

In spite of the continuing difficulties of travel and the depletion of the ranks of historical scholars in favor of the armed services, the circulation of materials and the number of visitors began to increase during the early part of the year and during the last few months had approached normal. The number of postal and telephonic inquiries also increased again, but this may be due to the war rather than otherwise since those researchers who must continue their work and who find themselves unable to come in person because of the various handicaps imposed by the war, must rely on letters or the telephone.

We are especially pleased that the Hall of Records is coming more and more to be relied upon by other state Agencies for archival and historical services. The Archivist feels strongly that as a part of the Executive branch of the government we should bend every effort to cooperate with other governmental agencies, that we should in short be a vital part of the government and not solely a repository of its antiquities. We are especially pleased to have been of service during the past year to the Executive Office, the Court of Appeals, the Comptroller of the Treasury, The Attorney General, the Industrial Accident Commission, the Department of Legislative Reference, the State Accident Fund, the Adjutant General. Since the State of Maryland has no Historical Commission and has recently abandoned its Publicity Commission, it is natural that the Hall of Records should be looked to for all sorts of historical and statistical information concerning the State of Maryland.

The Archivist and the other members of the staff of the Hall of Records look forward to the new fiscal year with optimism. There is every reason to believe that wartime restrictions which have hampered us in many ways will be gradually eased, or perhaps even lifted altogether, during the course of the year. We begin the year with an experienced staff and with a full program of useful work to be done. There is every hope that we shall enjoy one of the most fruitful years in the history of the Hall of Records.

Respectfully submitted,

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