

since there is no certainty that they will not reappear after the war, plans have been made for the immediate utilization of whatever white-collar workers may be made available to us at that time.

EMERGENCY PROTECTION OF RECORDS

We have during the last fiscal year completed all the measures we had planned for the wartime protection of our records. Every one of our series of major importance has now been microfilmed and the films transported to a relatively safe depository in Western Maryland. We had thought it advisable, however, as we speeded our program during the first months after Pearl Harbor, to skip those volumes in each series of which copies existed either at the Hall of Records or elsewhere and we had also passed over some of the indexes. We are now filming these few volumes in order that a complete set on film might be in existence. The Archivist feels that such a collection should not remain at the Hall of Records after the war but should be deposited at some place where it might be used while still functioning as insurance against the loss of the originals. Several likely places of deposit come to mind: The Huntington Library, the British Museum, or perhaps the library of whatever supranational organization is set up after the war. Doubtless the members of the Commission will have thought of other centers of research which might benefit by such an acquisition.

In addition to the completion of the microfilm project, further details of which may be found in the section on "Microfilm," the Hall of Records also purchased a large number of odd-sized dustproof and waterproof boxes into which individual volumes might be packed rapidly and moved away should the danger from enemy action become critical. While the Archivist feels that there is no longer danger of destruction from such action, he still believes it prudent to reserve these special-purpose boxes for the time being. When all danger has passed they may be used for the storing of loose records.

The Maryland Committee for the Conservation of Cultural Resources, which was active during the last fiscal year, found as the military situation improved, that there was little for it to do. As Chairman the Archivist did not feel it necessary to call a meeting during the year. After August 31, 1943, the sponsorship of the National Committee for the Conservation of Cultural Resources will be withdrawn since on that date the National Resources Planning Board, which has supported it, will cease to exist.