

ly followed, it will be impossible to prevent great waste, both of time, money and energy. But in looking at the great amount of money necessary, we should also look at the economic loss bound to obtain by the idleness of great numbers of men. For instance, if a half million men remain idle for only one week, it represents a loss in wages alone of \$9,000,000; and this based on a three-dollar-per-day wage, which at this time is far below the minimum wage of the average worker. If the idleness continues for six months, the loss is \$225,000,000 in wages alone.

It is also well to remember in assuming this heavy financial responsibility, that while the country is helping its soldiers, it is helping itself, and that is the proper point from which it should be viewed.

Already we hear on every hand the bitter complaint of the returned man—not so much, I am inclined to think, for himself, but in the face of the grim realization of that condition of affairs that is bound to obtain at the close of the war, when hundreds of thousands of his comrades shall find themselves in the position that he finds himself today.

If he complains, who is there to say that he has not just and proper cause? And he will have that cause of complaint until some proper scheme of repatriation is adopted and put into effect.

