

in view of the shortage of farm help, to plan on keeping sixty or seventy milch cows, and to rotate his crops on a 100 or 150 acres of land! What folly it would be for him to plan his seasonal occupations, when he does not know that his son or his hired man may be called the following day for military service!

Several illustrations have come to my attention. Before, however, making any further comments, may I say that my objection is not levelled in any way against the registrar in military district No. 3. I believe the registrar and the selective service board in military district No. 3 have properly reflected government policy. I have no personal criticism to make of them. But I have had many young men come to my office to see me. I have had young men come to see me the very day they were to report for military service, and tell me they had made application for postponement three or four weeks, or a month or two months before, and had no reply. They asked me what to do. These young men were in unfortunate predicaments. If they signed up, volunteering their services in the armed forces, they could count on just about six months more trying to get out—if they ever could. If, on the other hand, they stayed away and suffered the shame and ignominy which would be theirs, the condition would not be relieved. These men would not suffer that shame, but would prefer to answer the call.

On many occasions I have had to go to my telephone and communicate with the registrar at Kingston, Ontario. The registrar could not know whether this man was or was not a good farmer. I have tried to find out what attention would be given to his application, and I have had the registrar tell me, "Well, I will fix it up for him; tell him to wait until he hears from me."

This does not lend itself to efficiency. It does not lend itself to encouragement to agricultural workers in our country to put their heart and soul into the production of cheese and bacon, which the government would lead the worker to think they want him to produce. The agricultural worker is told that the world requires these commodities and that he should produce them.

But, once he has got into the armed forces, up to a short time ago when an announcement was made—and possibly even after that announcement, if one reads it carefully—whether or not he was a farmer's son, whether or not he had been spending his life in agriculture, whether or not he was a specialist in that industry, if he was in the military ser-

vices he had about one chance in a hundred of ever getting back into agricultural production.

I remember one case very clearly. It had to do with an only son and two sisters, whose father had died a year earlier. These children lived with their mother on a 250-acre farm. They had eighteen milch cows, all the necessary machinery, splendid and fertile dairy land. This young man received his call for military service. Fearing he might be put into the army, and desiring to enlist in the air force, he proceeded to join that force. He had been in it for only two weeks when the one and only hired man they had left them. There was the mother with her two daughters left to look after a herd of cattle. I believe I am correct when I say that there were forty head of cattle altogether, including the eighteen milch cows. In addition, there were 200 hens, and 150 acres were under cultivation, the remaining 100 acres being held for pasture. The woman and her two daughters were left to farm that land.

Upon application being made by the young man, myself and many others, to let him return to the farm, where he was so urgently needed, we received the answer that there was no change in his situation. The attitude was: He knew what he was doing when he enlisted; he cannot get out of it. What happened as a result of this? The farm was converted from a dairying farm to pasture land. The mother and daughters had to leave their house and their farm.

Another case was brought to my attention. In this instance I interceded for an only son whose father and mother were both ill. The mother was confined to bed, as a cripple. The father was arthritic, and was not able to carry on his duties around the farm. This young man signed up under these circumstances. No leave of absence or discharge could be secured for him.

I know about a third case, and I point this one out as indicating something which the selective service board may possibly cure. I think they must cure it, and I surely hope they will, under the recent announcement. In this instance the farmer in question had three boys, one of whom was laid up with a heart condition, which left him incapable of doing the heavy work on the farm. The second was laid up with a stomach condition, rendering him unfit for work. The third was called. He signed up, leaving his sick brothers at home to look after a herd of sixty-seven milch cows. In this instance the farm consisted of 250 acres of tillable land. This boy applied for leave of absence—not a discharge. He wished to return to work on the farm, and was refused.