

wages. He has not, of course, become a fully qualified carpenter in that short time. It will take another two years before he can class himself as a qualified journeyman, and during this additional two years attendance at a technical school is necessary for a man who wishes to qualify for the more responsible position, or to strike out in business on his own.

It should be added that this training costs the State more than the value it directly receives, and in return the trainee is asked to undertake to remain in the trade for a period, including training, of at least five years.

The type of training outlined above is very suitable for single men, who can easily move to lodgings near a training centre, or for married men who live where such a centre is located. Many intending carpenters, however, have homes established in towns where there is as yet no centre, and cannot easily move. They are provided for by a three-year period of apprenticeship with a selected private employer. This is a reduction of two years in the normal term, specially arranged for ex-

servicemen. Wages are subsidised and are L5.5.0 for the first six months, L5.7.6 for the second six months and full award wages thereafter. The trainee will require to attend the local Technical School to obtain the theoretic instruction. At the end of his three-year term he is classed as a qualified journeyman.

The position of the soldier who was already serving his apprenticeship in carpentry when he joined the Army is also protected. He may revive his contract of apprenticeship within six months after release from the Forces, either for the unexpired term or for three years, whichever is the shorter.

He will receive full award wages during the whole of this revived term if over 21 or if the original contract would have expired but for service in the Forces. Apart from the shortening (if any) of the term and the increase in wage the conditions of the apprenticeship contract are not altered.

There is one further point. A carpenter requires tools. The ex-serviceman selected for training will be granted a loan of L50 free of interest to buy them. Repayment is by mutual agreement.

All these methods of training are to some extent short-cuts to qualification. They are justified partly by improved methods of training and partly by the fact that adult trainees will be more intensively employed on carpentry proper during the shorter term. But the man who takes on this trade and wishes to



do well in it must be ready to do his part. Carpentry, especially outside construction work, requires an active and energetic type of man, physically in good condition, and at the same time one who is prepared to study hard the theoretical side. It requires a man "good with his hands," as particularly in joinery careless work cannot be concealed from one's employer, who will know from long experience exactly what to look for.

For the man who enjoys creating something, the man who feels a pride in the work of his hands and who does not regard his work merely as a method of earning enough to live on, it is a good and satisfying trade. But the man who is not prepared to put his heart into learning by brain and hand would do well to hesitate.

Carpentry is one of the oldest trades in the world. It has long traditions, and pride of workmanship, which is an outstanding characteristic of the expert carpenter, also means a critical approach to the work of juniors. The trainee can acquire that same pride. His employer, or foreman, will soon gauge his quality and if he is good



he will find himself being paid the supreme compliment of being given the trickiest and more difficult, but also the more satisfying work. What is more while prospects at present look good for all carpenters for the real craftsman they are always good.