

POSTWAR WORKS PROGRAMMES

(Following is the fourth 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).

Postwar works programmes, to absorb our mobilised forces back into civil life, are being planned by all governing bodies of Australia. The majority of plans published have this in common—that proposed works would create only temporary employment of various durations.

Worthy as such proposals certainly are to meet an unemployment emergency, they do not in any way claim to repatriate a man, to give him steady work, make him a permanent member of a living community and that is what the

a permanent member of the community, and that is what the word "repatriation" really implies.

At best those plans will provide a succession of "casual" jobs, to keep our men when demobilised in bread and butter. That's good in itself, but can't we do any better?

Should our present industries be unable to absorb all the labor offered, we will have to develop new industries, create new services to the community.

Amongst many such that come to mind a decisive campaign against erosion in every district, carried out on communal lines, can be mentioned, organised fights against such pests as blowflies, grasshopper, rats and mice and many, many others; destruction, or possibly eradication, of burrs and weeds spreading all over the country, are amongst most urgently needed services to the community of first-rate economic importance.

Not only would such undertakings absorb labor for very lengthy periods, but, by benefiting the whole country, they would pay for themselves, raising the standard of living. And it would increase the self-respect, hence contentment, of men employed in such undertakings, knowing that they were not on a kind of "relief" work, but were engaged in a service of monumental national importance.