

25 PER CENT OF REVENUE PAID TO GOVERNMENT GOES FOR RELIEF OF VETERANS

Group Comprising Less Than 1 Per Cent
of Nation's Population Given Huge
Share of U. S. Income.

LESS FOR MEN WOUNDED OVERSEAS

Ex-Service Victims Disabled in This Country
Fare Better Than Soldiers
Crippled in Action.

BY TALCOTT POWELL

A recapitulation of veterans' relief reveals the fact that less than 1 per cent of the people of the United States receive 25 per cent of the entire federal revenue in direct veterans relief as a result of the World war.

There were 1,102,814 persons on the monthly soldier relief pay roll at the close of 1931. The nation's population just exceeds 137,000,000. Total income of the treasury, in round numbers, for last year was four billion dollars. Veterans' relief cost nearly a billion last year, and will go beyond that next year.

This is the largest single function of the federal government today. The war and navy departments together do not cost as much. Less than 1 per cent of the population this year will swallow the entire income tax paid by the other 99.2 per cent.

Even though the proposed bonus is defeated, the people of this country, under present relief laws, will have to spend \$100,000,000 before the last World war benefit is paid.

Warriors Get Less

The whole of this money does not go to the men hurt in combat, or to dependents of those who died in battle. A man disabled in action overseas is averaging today \$39 a month compensation; a man disabled by disease in this country enjoys an average of almost \$10 more. Dependents of dead soldiers average about \$18 a month.

Discrepancies in the program, carelessly slipped together by congress under stimulation by veteran lobbyists, do not end with these inequities among ex-soldiers with service-connected disabilities.

On Dec. 31, 1931, there were 313,737 such veterans drawing regular monthly payments for disabilities contracted while they were in the arms or navy. On the same date there were 326,495 ex-soldiers of the World war drawing a total of \$6,208,338.72 a month from the federal treasury for disabilities which they were unable, even remotely, to prove were connected with their war service.

Quiet Service Pension

Although the legislation under which these men get their benefits is called disability allowance, it is actually a service pension. The number getting it equals the entire number of American dead and wounded in the World war; it exceeds by nearly 13,000 those receiving money for service-connected disabilities.

Use of hospital facilities, provided originally for war-injured, but opened up by congress for all veterans, provides the same sharp contrast.

At the end of the last fiscal year, there were 35,139 ex-soldiers under treatment in the hospital's. Of these, 33,302 were veterans of the World war and 52 per cent of them were getting medical attention for difficulties incurred long after their return to civilian life.

Still another discrepancy is found in the law under which a relatively small group of emergency officers are permitted to be "retired" if they can prove 30 per cent permanent and total service-connected disability. The lowest rank officer, with his 30 per cent disability, rates almost 10 per cent higher in monthly compensation than the non-commissioned officer or private permanent and totally disabled.

Need Is Not Factor

In none of these cases does the factor of need determine the compensation. The millionaire gets as much as the man of the breadline.

Another legal sophistry propounded by congress is the law which says that certain diseases, notably tuberculosis, shall be presumed to have occurred in the service if contracted before 1923.

Expert medical opinion makes no difference in such cases, and the

half of the emergency officers' retirement law.

"Ninety per cent of the retired emergency officers were lieutenants and captains. They were platoon commanders, the company and battalion commanders, who led their men in the most desperate fighting the nation ever has known—led them against rifle and artillery fire, machine guns, flame projectors and poison gas; led them through barbed wire and trench and forest, through mud and blood, in a manner which stirred the world—thirteen years ago. These were the officers whose motto was, 'Come on, boys; not go on, men.'

Wrong on Facts

Overlooking the fact that the writer of this stirring bit apparently was unaware of the fact that majors, not captains or lieutenants, command battalions, the other statements contained in the appeal do not square with the facts.

The description is obviously that of the duties of an infantry officer below field rank.

The number of infantry lieutenants and captains enjoying the bounties of the emergency officers' retirement act is not 90 per cent, but just under 33 per cent. Adding to the infantry officers those in the air corps, engineers, field artillery, machine gunners and tank corps, the number of combat officers in the liberal retirement reaches only 49.6 per cent of the total.

