

What is Meant By Postwar Reconstruction?

(Following is the first of a series of our weekly articles on postwar planning. Comments from readers are invited. The opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Tweed Daily).

(BY J. ORLOV).

"Postwar reconstruction" today is given No. 1 priority in all our planning. Precisely, what do we mean by it? When the war is over we shall still have our basic needs of three meals a day and all the other needs of our everyday life, which all have to be produced. It follows, that our life shall still, and forever, consist of the need to labour to produce, to earn, our daily bread. This need cannot be "reconstructed."

Improvements, like making work easier, will probably be made by technology, but that's not "reconstruction." just like it is not reconstruction to apply to our life (means permitting) labor-saving devices. It follows that what we really mean by reconstruction is planned alterations for the better in conditions of work, of living—in human relations. Human relations depend largely on human nature. Such can be decidedly influenced in its early formation stages by education and surroundings, and partially influenced in later years by personal contacts, public opinions and

influenced in later years by personal contacts, public opinions and law.

If the above postulates be correct, our reconstruction planning could be divided into three main groups: (1) Education, (2) living conditions, (3) working conditions.

We should not make the error of confusing the desirable improvement in human relations with the urgent need of planning for the realisation of our mobilised forces into civilian life, which we term repatriation. Whilst both repatriation and reconstruction may proceed side by side and help each other, yet they are two entirely different problems; repatriation being mainly concerned with: (1) care and employment of the sick and wounded, (2) the civilian re-employment of our forces, and (3) partially, with settlement on land of some of our men.

I propose briefly to discuss some of those and other problems, to further promote the discussion so capably started by Mr C. J. Snow.