

Voluntary Service Registration Bureau

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This bureau, of which the Under Secretary of State is chairman, was established to direct the tabulation, organization and co-ordination of all voluntary offers of service for the defence of Canada.

Every department of government was literally swamped with the spontaneous and generous offers of thousands of patriotic Canadians at the outbreak of war. Their mere classification was a stupendous task. There is no doubt a widespread feeling that the government has been slow to accept many of the offers. Nothing would have given us greater satisfaction than to accept every offer that was received. The nature of modern warfare itself made that impossible.

Modern warfare is the occupation of the whole nation. That is why it is called total warfare. Every citizen who is engaged in useful work is helping in the war effort, however unspectacular his job. No one so engaged should feel that he must give up his present occupation to undertake some new activity in order to serve his country. Staying on the job may give small outlet for patriotic emotions, but, until the call to other service comes, it is the path of duty.