

when you
get back



We have tried to make the information given here as complete and accurate as possible, but it should be remembered that changing conditions may invalidate some of it. These articles can be regarded, therefore, only as a general guide. They do not bind *Korero* or any authority.

ENGINEERING TRADE

Fitting and Turning

THERE has been a great expansion in this trade during war years, and there is likely to be a surplus of fitters and turners when hostilities cease. Nevertheless, there will be a scope for some, if not all, of the surplus in related trades or in manufacturing industries. A man who has served his five years' apprenticeship in an approved workshop can go a long way in the trade, providing his educational background is good. In fact he can, if he is energetic and ambitious, rise from the rank of skilled artisan to the professional status of an Associate Member of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers (A.M.I.M.E.).

Good eyesight is needed in this trade, as well as manual dexterity and mechanical ability. A youth who cannot stand up to monotonous work should be warned against entering the trade, unless he can regard the work during the training period as a step towards further advancement in engineering.

There is now a tendency for many firms to specialize in either fitting or turning. The Railway Workshops, for instance, employ apprentice fitters who are trained for nine-tenths of their time as fitters and one-tenth as turners.

Youths who wish to become marine engineers have to serve their apprenticeship in this trade in an approved workshop.

It should be emphasized that qualified fitters and turners who cannot find employment in their own trade may be able to qualify for employment in allied trades—e.g., in diesel-engine work.

Many men in this occupation may also aspire to the professional side of engineering. While a fitter and turner may receive at present about 2s. 11d. or 3s. per hour, a foreman's wage may be up to about £10 per week, while in some cases toolmakers command an even higher remuneration.

Pattern-making

This branch of the engineering trade is well suited to disabled men, providing that they have the necessary manual dexterity. There is a five years' apprenticeship period, during which time the trainee needs to attend technical classes in woodwork, mathematics, and drawing.

Opportunities are reasonably good, but more limited now than formerly when all patterns were made of wood, which only lasted a limited period. Nowadays they are made of metal, which is much more durable.

Pattern-makers are mostly found in the Railways Department.

Moulding

Moulders are in great demand, but moulding proper—as distinct from plate-moulding—is heavy, disagreeable work