

“Distribution Of Our Produced Wealth”

(BY J. J. ORLOV).

The major cause of our social unrest is probably the dissatisfaction with existing systems of distribution of fruits of our industry.

Our industry only exists to satisfy our needs, and there is no doubt about its ability to produce goods and services in more than sufficient quantity for all our expanding needs. Yet it is undisputable that a large section of our population is not receiving sufficient of our production for its requirements.

It is a just cause for dissatisfaction. Hence a great deal of consideration and action will have to be given in our social reconstruction to our systems of distribution.

The distribution amongst us of our produced wealth (goods and services) is accomplished mainly by systems of wages and profits, interest and taxation.

It is relatively recently the idea has been gaining ground that capital (which is only a static variety of labor) is not entitled to the

cal (which is only a static variety of labor) is not entitled to the whole of the profits from workers' industry. Numerous profit-sharing systems are being developed, but, while an improvement on straight wages, they still leave a deal to be desired. Lately a new system is being advocated (on trial in Canada and U.S.A.) in which labor is accepted as a fully responsible partner in a productive enterprise. The division of profits is too involved for description in a brief dissertation of this kind; suffice to say that labor takes a responsibility in management and a large share in profits.

While it is not likely that any devised system will be fault-proof and give satisfaction to all concerned, any proposal that increases dignity and responsibility and gives a just share in profits to employees, will be a decided improvement on our present system, and as such should be tried out.

Similar to the profits idea is the conception about capital being "entitled" to interest. The existence of profits and interest is justified only by possibility of losses, and where no loss is at all likely it is doubtful whether capital is entitled to any interest. This is another one of those questions that we will have to face, if our social reconstruction is to be successful.

(Following is the ninth 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).