

Chicago July 24/90

Judge Albion W. Torgee

Dear Sir.

My only excuse for intruding on you is my hearty endorsement of the sentiments of the "By Stander" & my admiration for his courageous manner of stating them.

Therefore I want to ask your help in getting before Congress a measure for the aid of a few thousand sufferers who endured the horrors of the Rebel War Prisons. Gen. Logan introduced into the Senate of 49th Congress - I think it was - a bill known as "the ex-prisoners of War Pension bill," giving to each survivor of the prisons two dollars a day during their

incarceration & a pension since
graduated by the length of time
they were confined. The bill was
so righteous that it - or one sim-
ilar to it - passed the Democratic
House, but died without action
in the Senate. The bill reaches
a few thousand soldiers who
though every one of them are in-
valid, suffering from shattered
nerves or impaired constitutions
unquestionably the result of
their imprisonment - yet cannot
prove within the purview of the
existing pension laws that they
have suffered every day since
from the effect of the ailment
then & there contracted.

I have never found a single
man - no matter how mean a
Democrat he was - but would
admit that this bill was en-
tirely just & ought to become

a Law. Now my dear Sir I
think all that is required to
make it so, is for some earnest
man in each House to look it
up, present it & push it to a
passage; and I think among
your many admirers in Con-
gress you can select such a
man in each House & get him
to do it. Senator Callahan
promised me he would attend
to it, but he seems to have forgot-
ten. I suppose he is very busy
with the Patronage question!!!

A Member of the House from
Iowa made to the Lower House of
the 49th ^{Congress} a very powerful minor-
ity report on this bill, in which
the merits of the case were ably
presented. I forgot his name &
have mislaid the copy I had of
the report.

If you can find time to

give this matter your attention
enough to procure the passage
of the bill, you will do a great
service to a class of men to
whom our people owe more than
they can ever pay; and will very
greatly oblige.

Your constant reader
& admirer
Geo B Lodge
Private Capt. Co. G. 53rd Ill.

My dear Sir: There is just one trouble about
it: I am one of the crowd myself
and couldn't possibly bring my-
self to work for a pension to
myself though I need it awfully enough
and am a visible & victim of that time

Yours very truly
Albin W. Tongue
Lt. Col. G. 105th O. I.
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