

achievement has been largely accomplished by those left on the farms working harder than they ever have before. Thousands of instances can be cited where old men and old women have come back out of retirement to take the places of those from farms who have left to serve with the army, air force or the navy, or for employment in vital war industries.

It became obvious after the first two years of war that the drain of essential manpower from the farms had to be checked if the increased requirements of food were to be met. The introduction of National Selective Service policy and regulations in March, 1942, included special provisions for stabilizing the farm working force. These special provisions made it illegal for essential farm workers to accept employment outside of agriculture except under certain special conditions which applied only during the winter season. During that season temporary permits might be issued to farm workers for employment outside of agriculture if they could be spared from their farms.

This stabilization policy has kept in agriculture thousands of essential experienced workers who would otherwise have left the farms. Managers of Government Employment and Selective Service offices have repeatedly been advised of the importance of this feature of National Selective Service and have been instructed that it be rigidly enforced.

Prior to the introduction of National Selective Service in March, 1942, farm workers were accorded the same treatment as all other workers in regard to the receiving of postponements of military training. In order that the stabilization of essential manpower on the farms be as far reaching as possible, the mobilization regulations were amended in March, 1942, and a special provision included for the postponement of essential farm workers. This provision required special consideration to be given to men employed in agriculture who, after receiving an order for medical examination, made application for postponement as essential farm workers. Unless the boards were satisfied that such workers were not essential to agriculture, postponements were to be granted. Also the regulation provided that postponements were to be given "until further notice," whereas definite time limits were to be placed on postponements given to workers in most other industries."

During the summer of 1943, meetings were held with all the mobilization boards for particular discussions on farm labour. The object of the meetings was to familiarize the mobilization boards with the Dominion-Provincial Farm Labour Organization and to co-ordinate more closely the activities of each of these organizations in supplying farm labour. One of the most useful results of these meetings has been a more effective distribution of the farm workers who apply for postponement. At present, in the majority of provinces, if a farm worker applying for postponement is not considered essential on his own farm, he may receive postponement on condition that he accept employment on another high productive farm with a shortage of help.

Since March, 1942, more than 90% of all the applications received from farmers for postponements have been granted by the mobilization boards.

NEED FOR SPECIAL MEASURES TO SUPPLY ADDITIONAL FARM LABOUR

With the increased demand for food and the loss of manpower from the farms, it was clearly evident late in 1942 that if the desired production was to be attained in 1943 special measures would have to be adopted to supply additional help for farmers. Two farm labour problems in particular had to be met. First, there was the need for a larger number of experienced year-round workers to meet the requirements for the increase livestock and dairy program. Secondly, plans had to be developed for the supplying of a larger number of seasonal workers to meet harvest labour requirements. Following is an outline of the measures taken:

DOMINION-PROVINCIAL FARM LABOUR AGREEMENTS

The Dominion's policy with regard to farm labour was announced by the Minister