



AUGUST 9, 1942

The Women's Place

More than 1,500,000 women—about one for every eight men—are now in war industries. Two million more will be enlisted this year and another 2,000,000 next year. It shouldn't be too difficult to get the women. About 1,300,000 are registered with the U. S. Employment Service. As more husbands are drafted, more women will want to work to help the war effort.

Women have been found to excel men in jobs requiring repetitive skill, finger dexterity and accuracy. They're the equals of men in a number of other jobs. A U. S. Employment Service has indicated women can do 80 per cent of the jobs now done by men.

The survey showed too, however, that women have limitations. The ordinary woman has about half the ordinary man's lifting strength, two-thirds his pulling strength. Women are more susceptible to certain health hazards. But machines and health measures can overcome some of their limitations.

The WMC expects the first large influx of women war workers in Baltimore, Wichita, Detroit, Seattle, San Diego, Buffalo and the industrial sections of Connecticut. Women now are doing such jobs as operating drill presses and in all types of light sub-assembly and final assembly requiring the use of hand tools. In England, 30 to 40 per cent of aircraft workers are women. Before long they'll be doing a large portion of the work here, too.

Women, as well as students, are also expected to play an important part in the harvest. We now have about 8,000,000 agricultural workers. But the early Fall harvest will require some 12,000,000. The U. S. Employment Service, the Department of Agriculture and the U. S. Office of Education are co-operating to get women and students into the fields. Some schools will open later than usual this Fall to allow the students to finish their farm chores.

WMC

Our farm labor shortage is about to become our biggest labor-supply headache. But it won't be the first shortage we've had to face. There already are acute shortages in specific skills and in certain areas. For every skilled designer now available, we need 51; for every available ship carpenter, we need 7; for every available marine machinist, we need 22.

Just recently the WMC listed 138 occupations, from arc welding to rivet heating, in which there are critical shortages. In addition to specific shortages, there are industry-wide shortages in such war-work centers as Buffalo and Elmira, parts of Connecticut, and in Baltimore, Norfolk, Newport News, Portsmouth, Ogden (Utah), Seattle-Tacoma, Los Angeles and San Diego.

TECHNICOLOR HERO



BACK IN INDIANA, a biographer says, Paul Vories McNutt day-dreamed about the Presidency. His chances at the '40 convention were ruined when FDR decided to run again. But he's only 51. There'll be other conventions. Scotch-Irish, Methodist, McNutt studied at Indiana U., Harvard, served in war as major. Before becoming Federal Security Administrator and **WMC** head, he was law dean at Indiana U., national commander of American Legion, Governor of Indiana, High Commissioner of Philippines. He's married, has a daughter, and still wears his Phi Beta Kappa key. Almost too handsome—6 ft., 2; 195 pounds, sun-tanned face, silver hair—McNutt is something right out of technicolor.