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full confidence in her statement at least. So far as execution of the declaration is concerned.

An application for pension is something out of the ordinary with this people. and I find the circumstances and incidents attending the same usually well fixed in their minds.

Under the recent construction of the law it seems the oath of competency in declarations is surplusage and the validity of claimant's application is not impaired by failure of the identifying witnesses to be sworn. If they were sworn therefore in this case. the contents of their affidavits is immaterial and they could not be prosecuted for perjury. I do not believe they were sworn in this or in hundreds of other cases where they appear as identifying witnesses. but that they and the magistrate with the knowledge and approval if not by direction of the attorney have been systematically preparing and forwarding fraud