

Postwar Reconstruction

PENSIONERS

(Following is the second of a series of weekly articles on post-war planning. Comments from readers are invited. The opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Tweed Daily).

(BY J. ORLOV).

Eventually, when Germany and Japan surrender, we will have the job of re-absorption of our mobilised forces into civilian life. Those forces could be divided into two groups—the ones that got hurt and the ones that did not, and the sick and maimed receive, of course, priority. Hurt in the service of their country, they shall be pensioned. Is that enough?

The sick and wounded should not be treated as subjects of charity, of Government bountifulness, and hence at the mercy of petty officialdom. Our present system of centralising repatriation in capital cities is not fair to pensioned people. Being on guard against im-

die. Being on guard against imposition, and also being unable to know the majority of pensioners personally, the staff of the Repatriation Departments deal with many cases in an unsatisfactory way. Country pensioners feel it especially, often abandoning their just claims rather than bothering with the "Repat." If a fair thing is to be done to our cripples of this war, the decentralisation of the Repatriation Department seems to be indicated. Local committees also local medical boards, both connected with local government bodies, should be appointed and granted power of decision.

And then in every industry, in every business there may be some jobs which could be performed by a person not entirely physically perfect. Such jobs must be earmarked for our war pensioners. Only when each and every one of our war pensioners, who is capable of doing so, is performing a self-respecting man's job in a community, with no taint of charity attached to it, will the repatriation of our sick and wounded be satisfactory to the nation.