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Report : Petition of M. Hardie

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MARCH 23, 1886.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. SEWELL, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill S. 1133.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 1133) granting an increase of pension to Margaret Hunter Hardie, respectfully report:

The committee have only considered this bill, and desire to preface their report upon the same with the petition of the claimant, making it a part thereof, as follows:

To the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled:

The petition of Margaret Hunter Hardie, a citizen of the United States and resident of the District of Columbia, respectfully shows that she is the daughter of the late Henry D. Hunter, for many years an officer of merit in the Navy; the niece of the late Col. Richard B. Mason, of the Dragoons, who commanded in California during the Mexican war, and the widow of the late James Allen Hardie, an inspector-general in the Army.

That since the death of her husband, December 13, 1876, she has been in receipt of the monthly pension of \$30 granted by the general law, and now prays an increase to \$50 per month, because of her increasing age and infirmity and the gradual exhaustion of the slender means left to her at the time of her husband's death.

In support of her petition she refers to the long and important services of her husband as an Army officer, extending from the year 1843 to 1876, and including such duties and services as the following:

Assistant professor at the Military Academy 1844 to 1846. Commandant and civil administrator of the district of San Francisco during the Mexican war. Adjutant-general, Department of Oregon, 1860. Assistant adjutant-general, and afterwards Judge-advocate-general, headquarters Army of the Potomac, 1861 to 1863. Inspector-general in charge of the Inspector-General's Bureau at Washington, 1864 to 1865; also at same time chief of the military staff of the Secretary of War. Senior officer of board of inspection of forts and arsenals 1866 to 1867. Special agent for investigation of war claims of Massachusetts and Kansas, and Indian war claims in Montana and Dakota, and the "Modoc" war claims 1867 to 1874. President of the Special Claims Commission in the War Department 1867 to 1869. Special agent War Department attached to Indian Commission of 1867. Inspector-general Military Division of the Missouri 1869 to 1872. Special agent for distribution of Government relief after the great fire at Chicago 1871. Inspector-general in the War Department and at headquarters of the Army 1872 to 1876.

The petitioner says that her late husband held the rank of brigadier-general of volunteers, and of colonel, brevet brigadier-general, and brevet major-general in the Regular Army, and that he was engaged in the Mexican war, the Indian war in Washington Territory in 1858, and the civil war, until called to the War Department in 1863, and that for twenty months he was the actual chief of the Inspector-General's Bureau, and acted as Secretary of War, by appointment of the late President Lincoln, during an absence of Mr. Secretary Stanton in the fall of 1863.

The petitioner appends as an exhibit to this petition a copy of a memoir of her late husband, imprinted at Washington, 1877, and refers especially to pages 32, 33, 55, and

56 thereof, whereon are printed testimonials to his character and services from Generals Grant, Sherman, Sheridan, Hancock, McClellan, Burnside, Hooker, Reynolds, Humphreys, Franklin, Wool, and others.

The petitioner says that she has two young daughters dependent upon her for support.

MARGARET HUNTER HARDIE.

Witnesses:

JOSE HARDIE.

CHAS. F. BENJAMIN.

General Hardie was a distinguished officer of the Army, having gone through all grades of the service up to that of brigadier-general and brevet major-general. Similar pensions have been granted to widows of officers of his rank, and the committee recommend the passage of this bill.

C