

**Federal commitment for the recruitment of farm labour next year**

The Federal Government is committed to help Canadian farmers recruit farm labour they will need in 1974, either in Canada or abroad, Manpower and Immigration Minister Robert Andras announced recently, as his Department began discussions with the provinces on re-writing the Agricultural Manpower Agreements.

The federal-provincial agreements provide cost-sharing arrangements for the recruitment, training and transportation of workers and the provision of accommodations, as well as research into agricultural manpower needs.

The Minister's statement follows:

"Rising food costs have focused national attention on the problems of agriculture. We are all anxious to see farmers get a fair return for their work and investments. We are also determined to help farmers solve those problems, often beyond their control, that contribute to increased costs or reduced quality of output. One of these problems undoubtedly is the supply of manpower available to the farmer, year-round or seasonally.

"We are willing and anxious to have the federal-provincial manpower needs committees examine agricultural training needs in relation to other priorities and to assess the effectiveness of the training period.

"For 1974 we are prepared to consider new ways of developing high-

quality, organized agricultural labour pools of student workers including provision for the accommodation, transportation, supervision and recreation of the young workers.

"Although I have criticized some cases of poor living and working conditions for foreign workers, I am prepared to authorize the admission of suitable foreign workers in as large numbers as are necessary to meet the need, provided the employers offer adequate wages and working conditions and Canadian workers are not available or willing to take the jobs in question. However, I will not hide my personal preference that every effort should first be made to persuade and help Canadians themselves to take these jobs."

**Queen and PM stamp series**

A new series of stamps was issued on October 17, with portraits of six former Canadian prime ministers featured on 1- to 6-cent values and a portrait of Queen Elizabeth on an 8-cent value.

Although some former prime ministers have been honoured on commemorative issues in the past, this is the first time that such figures have appeared on definitive stamps. The six men all were instrumental in creating, consolidating or unifying the Confederation of Canada.

Sir John A. Macdonald appears on the 1-cent issue; Sir Wilfrid Laurier on the 2-cent; Sir Robert L. Borden on the 3-cent; William Lyon Mackenzie King on the 4-cent; R.B. Bennett on the 5-cent; and Lester B. Pearson on the 6-cent issue.



The design for the 8-cent definitive is the first ever given royal approval on Canadian soil. The design was approved by Queen Elizabeth on July 1 during a visit to Canada. Traditionally, proofs of stamps bearing the monarch's portrait are sent to Buckingham Palace for approval.

The seven pen-and-ink portraits are the work of David Annesley of Beaverton, Ontario.

The colours of the 20-mm-by-24-mm stamps are: 1-cent, orange; 2-cent, green; 3-cent, brown; 4-cent, black; 5-cent, purple; 6-cent, red; and 8-cent, blue.