Inquiry in Washington among scores of officials interested in the veteran problem revealed a number of remedies for the present unjust and expensive legislation. A mosaic of them is presented here.

Program Is Mapped

1. Raise the compensation payments of men clearly injured in service to a permanent degree, provided they need the money.

2. Raise payments to widows, children, and dependent parents of men who really did die for their country in the World war.

3. Remedy abuses in the emergency officers' pension law.

4. Compensate only for service-connected disabilities.

Hospitalize only for service-connected disabilities.

6. Eliminate absurd congressional presumptions of what did or did not happen in the World war or when it ended or what a man's physical condition was when he entered the service. Depend instead upon competent medical opinion.

7. Place war risk insurance upon the same business basis that obtains in a private company, with the exception that the government shall make no profits out of its soldier insurance.

8. Treat veterans of all wars alike.

9. Make the economic situation of the veteran a controlling factor in any benefit he receives from the taxpayer.

10. Create a permanent standing senate veterans' relief committee whose members will specialize in veterans' legislation. Such a committee now exists. Such committee not only would result in a more intelligent veterans' legislation, but would make it possible for the public to fix responsibility.

THE END.

ART SAYS:

The Chamber of Commerce, in a timely campaign that was launched yesterday, is asking the public for greater cooperation through direct membership. "Help Pull the Wagon" is the keynote of the appeal.

** * * *
We believe that our Chamber of Commerce is doing everything within its power to push Indianapolis to the front despite the fact that it has often been the popular subject for much harsh and unmerited criticism.

** * * *
Surely none can gainsay the fact that when men like Louis J. Borinstein, Chamber of Commerce president, are willing and glad to give up time that should be devoted to personal affairs and to sacrifice their own desires for the work of the organization, that our citizenry should try to look at the difficult problems facing the Chamber of Commerce from the inside out rather than from the outside in.

** * * *
This is still clean-up week. Remember the American Legion Relief Station at 118-120 E. New York Street can use discarded clothing of all kinds.

** * * *
Did you ever hear of so much fun, so much fun, fun and education for little money? As an advertising experiment, we offer you the opportunity to buy an ordinary price! Start any day. Special attention given to ladies. Write today or phone RILEY 9666.

** * * *
GREAT EASTERN TERM
110 W. WASHINGTON
G The Short Line System
MILLER TIRE DISTRIBUTORS

** * * *
FOR THE
Independent Traveler

Complete and accurate information will enable you intelligently to plan your trip with due consideration as to expense, time, seasonable places to visit, best routes, suitable hotels, trains, steamers, etc.

Official Agents All Steamship Lines

We can furnish complete information as to size and speed of steamers, rates, cabin plans and sailing dates, and secure most desirable reservations at regular rates.

Let the Union Trust Travel Bureau handle all the details of your trip.

Complete details can be obtained from

RICHARD A. KURTZ, Manager Travel Bureau

The Leading Travel Bureau of Indianapolis

** * * *
Safety for Savings
FLETCHER AMERICAN
NATIONAL BANK

Southeast Corner
of Market and Pennsylvania

Rush Jobs Make Us Smile

Hendren Printing Co.

Incorporated

470 Century Bldg. Riley 8534

120 East Market St. Riley 5341

THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

UTILITY TAXING CUT DEFENDED BY OFFICIALS

State Board Members Say
They Followed Law in
Valuation Slash.

Depositions in which the three members of the state tax board averred they followed the law when they slashed \$47,418.816 from the admitted taxing valuations filed by the Indiana Electric Corporation over a six-year period, were being studied today by attorneys for Perry township, Marion county.

The tax board's method of assessing utilities was attacked by S. C. Kivett, Martinsville attorney, who took the depositions for the township. He was assisted by Russell Willson, attorney.

Members of the Indiana legal staff of Samuel Insull were present at the hearing to interpose objections to Kivett's examination and watch

the proceedings, which may cost the utility \$175,000 in the township.

