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THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT.
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FOR HIM WHO BORE THE BRUNT OF BATTLE ...

A large measure of Lincoln's greatness lay in his vast humanity. And it was he, who in speaking of the government's responsibility to the men who served in uniform said, "... to care for him who bore the brunt of battle, his widow and his orphan..." While it may be forcefully argued that military service is one of the incidents of citizenship, that does not obviate a nation's responsibility after victory to the men and women whose lives were dislocated by military service. Moreover, that obligation has been freely assumed for many decades. It is but one of the continuing costs of conflict and in proportion as we fully appreciate it, it should be a powerful deterrent to the use of force in solving the problems that arise between nations.

AND WHAT IS THIS COST?

Only a few years ago, appropriations for all veterans purposes were less than one-half billion dollars. As the effect of war began to manifest itself, the cost began to climb. For the fiscal year 1945 it jumped to 1½ billion; for the year which ended on June 30, 1946, it will have reached more than 2½ billions; and for the year which will end on June 30, 1947, it is estimated that appropriations for all veterans purposes will be 5 billion dollars. It will increase as time goes on and will serve as a grim reminder of how costly war really is.

IT IS A CONTINUING COST.

133 years have elapsed since the war of 1812, but we still carry one dependent of that war on the government rolls. It is 98 years ago that the Mexican War ended but it still costs a little over \$21,000 per year to provide for dependents of that struggle; we have almost forgotten the Indian Wars entirely but they still cost about 2 million per year; it is 80 years ago that the Civil War ended but the annual cost for veterans and dependents is still more than 9½ million annually; it is 47 years ago that our conflict with Spain ended but the annual cost is still about 148 millions; World War I ended 27 years ago but the cost for veterans and dependents is still about 438 millions per year. To this, we must now add our obligations resulting from World War II and they already exceed a billion dollars per year, aside from hospital and administrative costs.

THE NUMBER INVOLVED.

In the number of veterans and dependents who are carried on the rolls, one can get a real idea of what a destroyer war really is. As of January, 1, 1946, the total number of veterans and dependents on the rolls will be close to 2 million at a monthly cost of more than 106 million dollars. On January 1, 1947 - one year from now - the number is estimated to be more than 2,800,000 at a monthly cost of \$148 million. Now consider World War II. As of January 1, 1946, there will be 902,000 veterans and 156,000 dependents on the rolls. As of January 1, 1947 - a year hence - it will have jumped to nearly 1,600,000 veterans and 202,000 dependents. These are aside from the holy dead, who are the greatest cost of all. Think then of a great host of 2,800,000 veterans and dependents of all wars - enough to populate 28 cities with a population of 100,000 persons - and you get a partial idea of the continuing cost of conflict, long after the end of hostilities has been proclaimed. These are our responsibility.