

SARAH AND FLORENCE COLEMAN.

MAY 4, 1892.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. COBB, of Missouri, from the Committee on War Claims, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 7031.]

The Committee on War Claims, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 7031) for the relief of Sarah Coleman and Florence Coleman, submit the following report:

The Assistant Secretary of War, under date of May 3, 1892, says, in relation to this claim:

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington City, May 3, 1892.

SIR: In reply to your request of the 29th ultimo for information upon House bill 7031, Fifty-second Congress, first session, to provide for the relief of Sarah and Florence Coleman, heirs of Robert S. Coleman, deceased, I have the honor to inclose a report from the officer in charge of the Record and Pension Division of this Department.

Very respectfully,

L. A. GRANT,
Assistant Secretary of War.

Hon. F. E. BELTZHOVER,
Chairman Committee on War Claims, House of Representatives.

CASE OF ROBERT S. COLEMAN.

RECORD AND PENSION DIVISION, May 3, 1892.

The records show that Robert S. Coleman was drafted from Waukesha, Waukesha County, First district Wisconsin, November 12, 1863, and was exempted from personal service under the draft during the week ending November 28, 1863 (exact date not stated), by reason of the payment of \$300 commutation money, he waiving all other claims to exemption.

In April, 1876, he filed in this Department a claim for the return of the commutation money thus paid, alleging that at the date of the draft he was 43 years of age and the father of two motherless children, one of whom was under 12 years of age.

The claim was not favorably considered for the reason that the time for the presentation of such claims had expired February 28, 1871. He was further informed that even had the case been presented in due season no favorable action could have been taken, as the law required that all claims to exemption should be presented to the board of enrollment of the district, whose decision was final.

A similar application was again denied for the same reason on February 18, 1880.

Section 2 of the act of Congress for the relief of certain drafted men, approved February 28, 1867, applied only to the claims filed in the War Department prior to its passage. This section was repealed by the act of Congress approved March 1, 1869, with the provision that all claims under the section should be presented and filed within two years from the date of passage of the latter act and not afterwards.

There is no law under which claims of this nature can now be considered by this Department.

Respectfully submitted.

F. C. AINSWORTH,
Major and Surgeon, U. S. Army.

The SECRETARY OF WAR.

Your committee report back the bill and recommend its passage.