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INTERNATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOLS

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are some elderly people with capital enough to live on—which is no doubt why they were let in. There are very few refugees who are making big money in this country. Those whose income touches four figures number perhaps forty, certainly under fifty. That number is constituted almost entirely by the doctors and dentists; as for the business men and manufacturers, the number who are making big incomes can certainly be counted on the fingers of one hand. The popular idea that refugees as a class are coining money is bunk. The typical refugee is living frugally on a modest salary, fully aware that being an alien he can expect neither promotion nor wage increases for the duration, but trying to save a little for harder times ahead.

All refugees hate Hitler. Refugees are here because there was no place for them in Hitler's Europe. Over half of them have near relatives who were unable to escape in time, and are therefore now in the ghetto camps of Poland. There are no mail connections with these camps, no news ever comes out via the Red Cross, but as for the aged and infirm, the refugee's only hope is that his dear ones died quickly and easily. It is impossible to translate these facts into our circumstances: but suppose that the other Party (the one you don't belong to) had seized the power in this country and set up a dictatorship; suppose it had exiled you, a good New Zealander, to Chile and murdered your parents who stayed behind; would you, a good New Zealander, still have any sneaking regard for that Party? Obviously you would have only two possible choices: either to make a new home overseas, or to get into the war against the dictators; and to purge your country, if you still loved it, with fire and slaughter. So our refugees have chosen the one or the other alternative, according to taste. Yet many New Zealanders still seem to think that refugees are secretly pro-Nazi. Spy hysteria seems to be inevitable in war-time. Earlier in the war some people seemed to regard it as their special war job to get all refugees interned. People who should have known better rushed to the police with the well-worn stories—flashing lights, buzzing noises, a "guttural language" spoken over the phone. However, since 1940 there has been a remarkably thorough combing of all the 8000-odd aliens in the country; and to judge by the results, the authorities believe (though for obvious reasons they cannot say so) that there are no disguised enemy agents among our refugees.

Military Service

To persuade our refugees to fight and work for the Allied cause it required neither terror nor propaganda, but only a little organisation. The organisation came in 1942 in the form of national or military service for most refugees. One can imagine why that year had to be a turning point in refugee policy. The country was bracing itself for attack; every able-bodied citizen was being allotted an emergency job—except some hundreds of refugees. In the event of a raid or a landing, were they to be left to their own devices, with no instructions about where to go or what to do? Or should the authorities intern the lot, in deference to a noisy section of public opinion but in defiance of their own

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