THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT
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The Book of Revelations in the Bible speaks of the Four Horseman who came upon the earth when the eternal seals were broken, to whom was given power over a fourth part of the earth to kill with the sword, with hunger, with death and with the beasts of the earth. Years ago they were popularized in a powerful novel by Ibanez under the title, "The Four Horsemen Of The Apocalypse." But there is a Fifth Horseman. Altho he is not described and may be shrouded in the mists of the future, he is just as surely there. He is the Horseman Of The Aftermath. He is the Horseman of Despair and Disability, the Horseman of the Wounded and Bereaved, the Horseman of the Orphaned and the Widowed. He is the Horseman who will ride and ride and ride upon the earth, long after the other four have dissapeared over the horizon.

VETERANS ROLLS TELL THE STORY

How long and hard the Horseman Of The Aftermath will ride is so simply and incontrovertibly told by the realistic figures which one can find in the records of the Veterans Administration. It is 132 years ago that the War of 1812 ended but 1 beneficiary of that war is still upon the rolls of the nation; 97 years ago, we concluded our war with Mexico but 59 dependents of soldiers in that war remain on the rolls; we have all but forgotten the Indian Wars as an adventurous part of our national life but 183 veterans of those wars and 2899 of their dependents are still on the rolls; 46 years have rolled by since our contest with Spain but the 130,016 veterans and the 69,653 dependents on our pension rolls are a testmony to how long the Fifth Horseman will ride; as the first World War moves further and further into the mists of history, and becomes second-hand history to more than a generation of our young people, the veterans rolls remind us that 424,428 veterans and 113,331 of their dependents are being carried as a measure of our gratitude for duty well done. They remind us that war does not end when the order to "Cease Fire" has been given and that the Horseman of the Aftermath will ride upon the purse and conscience of the world long after.

VETERANS ROLLS TELL THE STORY

The history of the present war will not be different from our earlier experiences. The Fifth Horseman will ride to remind us that the armistice whistles are not the end of the war. A staff of 100,000 doctors, nurses and attendents, scattered through 92 hospitals and homes which are equipped with nearly 100,000 beds tell their own story of what the problem of adequately caring for the disabled veterans will be. It is estimated that in the years ahead it will require 300,000 beds and a correspondingly larger staff to handle this task. Already, 272,582 veterans of World War II and 55,581 of their dependents are carried on the compensation rolls, and it is estimated that by June 30, 1946, the number of disabled who will receive compensation will be 994,000. That is nearly 8 million persons. This does not include our hallowed dead to whom we owe an inextinguishable debt. Nor is it the end. Our annual outlay for veterans of all wars in the year beginning July 1, 1945 will be nearly 2 3/4 billion dollars. Each year will find it increasing as the FIFTH HORSEMAN rides, and rides and rides. As one contemplates this human wastage that will ride on and on and on for generations after this war ends, do we need any other incentive for an unquenchable determination to achieve a peace that will endure?