

Decentralisation of Government's Executive Powers

By J. ORLOV.

The old saying, "Life is what you make it," has lost some of its verity. A great deal depends on others, especially on governments. The more mechanised, specialised and complicated life becomes, the more it seems in need of regulations, directions and restrictions.

It is right that our central government should have the duty of creating a national policy on all matters affecting the Commonwealth as a whole. The execution and administration of such policies by a central government, however, present a lot of difficulties. Due to our immense distances, various local conditions and circumstances, a regulation that is perfect in one district is often enough a nuisance in another, creating just the opposite effect to the policy it is attempting to fulfil.

Those regulations, of best intentions, but doubtful wisdom, in their attempt to manage every detail, alter our business and living conditions, not necessarily for the best. At present we cheerfully submit to all sorts of inept meddling restrictions, as one of our contributions

tions, as one of our contributions towards winning the war. But when the war is over?

It is certain that to aid our return to normality the Government shall have to keep on issuing directions on very many subjects. If the administration of those directions be left in centralised offices there will be a still larger output of regulations, making our confusion more confounded.

So if we wish to improve our living conditions, to live as we would like to, and are able to, and not as regulations force us to, we will have to consider the advisability of decentralisation of the executive powers of our governments.

(Following is the fifth 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).