

Two projects to provide permanent help for farmers were organized for the placing of prisoners of war on individual farms. One of these is in the Metcalfe area of Ontario where about 65 prisoners are employed, and the other is in the Brooks area of Alberta where 100 are employed.

Through arrangements made with the immigration authorities and the Department of National Defence, a small number of interned merchant seamen from the internment camp near Fredericton, New Brunswick, were employed on individual farms in the province. This project was conducted last year as an experiment, and the number used was only about eight.

Plans are already being made for more extensive employment of prisoners of war on farms in 1944. It is now being arranged to establish a camp for 200 or 300 men in the Chatham area where the men will work on sugar beet farms.

REJECTS AND DISCHARGED MEN

Arrangements were made in the summer with the Department of National Defence for stationing Selective Service officials at army reception centres to refer rejects and discharged men to essential employment. Later an order-in-council, P.C. 7260, September 16, 1943, provided authority for the compulsory direction to specific employment of recruits who had been called for compulsory military service but who because of some physical condition were not required to report for military training.

Plans are now being developed in co-operation with directors of the Dominion-provincial farm labour programs to have rejects with agricultural experience placed on high productive farms which are in need of labour.

The possibility of having discharged men with experience in agriculture directed to farming is also being investigated.

COMPULSORY LABOUR TRANSFER ORDERS

Agriculture was one of the high priority industries listed to obtain men under the first labour transfer order. Under this order, single men, physically fit and experienced in farm work, were to be directed from certain less essential industries to agriculture. Through this activity some permanent help for dairy and livestock farms has been supplied. Already some 562 men have been so directed to farmers who were prepared to pay them at least \$40 a month and board as stipulated in the order.

TRANSFER OF HARVESTING EQUIPMENT

In furtherance of its policy of encouraging the most effective use of farm labour and equipment the Dominion Department of Labour made available an additional \$60,000 under the Dominion-provincial farm labour agreements to provide on a 50-50 basis with the Prairie Provinces concerned probable costs of transferring harvesting equipment from dried out areas in the west or from areas where work was completed to districts where this equipment could be used.

Because of favorable harvesting conditions and a light crop in many districts no great need for moving equipment developed. The number of machines moved under this arrangement would be less than 50.

CANADA-U.S. EXCHANGE OF FARM LABOUR

In mid-summer an agreement was entered into between Canada and the United States for the exchange of potato workers between the province of Quebec and the state of Maine. The workers from Quebec were to come from areas adjacent to the Maine border, and their number under the agreement was limited to 75 men and 2,000 women. The total number to cross from Quebec to Maine was 208, of whom considerably more than half were women or boys under 16 years of age. In addition to these, 255 workers crossed from Manitoba to North Dakota to pick potatoes. No workers were allowed to go from New Brunswick as the peak potato picking season