

noticeable; the hope for Total Employment and for sincere Internationalization. These extensively held ideals are widely, deeply felt to be threatened in advance. Worse than that, their opposites, Mass Unemployment and International Strife, are commonly anticipated. Unemployment fear is the most immediate and important: it is strongest, of course, in the Services. Nearly half the civilians also expect much unemployment, and another third think there will be some.

#### Optimists :—

I don't see why there should be much. There's plenty wants doing.

There's too much rebuilding to be done.

There'll be plenty of work for all—catching up with everybody's wants. Haven't we been skimping and saving for years? People will want to go on a bust when it's over. That's good for trade.

#### Compare the pessimistic :—

I think it will be like after the last war, dreadful.

It will be like after the last war, a muck-up.

#### Between the two :—

After the first two years I reckon it'll go back to the old game again—all lining up for the dole.

It is certainly true that people will want "to go on a bust." They did last time. That was half the trouble. Peace became irresponsible. Again it is bound to raise new conflicts, tempers, impatiences. If the old job is available, will you want it back? Or are you looking for a new opportunity? Many servicemen and women will answer: No. Yes. The younger end never had an adult civvy life. Their problem is well put by a girl just married to a soldier :—

Unless he stays in the Army—and I know he does not want to do so—demobilization for us means starting a completely new career.

#### Will Britain offer enough opportunity?

In a recent Mass Observation survey, a greatly increased number both of Services and civvies spontaneously expressed an urge to emigrate after the war. Typical remarks were: "I shall sell my business, if it keeps on its feet, and then I shall go to America," and, "I want to go abroad. New Zealand I'd like. They want carpenters there." A fragment overhead in a Taunton pub :—

*Soldier*: Well, when it's all over, we'll go to Canada, won't we?

*His Wife*: Rather!

And what will the women do? Will they sit pretty, in industry? Will they want to go back to housework? *Journey Home* shows there has

been a lot of exaggerated worry about this in the Forces. Women in Britain definitely *do* want to get home. The large majority are getting tired of loyally observed long hours, and routine work in factories. Many pine for a home; wives want husbands and babies; others want potential husbands, as any normal girl does. Just one woman war worker can speak for millions like her; she says of her job: "This is only a wartime measure. You bet your life I only intend it to be."

A majority in public opinion also favours the idea that women should not be *allowed* to stay in men's jobs. And the old slogan, "Equal pay for equal work," is accepted as an essential rule by nearly every one—only 1 per cent. against!

We see, then, that people have new hopes born out of war's sacrifices and self-controls; they also have old doubts and anxieties, born largely out of the last war. They are ready to plan something different, but not at all sure how it's to be done. They are clear that it will mean some continuing sacrifices and controls—both of self and community. The first step—as nearly all agree—this time is to plan demobilization, key to any planned economy of prosperous peace. This time the Government are planning demobilization ahead, mainly through Minister of Labour Ernest Bevin. The broad principles so far published involve a general assessment on basis of age, home responsibilities, service, skill, and available work. Nothing is yet finally fixed. Independent schemes have been publicized by various groups, from the Conservatives to the Communists. What matters is that few men doubt the need for planned demobilization. This is

#### DEMOBILISATION PRIORITIES?