Lobby Chief Attends

Those present included Glenn Van Auken, chief of the Insull lobby, who, according to Philip Zoercher, tax board member, appeared on behalf of the utility at each of the assessment hearings in question, and William P. Evans, chief of the local legal staff.

Kivett announced the Perry township damage suit, originally filed in Marion superior court two days, had been taken, on change of venue, to Hendricks circuit court.

Zoercher, Flinly Woldard and James Showalter, board members, testified in the depositions that they followed "the law to the best of their ability and knowledge" in fixing the assessments.

Taking the utility report and tax board valuation for each year, Kivett questioned Zoercher as to the reason why, in 1926, the tax board had not taken the admitted valuation or "book value" of the property by the utility in its return, but, instead, slashed it from \$12,137,169. to \$4,180,820.

Claims Rate Raise Averted

"Such a valuation would have resulted in higher rates to patrons," Zoercher said. "They could take this high valuation and go before the public service commission

and show they were not getting a fair return on their investment and thus get rates raised," Zoercher said.

"There never has been a complaint raised before. The public knows that we have tried to be fair and honest in every assessment we make."

"Who do you represent in making assessments?" demanded Kivett.

"The state," Zoercher replied. "Then, why do you always look out for the interests of 'utilities'?" asked Kivett.

"The United States supreme court has ruled a utility is entitled to an 8 per cent return on its investment, and a high assessment would make that impossible, thus resulting in legal contests and we know that such value would not stand in court," Zoercher said.

In answer to a query from Evans, Zoercher asserted members of the board "never were influenced by any outsiders" and the electric corporation always had produced all figures requested.

STIMSON JOINS PARLEY

Secretary of State Takes Seat at Arms Reduction Conference.

By United Press

GENEVA, April 19.—State Secretary Henry L. Stimson appeared for the first time at the world disarmament conference today, soon

after the general commission approved the American claim that general armament reduction to the lowest possible level be the first goal of the conference.

Low Round-Trip Coach Fares

Each Week-End

CHICAGO . . . \$5.00

Good on all trains from noon Fridays until early morning trains Sundays. Good returning until Monday night.

Next Saturday

CLEVELAND . . . \$4.00

Leave 11:30 p. m. Return Sunday night.

DETROIT . . . \$4.00

Leave 10:15 p. m. Return Sunday night.

TOLEDO . . . \$3.50

Leave 10:15 p. m. Return Sunday night.

Next Sunday

ST. LOUIS . . . \$4.00

Leave 12:35 a. m. or 2:45 a. m. Return Sunday night.

\$3.60 Round Trip to Louisville. Going Monday.

Fell Particulars at 112 Monument Circle, Riley 3322, and Union Station, Riley 3335.

BIG FOUR ROUTE

Good on all trains from noon Fridays until early morning trains Sundays. Good returning until Monday night.

APRIL 19, 1932

EXPANSION

SALE

New! Fresh!
Style-Right
Merchandise

Featured in this
Big Store-wide sale
at prices that will
thrill you.

Come! Buy!
Save!

Cash Purchase and Sale of Women's and Misses' Fur Fabric Jackets

The Lowest Price
Jackets Like These Have
Ever Been Sold for

\$2.69



Wednesday and Thursday 2 to 4 P. M.
Hope Muslin—Yd.

81x90 inch, 59c Value
Seamless SHEETS

Full double bed size
sheets, firm round
tire quality with
wide top hem each...
6c

Pillow Cases 10c ea. 4 for 35c
Leader—Second Floor.

Wednesday and Thursday 9 to 11 A. M.
Navy Beans

High grade selected quality.
Limit 3 pounds to a customer at
this low price.
5s 10c

Leader—Second Floor.

"Maynards" and "Wrisleys"

59c CREMES

Lemon Creme.....

Cold Creme.....

Liquifying Creme.....

Strawberry Creme.....

Cucumber Creme.....

Leader—Second Floor.

Wednesday and Thursday 2 to 6 P. M.
Full-Fashioned Silk

CHIFFON HOSE

1