

BOARD SELECTS

33 MACHINISTS;

WATCH FOR SPIES

More than 100 of Winnipeg's skilled machinists had applied before noon today to the British examining board for work in British munition factories and a large proportion of them will be accepted. The board, which is presided over by A. W. Haigh, of the British board of trade, is sitting at the city hall. The practical tests of applicants' ability are being held at the Transcona shops. Of the 50 who applied yesterday, 33 have been accepted.

The utmost care is being taken to see that no undesirable characters are given employment. For fear of spies being smuggled into the factories no applicants except those who are British subjects by birth, are being given any consideration. Several capable machinists from the United States have been turned down for this reason, and a number of naturalized Canadians have also been refused on the same ground.

Is Officially Photographed

Whenever an applicant is accepted he is officially photographed for the authorities in England. This photograph will serve as a sort of passport to the British munition factories.

Some of the men complain that the practical tests insisted upon are of a very exacting nature, more particularly in regard to the qualifica-

tions of coppersmiths. It is understood that coppersmiths are wanted principally for work on submarine engines.

There is no sentiment about the examining board. Before applicants are accepted they are told what is expected of them. They must work 14 hours a day if required; they must go to whatever part of the country the officials send them; their services are to remain at the disposal of the authorities until the close of the war; and they must also promise to deport themselves worthily while in the service of the government.

Must Accept Conditions

"We do not want any of you unless you will agree to these conditions," Mr. Haight told the applicants. "The country is at war and the times are serious and those of you who are sent to the factories must work as conscientiously as soldiers on the battlefield."

The stringent conditions were not responsible for any last minute withdrawals. In fact, it is expected that there will be an even greater rush of applicants tomorrow, which is the last day on which the examining board sits in Winnipeg.

Special trains are being used to take applicants to the Transcona shops for the practical tests.