

ALBERT R. STRAUB.

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JANUARY 11, 1905.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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Mr. BROWN, of Pennsylvania, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 13377.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 13377) granting an increase of pension to Albert R. Straub, have considered the same and respectfully report as follows:

Albert R. Straub, of 823 Seventh avenue, Seattle, Wash., enlisted June 21, 1898, as a private in Company D, First Regiment Washington Volunteer Infantry, and after service with his regiment in the Philippine Islands was honorably discharged September 11, 1899. While in the Philippines he received a gunshot wound of right eye, with resulting loss of the eye, and gunshot wound of neck, right shoulder, and right side of back, and for these wounds he is now receiving a general-law pension of \$17 per month. The claimant is also suffering from partial paralysis, which he claims to have resulted from the wounds, but which the medical officers at the Pension Bureau refuse to accept as such result.

Upon medical examination preliminary to muster out claimant certified that in addition to the wounds above referred to he was suffering from constant pains in the neck. Medical testimony was supplied to establish a direct relation of cause and effect between the wounds and the paralysis, but this testimony was not accepted as conclusive.

The following affidavit by Dr. Lewis R. Dawson, late major and surgeon, First Regiment Washington Volunteer Infantry, contains a clear statement of the case:

SEATTLE, WASH., March 31, 1904.

This is to certify that Albert R. Straub, a private of D Company, First Washington Infantry, U. S. Volunteers, while in action against the Filipino insurgents, April 20, 1899, near Taguig, island of Luzon, P. I., was shot in the head by a Mauser bullet, fired by one of the enemy at a distance of 500 or 600 yards. I saw him within one-half hour after receipt of the wound and found that the bullet had entered his head at the lower edge of the middle of the right eyebrow and had ranged downward and backward, and, as it afterwards appeared, when his wounds were dressed at the First Reserve Hospital in Manila, had passed downward and backward through the

frontal and superior maxillary bones close to the base of the skull, and gone on downward through the neck and trunk, emerging near the outer border of the right shoulder blade, and had then entered the right upper arm at the middle of its posterior surface and passed on downward, lodging just under the skin over the upper end of the radius, from which point it was cut out. The globe of the right eye was destroyed, but at the time of the receipt of the injury there was no apparent paralysis nor other marked evidence of the injury to the brain.

About one year afterwards, in April, 1900, while at Waldo, Ohio, after his discharge from the Army, he had a slight attack of paralysis, affecting his left arm and left leg and also slightly affecting his power of speech. This passed off completely in a few days. I did not see him at this time and have no personal knowledge of this attack.

But in the spring of 1901—May, I believe—in Seattle, while sitting quietly upon a stool in a storeroom in North Seattle, he was again seized by a paralytic attack, in which he partly lost consciousness for a few moments and his left arm and leg were completely paralyzed and the power of speech very decidedly affected. He began to improve within a day or two and recovered apparently completely in about three weeks, during which time I attended him and saw him several times.

Again, March 2, 1903, he had another attack, in which his left arm and leg were completely paralyzed, the right side of face and tongue very decidedly affected, and there was complete paralysis of the bladder for about three weeks. In this attack he was confined to his bed for one month, to the house for two months longer, and has never fully regained the use of his arm and leg.

At the present time (March 30, 1904) he has but slight use of his left arm and there is still marked weakness and loss of control in the left leg. In my judgment it is doubtful if he ever regains much better use of the arm and leg, and from his past history he is very likely to have further attacks of this character. Prior to this wound Private Straub had been in active service nearly a year and had never been on sick report. I believe that the attacks of paralysis he has suffered are the result of injury to the large blood vessels at the base of the brain, and that he is fully entitled to pension for these disabilities, and I can not understand how the board of examining surgeons or the pension authorities can question the fact that his present disabilities, the results of paralysis, are the direct result of his gunshot wound. I would further state that I am not related to Private Straub and have no personal interest in any way in his application for pension, beyond my desire, particularly as a member of the same regiment and as chief medical officer of the same, to see a good and faithful soldier receive a pension, merited by courage in action, as well as by good and faithful service in every line of duty.

LEWIS R. DAWSON, M. D.,

*Late Major and Surgeon, First Washington Infantry U. S. Volunteers.*

Subscribed and sworn to before me this April 1, 1904.

[SEAL.]

G. A. C. ROCHESTER,

*Notary Public in and for the State of Washington,  
residing at Seattle in said State.*

The last examination by a Pension Office examining board was at Tacoma, Wash., September 23, 1903, and resulted in a recommendation that he be allowed \$17 for loss of eye and an additional \$17 for paralysis, which the board believed to be due to the wounds. In a sworn statement accompanying the bill the claimant avers that he is wholly dependent upon his pension for support and that he would have been absolutely without the necessities of life but for the financial aid given him by members of his old regiment and other friends, and in this he is fully corroborated by the sworn statement of Z. B. Rawson, a former comrade.

Your committee are fully satisfied from the evidence presented that the paralysis from which this man is suffering is the outgrowth of wounds received in the service and line of duty and should be recognized in his pension allowance; the passage of the bill is therefore recommended when amended as follows:

In line 7, after "Infantry," insert "war with Spain."

In line 8 strike out "forty" and insert "thirty."