

equally true of the man-in-the-street. When Mass Observation asked people what they thought the main considerations in demobilization priorities, they named the following items in their order of frequency: (1) family man; (2) length of service; (3) usefulness in "civvy street"; (4) service record; (5) job ready and waiting; (6) age.

Many felt that length of service alone would penalize key men, reserved for the first war years, or later volunteers from safe civvy jobs. Many held that those who could go and make work for others should be let out first, however short their service. Broadly, most are remarkably reasonable and tolerant about it. It will be impossible to satisfy every one. Every one can this time be led to follow a sensible, fair-minded scheme. But underlying the sober general opinion there is, as all servicemen know, a very natural feeling that "I'm an exception, I'm entitled to be among the first, that's sure." A report from the R.A.F. typically mentions this feeling:—

In talking of how it ought to run, everybody invariably takes the class to which they belong, and then puts forward any argument he can think to show why that class comes first.

As a sapper reports from an R.E. unit:—

Of course, every one believes that there will be no early release for him *himself* after the war, but secretly hopes that a chance may present itself for him to get out quickly. Every job is regarded by the person doing this job in "civvy street" as being of national importance.

This very normal "selfishness" upset the show last time. It can only be avoided this time by self-control. Mass Observation polls show one helpful development in this direction. The per-

centage expecting demobilization to last *under* one year was 30 per cent. in 1941, fell to 20 per cent. in 1942, and away down to 5 per cent. in 1943. Commonly held is the view "it will have to take place over a long period." Gaining ground is the idea that a strong Army of occupation will be required; as an R.A.S.C. driver remarks: "Complete demobilization will never take place, because a large standing Army will be maintained." Moreover, practically half of Britons at present expect another war after this one; 46 per cent. expect it within twenty-five years. In the face of these fears, the soldier dreams of a personal "civvy street" escape. Pessimism breeds apathy. If "the century of the common man" is to mean something to the common man, it must be an era of more than creature comforts. Good housing, good pay, security, they mean a lot. But men can live in luxury and be miserable, as they can sometimes live in squalor and be happy. If a man knows where he's going and wants to get there, he can put up with hardship cheerfully. The Freedoms of to-day seem largely *Freedoms From*. The shortage is in *Freedoms For*. The positive, purposive effort for wise and controlled action right from the moment of peace depends on citizens, electorates. There should, by now, be enough women and men of good will and good sense to see that we avoid the shambles of 1918 with its inevitable repercussions, 1928 and 1938. If even as late as 1948 is our demobilization year, we have then to fight for 1958—and 2000, too.

SCHOLARSHIPS IN ACCOUNTANCY

The New Zealand Society of Accountants intends to grant two travelling scholarships in accountancy after the conclusion of hostilities. The scholarships are of the value of £200(N.Z.) per annum for two years. Applications are being received from members of the society who are serving or have served with the New Zealand Forces and who were under thirty when they enlisted. Three similar scholarships are offered by the Incorporated Institute of Accountants of New Zealand, open to members of that Institute. Further information can be obtained on application to—

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