

SENATE No. 115.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

SENATE, March 1, 1882.

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the petition of the Grand Army of the Republic, Department of Massachusetts, for an annual appropriation of ten thousand dollars for the Soldiers' Home at Chelsea, having considered the subject, respectfully report —

At the hearing given the petitioners, it appeared that the building and grounds connected therewith, on Powder Horn Hill (so called), in the city of Chelsea, have been purchased and paid for by certain generous and philanthropic persons for the purpose of providing a home for needy disabled soldiers and sailors of the late war of the rebellion who are now receiving support in the almshouses of the Commonwealth. The building is now ready for occupancy, with the exception of some repairs to the heating apparatus and water-pipes. As yet, no arrangements have been made and no regulations prepared for the government of the Home, nor have the qualifications for admission to it been determined upon. A fund raised by fairs and contributions, amounting to forty-three thousand dollars, is in the hands of the trustees of the institution, and can be used if pressing necessity requires it; but it is the intention of the friends of the Home not to open it until the first of May next, or possibly later in the year.

Your Committee need take no time in discussing the claims of the soldiers and sailors who served in the late war to

the generous consideration of the people of this Commonwealth. It is equally needless to give assurance of their readiness to answer favorably all appeals in their behalf when a reasonable necessity for assistance shall be established.

But, in view of the fact that no rules or regulations for the government of the Home have been prepared, no superintendent or other force for running the institution has been selected, the uncertainty as to when it will be opened, and the probable number of persons who will be supported therein, your Committee recommend the reference of the petition to the next General Court.

For the Committee,

W. H. HAILE.

Representatives FRENCH of Lynn and BICKNELL of Weymouth dissent.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighty-two.

PETITION

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The undersigned, the Department of Massachusetts of the Grand Army of the Republic, respectfully represent that the Soldiers' Home in Massachusetts is duly established and ready for occupancy in the city of Chelsea; that many destitute soldiers are in the poorhouses of the State, now supported in degradation at the public expense; and your petitioners most respectfully request an annual appropriation of ten thousand dollars for the support of this Home, in accordance with the intent of its incorporation, and beg for a hearing on the subject-matter of their petition. And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

GEO. H. PATCH,

Department Commander, G.A.R.

