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TWELVE MILLION WHO CAME TO DINNER.

Alexander Wollcott once wrote a popular play called "The Man Who Came To Dinner." During the war, there were meetings and meetings, plans and plans, discussions and discussions dealing with the demobilization of our armed forces and what must be done about the eleven or twelve million veterans who would be coming to dinner. That is to say, there was concern about the millions who would return to civilian life and what must and should be done to facilitate that transition. There is an absorptive power in our economic system and a flexibility in young America that is genuinely heartening. This fact is documented by the May 31st issue of the Monthly Labor Digest from the Bureau of Labor Statistics which says: "The flow of veterans into the civilian labor force is proceeding almost as smoothly as we dared hope. Of some 11 million veterans in April, more than 8 million had found jobs." Here indeed is a condition worth pondering when one reads the stupid attacks upon the American system of enterprise.

A LITTLE MORE DETAIL.

It's about 13 months since VE-Day when the military and naval forces of the United States were at an all time high. It's 10 months since all hostilities ceased. The business of demobilization got under way. From all causes and over a long period, nearly 12 million men had laid aside their uniforms by April 1946. What happened to them? Eight million had found jobs. Two million were taking a well-earned respite or were in school. One million were unemployed. Between December and March, 2 out of every 5 persons hired for factory work were veterans. In the heavy industries, 1 out of every 2 hired were veterans. Even though factory employment declined from VJ-Day about 1 out of every 7 who were on the job were veterans. By the end of April, 700,000 veterans were receiving training or education of some kind or other, 170,000 of whom were receiving on-the-job training. Another 1½ million had applied and qualified for educational benefits but had not yet actually entered school. It is quite apparent from this that there will be a vast migration of veterans to colleges and universities this Fall. Of the 2 million who are scheduled for discharge from the service between April and June 30th, the one million on vacation and the one million listed as unemployed, the Bureau of Labor Statistics on the basis of gradual absorption over a period of time states that "we do not believe that any great difficulty will arise in absorbing the remaining veterans."

A FEW FACTS FROM THE VA.

At the end of each month, the Veterans Administration issues a statistical summary showing the total number of veterans, the number receiving vocational rehabilitation and training, the number receiving loans and disability pensions and many other facts. This summary shows that at the end of April, 1,619,839 were receiving readjustment allowances under the GI Bill of rights; 1,380,286 were receiving disability pension or compensation; 131,285 had received loan guaranties; and that a total of 2,180,930 had applied for education and training. The total number of veterans of all wars in the United States as of April 30th was 15,882,000 of whom 11,902,000 were veterans of World War II. To absorb these returning veterans into the economic life of the nation and to make adequate educational, financial and hospital provision for such a huge number did seem like an insuperable task. There were delays and difficulties of course but the job is being accomplished in a way that did not seem possible a year ago. It is itself a high testimony to the veteran himself, to the determination of administrative officials to see it done, and to the capacity of the nation to bring it about. By the end of June 1946, this whole picture will have improved very materially.