

# HOUSE . . . No. 94.

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## Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, February 20, 1868.

The Committee on Finance, to whom was referred the Order of the House of the 14th inst., relating to the Bureau of Employment for disabled soldiers, report the accompanying communication from the superintendent of said bureau, and recommend that the same be printed for information of the legislature.

Per order,

GEORGE WALKER,  
*Chairman.*

*Disabled Soldiers' Employment Bureau,* }  
 50 Bromfield Street, }  
 BOSTON, Nov. 30, 1867. }

Gen. W. J. DALE, *Surgeon-Gen'l of Mass.*

GENERAL:—I have the honor to submit for your perusal the following statement of work performed by this Bureau from July 1st, 1866, (at which time the State ceased its connection with it,) to date, a period of seventeen months.

During these seventeen months there has been 1,788 applications for employment registered. Of this number 190 have lost—or lost the use of—a limb each; 653 have been wounded more or less severely; 320 were discharged for disease contracted while in the service; and 625 are able-bodied.

In the same period of time 1,686 soldiers have been furnished with employment through the efforts of this Bureau, 220 of whom have suffered the loss of a limb each; 621 have been wounded more or less severely; 307 were discharged for disability incurred in the service; and 542 are able-bodied.

The gentlemen through whose liberality this Bureau has been continued, have, in addition to defraying the necessary expenses of the office in this city, employed for the greater portion of the time an agent, whose duty has been to visit the principal manufacturing cities and towns in this and the adjoining States, soliciting work for discharged soldiers. Mr. William Cline, a disabled soldier, was intrusted with this duty, and he has performed it in the most satisfactory manner. To his efforts we are in a very great measure indebted for our success in obtaining employment for these men. In addition to finding work for these soldiers, this Bureau has, in almost every instance, paid the cost of transportation for the men to the several places where employment has been obtained for them.

Many cases of distress among soldiers which this Bureau has been unable to relieve have been referred to your office, and when found deserving they have invariably received assistance; also, soldiers have frequently been sent here from your office,

(where they had applied for charity,) and they have been furnished with work, which was just what they needed and wanted, but by their individual exertions were unable to procure.

The Soldiers' Messenger Corps continues its connection with this Bureau, and is, I am glad to state, flourishing finely. It numbers 25 members, nearly all of whom are one-armed men. Their earnings are sufficient to support themselves and their families comfortably, and, except in case of sickness, they require no assistance.

With sincere thanks for the many official and personal favors received at your hands I am, General,

Most respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

D. O. BALCOM,

*Supt. Emp't Bureau and S. M. Corps.*

*Recapitulation.*

	Loss of Limb.	Wounded.	Diseased.	Able-bodied.	Total.
Number of applicants registered from July 1, 1866, to November 30, 1867,	190	653	320	625	1,788
Number employed from July 1, 1866, to November 30, 1867, . . . . .	220	621	307	542	1,686

On the 1st of December, 1866, the registration of able-bodied men was discontinued, and our efforts devoted exclusively to disabled soldiers.

The total number of soldiers to whom employment has been furnished by this Bureau since its establishment, January 11, 1865, is (3,310) thirty-three hundred and ten men.

