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WPA REPORTS SUCCESS IN VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR DEFENSE AND WAR JOBS

Of 1884 men and women receiving training in vocational schools at WPA expense only eight remain on regular WPA projects, state administrator Dean W. Miller reported today. Of these eight, one is a blacksmith, one a machinist and six are sheet metal workers.

WPA's part in the vocational training program has been a great success" Mr. Miller said. "Over twice as many men as now remain on all WPA projects, have been trained in this program which is sponsored by the State Department of Vocational Education."

Schools have been conducted in several Idaho cities, and several hundred men from Idaho WPA rolls, have been trained at Logan, Utah, and Seattle, Washington. The WPA wage, plus a subsistence allowance in some cases where men were sent out of the state, made it possible for nearly two thousand trainees to become skilled in airplane sheet metal work, gas and electric welding, machine shop, foundry work, pattern making, etc., Mr. Miller emphasized.

During the past few months the training has been extended to women on WPA rolls, and several now have good jobs in factories on the coast in

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war production work.

As a service incidental to the training, WPA supervisors assisted hundreds of trainees in securing birth certificates, as all defense industries required proof of citizenship before accepting applications for training or employment. Mr. Miller's survey showed.

Wide distribution of manpower formerly on WPA was shown in the report. Employers are some of the largest firms on the Pacific coast such as Boeing, Aircraft, Washington Iron Works, Lockheed Aircraft, Cannon Shipbuilding, etc. Others received employment in Denver ordnance plants and other defense jobs in the northwestern area.

"Although our big job is to first win the war, for which definite purposes these WPA men were trained, we should not overlook the value of their skills in peace time construction programs. Our country has reached an all time high in skilled men and women, which certainly should prove an asset later on," Mr. Miller concluded.