

made to encourage idle industrial workers to take farm jobs.

There will be organized movements of labour for farm work from west to east and east to west. Already the movement to the eastern provinces is under way. An arrangement, previously in effect, is for exchange of workers and equipment with the United States for the harvesters of grain, potatoes and tobacco.

As already announced we are bringing 4,000 farmer Polish soldiers to Canada to work on farms.

Appreciating the importance of the sugar beet industry we were able to retain about 4,000 prisoners of war for this type of work until harvests are over. They are distributed in Ontario, Manitoba and Alberta.

Referring again to our employment service I would like to mention that in Moncton, Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver we have branches to assist in the placement of persons with executive and professional abilities.

We have found positions for 4,599 in the past year. A considerable number were ex-service personnel.

Under the Reinstatement in Civil Employment Act, between August 1, 1945, and June 29, 1946, or a period of eleven months, 151,000 discharged from the armed forces had been reinstated by their former employers. A total of 46,000 eligible did not apply for reinstatement.

The wartime bureau of technical personnel continues to function as a branch of the department and the staff is rendering fine service in assisting technicians to find good positions as well as in advising firms of men and women available.

We still have the labour exit permit order in force but mainly it is to control the movement from Canada of these technicians as well as graduate nurses. There are shortages in these fields. Some hospitals, in fact, are much understaffed.

National selective service largely is a thing of the past. Remaining regulations require an employer to register a vacancy with local employment offices and to report when an employee has been hired, and the seven days' notice rule for employer and employee. The purpose of this is to have an up-to-date picture of the employment situation.

The government's price, salary and wage stabilization policy remains effective although modified and subject to further gradual

changes. We are anxious to abandon controls as soon as feasible but not until the danger of ruinous inflation is past.

Amendments to P.C. 9384, the wartime wages control order, now make it possible for the national and regional war labour boards to approve applications for wage increases which are shown as "just and reasonable."

Wage control began on November 15, 1941. To the end of March this year the boards had dealt with 123,500 applications. Eighty-four per cent were granted in full, 10 per cent in part; only 7 per cent denied.

The wage rate index was 137.5 in 1944, compared with the basic figure of 100 for 1939. It was 140.3 in 1945, according to preliminary figures.

The industrial condition as affecting labour has not been good in the past seven months. In 1945, while the number of strikes did not increase over 1944, the number of workers involved did. There were 197 strikes and lock-outs. The majority were settled by conciliation within a few days. Fifty-eight lasted one day, 152 less than five days.

The strike of the Ford Motor Company employees at Windsor involved 10,000 workers and was the most serious in several years.

It lasted from September 12 to December 29, 1945, resulting in 900,000 man-days time loss and more than one million days if the sympathy strike which occurred in Windsor affecting other firms is included.

A total of 150,000 man-days were lost by a strike of coal miners in Alberta and British Columbia.

During the first seven months of the present year we have had 145 strikes involving a time loss of 2,544,581 man-days, of which the most serious were those affecting the British Columbia logging, great lakes shipping, and the rubber industries.

I must say, having in mind the strike of loggers in British Columbia, seamen engaged in great lakes shipping, rubber workers, steel workers and others, that all could have been avoided by the proper use of the existing conciliation and wage control machinery.

An uncompromising attitude on both sides has been responsible for many serious labour troubles leading to unnecessary loss of business to employers and wages to workers.

The wartime labour relations regulations provided by P.C. 1003, were enacted early in 1944 in order to stabilize industrial conditions. We did not know how long the war would last then.