

SECRET

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

See - /4a

In connection with the question of man-power in the United States there is, I think, one matter which deserves attention, namely the existence in the U.S. of a considerable number of British subjects who, on the face of their applications, would be very suitable for the war effort. The British Information Services under Sir Gerald Campbell, 30, Rockefeller Plaza, New York City, have started an index of all British subjects who have applied for employment or volunteered their services in any way; duplicate cards have been made and are available for any Government department that wishes to see them. They have been classified according to various employments, such as shipping, office, languages, etc. There is also an alphabetical index, and gradually the records of the various British Government departments in this country such as the British Purchasing Commission, Consulates, etc., are being centralized here.

In the first place it would be advisable that all British Government services in the U.S.A. who are looking for employees should consult this index before sending to England or Canada for such employees. Since the index has been started a number of possible censors have been sent to the British Censor in New York City, and a certain amount of staff has been provided to the British Purchasing Commission. In the second place it seems a waste of this man-power not to be able to engage and send to England or elsewhere where they are needed the people who, though not technicians, are qualified to take their place in the war effort. For instance it may be that the Air Force needs administrative officers, or the Ministry of Pensions needs clerks, and already in the index I think there are some scores of people who would be qualified for these positions. At the present moment there is no method of sending anybody to England unless he is technically qualified, such as a radio technician, stationary engine-driver, sawyer, etc. We have had many applications from British subjects who are anxious to help but who cannot afford to wait about for passage on a ship without priority, leaving their family without support, and get to England where they would have to hang about on the chance of a job. The remedy would seem to be for some person over here to be given the authority to engage people for service in a civilian capacity if need be in England. A few mistakes might be made but the gain in man-power would be valuable.

There is a similar problem in connection with Americans who offer their services, but in their case other considerations such as security, suitability and liability to English war-time legislation, make the solution of the problem more difficult without official U.S. Government backing.

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