

Positive or Negative?



It's Over to You.....

NO subject provides either more points for the interested or shocks for the careless investigator than the electrical trade. And that normally inexcusable play on words might be excusable in this case if it is sufficient to arrest the attention for a moment of all those interested in the electrical trade — electrical wiring, workshop practice, and electrical engineering.

What is the post-war prospect in New Zealand? What assists the placing of the feet on the first rungs of the ladder in this vital branch of industry and development? What factors play a part in the climb up that ladder to success?

To ensure that all feet are on the ground at the start, and that flights of fancy concerning wealth without working do not get out of hand, consider first two authoritative comments on the trade that are poles apart.

First, the optimistic side. Without any doubt it is by far the stronger. New Zealand, with other countries, many of which are ahead of her in this sphere, will be turning, more and more, to electrification as a source of power—and, of course, light. New Zealand is now starting in this development from a back mark for reasons with which we are not at the moment directly concerned. There is a power shortage in New Zealand. Comprehensive plans to overcome this are under way. After the war there will be development in every branch of the electrical trade providing scope for the men who are keen, able and progressive.

In short, electricity will be increasingly relied upon in everyday life and industry—lighting, heating, ventilating, transport, power machinery and so on. Will there be a place for you in this development?

Now for the less optimistic side. The future of the trade depends on building programmes, hydro-electric schemes and progressive development of the entire country—city, town and country alike. The speed with which this takes place does have a bearing on the promptness with which opportunities become available for tradesmen and professional men.

There are some sections of the work that require close examination of prospects. In the past the trade has been subject to considerable unemployment, and with reason, for a six-roomed house where a carpenter would be employed for some months would provide for the electrician not more than a few days' work. War itself has required a vast amount of electrical work in manufacture and maintenance of equipment—this embraces the extensive field of radio, for example—and thousands will be returning from the Services with some electrical experience. This is obviously a big limiting factor.

Those are the two general points of view. It is obvious that the policy announced in New Zealand of *not* training ex-servicemen for the electrical-wiring trade, for instance, unless they



have had *some* previous experience either in the Services or in civil life, is sound in principle.

But there is no "thou shalt not" attached to anything in a free country and if you have absorbed the foregoing and can still be interested, this article