

ALL U. S. PENSIONS MAY BE PAID MONTHLY; MEASURE IS INCLUSIVE

(Bulletin Washington Bureau.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 3.—All persons drawing pensions from the United States, based on military or naval service, will receive their pensions monthly instead of quarterly. If the bill reported to the house favorably by the committee on pensions becomes a law.

This bill provides that, beginning September, 1921, all pensions shall be paid monthly, on the fourth day of each month. Should this bill become a law—and there is good prospect for its passage in both houses—more than half a million residents of the United States will be greatly benefited, and the hardship of waiting 90 days for the arrival of the pension will be at an end.

Will Affect All.

This affects all those drawing pensions on military and naval service of the war of 1812, war with Mexico, the Civil war, the war with Spain, the various Indian wars up to 1891, and all those granted up to the time of the World war. Congress, in providing for the compensation of soldiers and sailors of the World war, provided that all compensation should be made on a monthly basis. This new bill is to place the other pensioners of the government on the same basis as veterans of the World war.

There are 225,000 soldiers who entered service in the Civil war now on the pension roll and there are more than 280,000 widows drawing pensions because their husbands were soldiers in the conflict of the states. All told, exclusive of the veterans of the World war, there are now approximately 571,000 persons on the pension roll of the United States.

Fall Favors Bill.

In commenting on this bill, Secretary of the Interior Fall, who favors the legislation, has this to say concerning the proposed change:

"Salaries and wages are universally paid weekly, bi-monthly or monthly, and retail houses generally are conducted on a cash basis or on short term credit, 30 days at the longest.

"The men and boys who entered the army or navy in defense of the

government in the World war were mostly persons who earned their livelihood with their hands or brains and who had, up to the beginning of their service, received their wages weekly, bi-monthly or monthly. In considering these facts the congress doubtless reasoned that if it was considered good policy to pay salaries and wages at short intervals to people in good health to enable them to use their income to the best advantage, it would be equally as good policy and more necessary to pay the compensation to disabled men, widowed women and minor orphaned children at the very shortest practicable intervals, and fixed upon the monthly payment as the proper period.

For Monthly Payment.

"Now, if upon full consideration of the facts and conditions, the congress decided that the compensation to be paid by the bureau of war risk insurance to soldiers and sailors of the World war and their dependents should be paid monthly, I think it is fair to assume that, taking into consideration the necessarily advanced ages of the pensioners of the war of 1812, the Mexican war, the Civil war, the war with Spain, and the Indian wars, all pensions paid by the bureau of pensions should be paid monthly.

"As stated before, there are now approximately 565,000 soldiers and widow pensioners of the Civil war alone, and the great majority of them depend largely upon their pensions for support. Many, perhaps most, of them have no other source of income. They live on a three months' credit and whenever, as sometimes happens, a quarterly check miscarries in the mails and is not received on the date it is due, complaint is made, frequently with a heart-rending story, about the hardship entailed by the failure of the check to arrive on time.

Checks Sometimes Lost.

"Sometimes a quarterly check is lost in the mails, or otherwise, and in such case a duplicate check cannot be issued until after the lapse of 30 days from the date of the original, and then only after an indemnifying bond has been furnished by the pen-

sioner. That takes time and causes some expense to the pensioner and prolongs considerably the period between payments. As a general rule,

duplicate checks do not reach their owners under two months from the date of the original or lost check. The pensioner therefore suffers

much inconvenience and great hardship if he has no other income, and his creditors likewise are inconvenienced.

"Assuming that the congress did right in making the payment of compensation by the bureau of war risk insurance monthly, and that no change will be made in the law, there is no apparent reason why the congress should not be asked to authorize monthly payments to pensioners paid by the bureau of pension.

Discrimination Seen.

"Under the existing laws it appears that there is a discrimination in favor of a comparatively youthful

list of beneficiaries receiving compensation and against a large list of very aged beneficiaries receiving pensions.

"The payment of pensions monthly would enable very many Civil war pensioners to receive one or two months' more pension than they get, for the reason that they are dying at the rate of about 4000 a month and many of them live until within a few days of the quarterly payment. If paid monthly, they would receive pension up to the fourth day of the month of their death if the died after that date."

Put it in The Bulletin.

NEW SORT OF PONIES FOR U. S.

South America going to send Llamas to this country for work and pleasure purposes



"One result of our great war-made relations with South America is going to be that we will enjoy South American products more and more. If they buy from us we will have to trade it out. So, we understand, arrangements are being made to ship a number of the South American llamas to the United States for pleasure and other purposes. You have seen llamas in circuses but as curiosities. They are first-class beasts of burden. You can load them up with packs or harness them to wagons and buggies. The llama is fairly docile and certainly would be a curiosity attached to an American buggy or pony cart. They have long wool-like coats and intelligent attractive heads.

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