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WHAT IT COSTS TO EQUIP EACH INFANTRYMAN

A detail which throws interesting light on the war's colossal cost is found in the statement that our government spends approximately \$156 in equipping every infantryman for service in France. A little calculation will show what it will cost to prepare a million or a million and a half men for the front. The equipment expenditures for the foot soldier are classified under three heads: clothing, eating utensils, and fighting equipment. Under the latter group the rifle, the cost of which is figured at \$19.50, is the most expensive item. This amount varies from time to time. The gas mask, which also varies in price somewhat, is estimated at \$12, and 100 cartridges at \$5. The total cost of the clothing is slightly over \$100, the biggest items being \$18.75 for three wool blankets, \$14.92 for one overcoat, \$15.20 for two wool service coats, and \$10.20 for two pairs of shoes. In all, there are 23 different kinds of articles listed under clothing. In the eating-utensil group are included food to be carried in the haversack during field service, a canteen and canteen cover, cup, knife, fork, spoon, meat can, haversack, first-aid kit, and a pouch, costing approximately \$7.70.