

N. C. RIDENOUR.

JUNE 16, 1882.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. SIMONTON, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT :

[To accompany bill H. R. 6522.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 310) for the relief of Newton C. Ridenour, second lieutenant Company F, Twenty-third Iowa Volunteer Infantry, having had the same under consideration, report as follows :

Newton C. Ridenour, late second lieutenant Company F, Twenty-third Iowa Volunteer Infantry, was granted a pension July 26, 1880, at the rate of \$3 per month, the certificate being No. 164,978. Prior to and until June 29, 1863, said Ridenour was serving with his regiment in the field in the campaign against Vicksburg as an orderly sergeant. On June 29, 1863, was commissioned second lieutenant, for which place he was recommended early in June, said commission being dated June 29, 1863.

About the 5th day of July, 1863, by order of the officer commanding the regiment, said Ridenour took command of Company F, and continued in command until October 5, 1864, when he was assigned to staff duty. Said Ridenour was discharged as an enlisted man as of the date of June 29, 1863, and he was accepted and mustered in as second lieutenant, to take effect July 1, 1863. Immediately after the surrender of Vicksburg said Ridenour, in charge of said company, in July, 1863, marched from said city to Jackson, Miss. During said march said claimant was attacked with varicocele, and was at times rendered thereby unable to march, and was compelled to resort to the ambulance. When he entered the service he was a strong, healthy man. Previously to said month of July, 1863, or in the latter part of June of that year, the petitioner was somewhat unwell, although the precise nature of his ailment is unknown, and he was not then aware that it was the varicocele for which he was afterwards pensioned. It is not certain that said disease had its inception before July, 1863. But if that was the fact, it is apparent and uncontradicted that the principal development, growth, and establishment of the disease occurred after the commencement of the march from Vicksburg to Jackson. It is shown by medical evidence that the disability of said Ridenour is permanent and incurable, and that such disability incapacitates said Ridenour from performing manual labor.

This committee is of the opinion that, under the existing circumstances of the case as hereinbefore stated, said Ridenour should be regarded as a second lieutenant at the time of the occurrence of the disability for which pension has been granted, and his rating should be increased accordingly.

This committee therefore recommend the passage of a substitute bill, which is herewith submitted.