

Postwar Reconstruction

QUESTION OF PREFERENCE

(Following is the third 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. J. ORLOV).

Preference to returned soldiers was enacted in Australia after the last war. It was a case of rough justice to men, who served their country in its hour of need (and lost thereby their position in the community) to have them preferred for employment to men who did not serve.

This war however is a total war.

Compulsory service operates in Australia, and we all serve in some capacity or other, and all of us, men and women alike, are ready to serve wherever and in whichever capacity the Government may

capacity the Government may direct. So we have to consider not only whether preference after this war would be just, but also whether it could be operative. To give preference to AIF, for example, some of whom serve on essential, yet safe, base works in Australia, may not be fair to militia or even CCC men serving in New Guinea. If preference be given to all forces whether serving in Australia or Abroad, what about munitions workers who gave up their civilian work and who will have to be also "repatriated" when this war is over? Their work is just as essential, if not more so, than many "uniformed" base works.

And let us then consider whether it would not be unjust to handicap and penalise our school youth or generations as yet unborn for their failure to participate in this war!

It is our job, our responsibility, to attend to it that there is no unemployment after this war, except in transitory stages, and where there is no unemployment no "preference" shall be needed.
