

for the farms, the urgent need for retaining essential man power on the farms, and the special status of farm workers under the regulations. The including of a special provision for postponing farm workers followed by the letter to the boards has resulted in more favourable consideration by all boards of farmers' applications for postponements. The percentage of applications which are not granted is now very small.

All mobilization boards make use of information collected on a farm questionnaire for each man applying for a postponement. This information provides full details of the extent of his farming operations, and any special circumstances which may influence the decisions of the boards.

The mobilization boards are using to an increasing degree, provincial departments of agriculture field staffs and local committees for securing reports on the essentiality of farm workers who apply for postponement. This coordination was given an added impetus this past summer when meetings organized by the Department of Labour were held with the different mobilization boards and the interested provincial and regional selective service officials. The object of these meetings was to discuss all aspects of the farm labour problem with a view to determining where the farm labour organizations might be helpful to the boards and the boards might be helpful to the farm labour organizations, and to secure the most effective use of men postponed as essential agricultural workers. This has resulted in a considerable transfer of farm workers to other farms requiring help, when after investigation, of their applications for postponement, such men were not found to be needed on their own farms.

DOMINION-PROVINCIAL FARM LABOUR AGREEMENTS —LABOUR TRANSFERS

Mr. BLANCHETTE:

In the detailed arrangements developed for the large scale transfers of farm labour organized under the dominion-provincial farm labour programme, were any provisions included for, (a) the dominion and the province concerned paying medical and hospital expenses incidental to sickness or accident suffered by an individual as a direct result of his participation in the labour transfer; (b) refunding a portion of the railway fares of men who, having failed to obtain transportation warrants which would have enabled them to travel largely at government expense, paid their own way, and later made application to be reimbursed?

Mr. MARTIN: (a) In the dominion-provincial farm labour agreements a provision was included for defraying the costs by equal

[Mr. Martin.]

contributions of the province concerned and the dominion of medical and hospital expenses incidental to accidents suffered by workers specially recruited for employment on farms.

The provision was to apply to workers not normally employed in agriculture and where the accidents occurred as a direct result of their farm employment or while travelling to or from such employment.

This provision is being extended to pay the costs of medical and hospital expenses for certain cases of accidents or sickness incurred by men who participated in the organized farm labour excursions, even though such men were normally employed in agriculture. Such accidents or sickness must have occurred while the men were engaged in farm employment for which the labour transfer was organized, or while in transit to or from the place of employment. All cases were fully investigated by the province before recommending that the expenses should be paid. Requests for payments of medical or hospital expenses were made by the individuals concerned to the government of the province where they were employed.

(b) A number of applications for refunds have been received from men who claimed to have participated in an organized labour transfer, but paid their own transportation expenses when, through some misunderstanding or other reason, they failed to secure transportation warrants. Each application was considered on its own merit.

Wherever the circumstances showed a genuine misunderstanding of the procedure to secure a transportation warrant or other reasonable explanation, arrangements are being made for refunds to be paid. A few cases have been refused which showed an obvious disregard of the procedure or regulations governing the labour transfer.

MOBILIZATION ACT—FARM WORKERS

Mr. HENDERSON:

When farm workers apply for postponement of military training, what is done by the mobilization boards to satisfy themselves that such men are or are not essential to agriculture?

Mr. MARTIN: Questionnaire forms are sent to the man in order to ascertain his essentiality to agriculture. The registrar also uses the services of the provincial agricultural representatives and R.C.M.P. He also requests the advice of the representative of agriculture attached to the mobilization board.