

decreased to two or three by the early Spring and in June, when all non-defense Projects were abandoned, only one worker was still with us. As in the case of the WPA, less was accomplished by the NYA at the Hall of Records than during the preceding year. The greater number of workers who had had previous experience and our own better understanding of what types of work they could do and how they might be directed more efficiently were not able to overcome the serious loss in the number of workers. The contributions of these workers cannot be segregated here from the work of the regular staff; it will suffice to say that they had a part in all of our projects of arrangement, accessioning, cataloguing, indexing and filing. Sometimes their part was small, but usually it was large. Perhaps it is not out of place here to say that none of these workers were cut off, they went one by one to good and responsible positions in defense work or in the agencies of the Federal government. They had come to the Hall of Records fresh from school or as surplus in industry with no needed skills, they were trained or retrained at the Hall of Records to be useful citizens. By employing them after this preliminary training had been received at the Hall of Records, the Federal government recovered by that much the investment it had made in these projects.

EMERGENCY PROTECTION OF RECORDS

The Hall of Records Commission will note that our program of copying records by photostat and by microfilm has progressed extraordinarily during the past year. In addition to the permanent value of having copies of unique records, there is the present value as assurance against the loss of the originals by enemy action. Some other records have been marked for removal to Western Maryland in the event that the danger should become more imminent. Depositaries have been chosen, transportation provided for, and containers have been made for each volume or each group of papers. For the protection of materials which must in any case remain at the Hall of Records, all the steps recommended by the Office of Civilian Defense have been taken.

The Archivist has also studied the experience of the Public Record Office and other depositaries of Europe as well as the protective measures which have been taken in this country. We were able out of our own budget to purchase the kind of fire fighting equipment which