's (estimated) gross income - \$380,000,000; and 31 per cent of the entire expenditures - \$267,924,801.13- of the United States for the same period; x x x During the same fiscal year \$1,439,530.10 were paid as fees to attorneys alone."

The aggregate amount paid on account of pensions from 1791 to June 30, 1889 has been \$1,134,933,755.63.

*Discussion & Remarks.*

Having now presented a meager historic sketch of this subject for the four wars, we may add that various acts of Congress have established the same provisions for in-



who may be ordered before them, and report to the Commission of Pensions as to the degree of the applicant's disability. This makes over 4,000 persons under the management and direction of the commission. In addition to this there are 13 pension agents for the payment of pensions, conveniently located through the country. The salaries and expenses of this large force amounted in the aggregate to \$2,202,524.77 for the fiscal year ending June 30th 1888. x x x x x

"The total amount expended by the United States for pensions during that year was \$22,052,330.75 being 31.1 per cent of the government's (estimated) gross income - \$350,000,000; and 51 per cent of the entire expenditures - \$280,622,401.15 of the United States for the same period; x x x

During the same fiscal year \$1,439,450.10 were paid as fees to attorneys alone."

of Congress have established the same provisions for the subject for the four years, we may add that various bills

of all kinds in connection with our Indian conflicts. ~~§~~

Now with a view to discuss some important questions let us premise by a recapitulation, ~~of the classes~~, of the classes entitled to pensions.

~~FIRST.~~ <sup>1.</sup> Invalid pensions <sup>or</sup>; viz: officers of the regular army, volunteers and militia; officers of the navy, including the marine corps; and those enlisted in the military and naval force who have been rendered invalid by wounds or injuries received, or by disease contracted on duty.

~~SECOND.~~ <sup>2.</sup> Widows; The widows or children under 16 of officers and enlisted men who have died from wounds received or disease contracted while on duty (the widow of a deceased soldier prior to 1861 was not entitled to a pension except when the cause of death originated in some war-correspondingly in the navy- she received no pension unless her husband's death occurred in service.)

~~THIRD.~~ <sup>3.</sup> Dependents; dependent mother, father or minor brothers or sisters of those who died from wounds or disease having left no widow or minor children.



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 Now with a view to discuss some important questions let  
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Class I. Invalid Pensioners; viz: officers of the regular  
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 cluding the marine corps; and those enlisted in the mil-  
 itary and naval forces who have been rendered invalid by  
 wounds or injuries received, or by disease contracted in  
 service.

Section 2. Widows; The widow of a childless soldier is of of-  
 ficers and enlisted men who have died from wounds received  
 in service contracted while on duty; the widow of a de-  
 ceased soldier prior to 1861 was not entitled to a pension  
 except when the cause of death originated in some war-  
 related activity in the navy - she received no pension

unless her husband's death occurred in service.)  
Class 3. Dependents; dependent mother, father or minor  
 children of a soldier of the army who died from wounds or dis-  
 ease having taken no other pensionable children.

(These must have been more or less dependent at the time of the beneficiary's death.)

<sup>ex- These include</sup>  
FOURTH. <sup>^ ^</sup> Service Pensions; all the above classes, entitled under the several acts of Congress to pensions less than the service pension; and also other survivors for their services in the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812 and the Mexican War.

I remark first, Consonant with the foregoing review, my previous conviction has been strengthened, that it has been the intention of our legislators and our Presidents, who express the <sup>settled</sup> will of the nation, ~~the~~ ~~the~~ without regard to party divisions, to deal as liberally as practicable with the nation's defenders; and further I cannot detect any desire or purpose on the part of the administrators of the Governments bequests to defraud, or treat with injustice those whom the law proclaims as beneficiaries. It should be remembered how the various soldier's homes are provided and filled; how wholesome are the retired lists of the army and navy; how soldiers have been favored in the matter of employment; <sup>salary</sup> how bounties have



(These must have been more or less dependent at the time)

of the beneficiary's death.)

*For those included*  
WORTH. Service Pension, all the above classes entitled

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benefits are provided and filled; the widows are the re-

turned lists of the army and navy; the children have been

favorable in the matter of enrollment; the children have

been paid; how thousands of homesteads have been secured by them, by the law shortening the requisite <sup>number of</sup> years to complete the title; and how generously, in most of the States, soldiers have been placed in positions of public trust and responsibility. The vast majority have a livelihood, are proud of their service, and are happy.

SECOND. <sup>dat. S.C.</sup> As to the irregularities and injustices which exist in the superabundant legislation on this subject, some of the causes have been hinted at. They should be and can be fully remedied. For example, <sup>suppose</sup> a special commission be appointed of seven members or more, composed of the wisest and best men of great legal and judicial experience with instructions to revise and codify all pension legislation and all pension regulations thereunder. <sup>also enable said Commission</sup> to draw such appropriate bills, and such appropriate regulations, as would embody the evident intention of the nation, and submit the same for re-review and action by Congress and the Executive. Every good soldier would rejoice at such considerate, complete, and thorough



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will rejoice at such consideration, complete, and thorough

*statesmanlike work*

*Jewett*

26.

action. This could, probably, be effected without party division.

*ideal* THIRD. As to a general service pension I do not yet advise it; first, because the claims of the invalids and their dependents must first be attended to. The requisite *i.e. a pension for everybody,* sum for a general service pension would be so great that it would necessarily create public discontent and take from those who were *good* soldiers something of the warmth of affection and heroic sentiment which they have *excited* ~~had~~ and *still* ~~excite~~ among the people at large. I believe that a post of the Grand Army of the Republic in New York City embodied the common sentiment of living soldiers when it declared, that as much real patriotism may be displayed by refraining in time of peace from inflicting unnecessary burdens on the country as by coming to her defense in time of war *i and* ~~I believe~~ that any soldier, who applies for, or accepts a pension that he does not justly deserve for disability incurred, or as a reward of service when he is too old to labor, is guilty of conduct likely to injure



inches 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

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of war. I think that any soldier who applies for or

receives a pension that he does not justly deserve for

his military service is a reward of service when he is

not of labor in spirit of conduct likely to inspire

the men who were and are willing to give their blood and their lives for their country, without any reward beyond the approval of their own consciences and that honorable fame which is dear to every patriot.

I said I do not yet advise the service pension. After 35 years, as in the Revolutionary War, that is, in the year 1900 the conditions of survivors <sup>may</sup> ~~might~~ admit, or call for, the service pension; but the 57 years from the War of 1812 which elapsed before the survivors of that war received the service pension, afford a better example. Perhaps 50 years from the close of the war, <sup>for the Union</sup> that is, in the year 1915 the nation could celebrate a jubilee, and bestow upon every survivor of the great army which redeemed it a reasonable and honorable pension, <sup>in securing</sup> in connection with national gratuity, as ~~the~~ <sup>a</sup> the bestowal of personal benevolence, unfortunately, will be attempted.

General Andrew Jackson said <sup>concerning them</sup> in a message to Congress in 1834:- "Circumstances have been recently developed, showing the existence of extensive frauds under the various laws granting pensions and gratuities for Revolution-



the men who were and are willing to give their blood and  
their lives for their country without any reward beyond  
the approval of their own consciences and that honorable  
name which is dear to every patriot.

I said I do not yet advise the service pension. After  
55 years, as in the Revolutionary War, that is, in the  
year 1800, the conditions of survivors ~~will~~ admit or call  
for the service pension, but the 55 years from the date of  
1813 which elapsed before the survivors of that year receive  
of the service pension, afford a better example. Perhaps  
40 years from the close of the war, that is, in the year  
1853 the nation could celebrate a jubilee and bestow upon  
every survivor of the great army which redeemed it a re-  
spectable and honorable pension, in connection with an  
annual gratuity, as ~~in the case of~~ the bestowal of per-  
sonal benevolence, unfortunately, will be attempted.

General Andrew Jackson said in a message to Congress  
in 1824: "Circumstances have been recently developed,  
showing the existence of an active trade with the vari-  
ous laws granting pensions and gratitudes for Revolution-

ary services. x x x x I therefore recommend x x x  
that an actual inspection should be made in each State  
into the circumstances and claims of every person now  
drawing a pension. The honest veteran has nothing to  
fear from such scrutiny, while the fraudulent claimant  
will be detected, and the public treasury relieved to an  
amount, I have reason to believe, far greater than has  
heretofore been suspected." <sup>Jackson</sup> President made a fur-  
ther suggestion that all payments should be suspended till  
the necessary reports <sup>were</sup> received. Of course the chan-  
ces for attempting fraud, as human nature has not much  
changed since the days of Andrew Jackson, are a hundred  
fold greater with the enormous pension list of to-day.  
Claim agents, even when thoroughly honest, have, never-  
theless, enormous interests at stake. When their offi-  
ces and hall-ways are filled with unsettled claims from  
floor to ceilings, temptations are great to use every  
effort to secure re-rating, higher and higher, and most  
speedy action. Business enterprise in this age of tre-



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effort to secure re-testing, higher and higher, and most  
speedy action. Business enterprises in this line of in-

mendous vigor urges the employment of every unforbidden means; and who can say where enterprise ends, and avarice begins. For one, it would please me if every beneficiary could secure his pension without the intervention or the fee of the claim agent.

*James*  
*by date*  
 FIFTH. Perhaps the complaints which are most numerous and best founded come from the delays in the granting of claims which are most worthy and undisputed. Speaking of the year 1888 a newspaper says, that of the 35,089 cases allowed 28,282 had been held in the office for two years or longer; 18,353 five years or more; 10,262 nine years or more! The report for the same year shows that there were under examination 414,448 unadjudicated cases; a year before that there were 374,354; two years before there were 306,971 and three years before there were 280,666 such cases, showing an unhappy accumulation from year to year, which indicates either that the force in the department has been too small or that the methods of organization and work were radically wrong.

Sometimes in a Government bureau of ancient lineage and



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means; and who can say where enterprise ends and avarice  
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could secure his pension without the intervention of the  
State of the claim agent.  
...perhaps the complaints which the most numerous  
and best founded come from the delay in the granting of  
claims which are more sorry and anticipated. Speaking  
of the year 1888 a newspaper says, that of the 55,000  
cases allowed 33, 833 had been held in the office for  
two years or longer; 15, 353 five years or more; 10, 303  
five years or more. The report for the same year shows  
that there were under examination 414, 448 undistributed  
cases; a year before that there were 374, 381; two years  
before there were 300, 971 and three years before there  
were 250, 000 such cases, showing an unhappy accumulation  
from year to year, which indicates either that the force  
in the department has been too small or that the methods  
of organization and work were radically wrong.  
Sometimes in a Government Bureau of ancient lineage and

has crept

long aristocratic standing there ~~was~~ in what statesmen call "circumlocution." Often the same paper, that ~~was~~ <sup>a single</sup> official should dispose of, passed, in this system of circumlocution, through the hands of eight or ten manipulators, and so a day ~~is~~ <sup>was</sup> wasted with little accomplishment. Whether this, or any thing like it, is <sup>still</sup> true of our pensim department, the waiting soldiers do not know; but the accomplished men who are <sup>now</sup> responsible <sup>have doubtless ascertained or</sup> can ascertain; and, I doubt not, have sufficient courage to stand to their convictions, and obtain from their employees most thorough and effective work.

we know

Some of the cases of waiting <sup>are</sup> very sad; but the organizations of the veterans of the war endeavor to take care that no comrade shall be left utterly without help in the midst of his misfortune; and the families of the deceased, through them and the <sup>different</sup> Womens Relief Corps, are not neglected.

So, with a sanguine feeling, I am confident that all old soldiers and their friends, having stated their case, can



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official should dispose of, passed in this system of cir-  
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lars, and no day ~~was~~ wasted without the necessity of ~~re-~~  
freshment. ~~Still~~ <sup>who</sup> ~~was~~ <sup>was</sup> this, or any thing like it, is one of our penin-

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and effective work. ~~See~~ <sup>See</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~case~~ <sup>case</sup> ~~of~~ <sup>of</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~cases~~ <sup>cases</sup> ~~of~~ <sup>of</sup> ~~waiting~~ <sup>waiting</sup> ~~are~~ <sup>are</sup> ~~very~~ <sup>very</sup> ~~bad~~ <sup>bad</sup> ~~but~~ <sup>but</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~or- <sup>or-</sup>~~

ganizations of the veterans of the war endeavor to take  
care that no comrade shall be left utterly without help

in the midst of his misfortune; and the families of the  
deceased, through them and the Women Relief Corps, are not

neglected. ~~Still~~ <sup>Still</sup> ~~with~~ <sup>with</sup> ~~a~~ <sup>a</sup> ~~nauseous~~ <sup>nauseous</sup> ~~feeling~~ <sup>feeling</sup> ~~I~~ <sup>I</sup> ~~am~~ <sup>am</sup> ~~convinced~~ <sup>convinced</sup> ~~that~~ <sup>that</sup> ~~all~~ <sup>all</sup> ~~old~~ <sup>old</sup>

soldiers and their friends, having asked their cases, can

trust Congress, and its Executive branch - the pension bureau - to take proper and thorough measures to remedy this evil of delay, and other evils of administration necessarily incident to so large an establishment.

The pension laws themselves, we need to emphasize it, require complete and careful revision; and at the same time they should be so simplified that an expert be not required to understand and interpret them to a claimant; nor an attorney to plead for him with the bureau for the highest of several rates possible under different interpretations of the law.

Agreeing fully with all who are interested in pensions, to exclude with care those who wilfully deserted <sup>the service</sup> or shirked their duty by any sort of contrivance, I have in this paper relied upon our comrades, as in the war, for the highest motives of patriotism.

No soldiers in any country have been more highly commended for their spirit of self-sacrifice and supreme devotion. Let no subsequent wrangling, self-seeking, or





any thing, akin to begging, be ever allowed to soil the soldier's pure escutcheon.

Believing such to be the general feeling among the survivors of our last war I am confident of the happy settlement of every vexed now disturbs or problem that concerns us.

Hunt Gally 20



