

MEN, WOMEN, BOYS AND GIRLS ENLISTING FOR FARM WORK

Expected That 5,000 Girls and 15,000 Boys in Ontario Will be Available—Scale of Wages Expected in Different Lines—Question of Housing Under Consideration

(Toronto Globe.) On Monday a campaign will be started in all the leading urban centres of Ontario for the purpose of enlisting boys for farm work. All sorts of organizations will be enlisted in this work—churches, schools, rotary clubs, etc. Last year seven or eight thousand boys were enlisted as soldiers of the soil. This year it is hoped to obtain the services of 15,000. About one-half of the volunteers are expected to come from shops, factories and offices, and about one-half from high schools, with a few from public schools. The boys will be available for service on the farms about April 1. It is not only boys who are to be enlisted in the cause of production. It is expected that 7,500 men—teamsters, laborers, men from factories and offices—will be obtained as well.

Wages Expected By Boys. The ages of the boys will run from fifteen to nineteen years. Last year a minimum wage of \$12 was fixed for these in advance. The average wage actually paid was \$18, with some getting as much as \$20, and in one or two exceptional cases, \$25 or \$40. This year the minimum wage is fixed at \$15. The men are to serve for at least three months and in many cases as long as the whole season.

Men sent out from the cities last spring received at the start \$25 to \$40, but this year the suggested minimum is \$40, and it is expected that as much as \$60 will be paid in some cases. The work of securing and distributing this labor is being carried out under the auspices of the Ontario government public employment bureau, by Dr. Riddell, in charge. The bureau has offices in Toronto, London, Hamilton, Brantford and Ottawa. Applications from farmers for help may be sent to any of these offices or to district representatives of the department of agriculture. What is most strongly urged is that those desiring help send in their applications as early as possible.

But the campaign for farm help is not being limited to men and boys. It is being extended to girls and women as well, this part of the work being under the direction of Miss Harvie. "Last year 1,245 girls went out from Toronto and other cities to take part in farm work during the rush of the season of production," said Miss Harvie. "This year we are aiming at 5,000, but we hope to go beyond that figure. Many of those sent out last year were from universities and high schools. Others were teachers, stenographers, bookkeepers, operators from factories and girls of leisure. In our arrangements for this season we are asking girls and women to register for three classes of employment: for work in the fields, for house work on the farm, and for a combination of both. There will be a still further division: some of the girls will be expected to go to the fruit farms of the Niagara-Huron district, while others will go out for general farm work."

Preliminary Training. The girls who are to go out for general farm work have been given a preliminary training by spending an afternoon or so a week on farms near Toronto where they are shown how to harness horses, drive, clean stables, etc. It is expected that 1,000 to 1,500 will be enrolled for this work alone, most of these being farmers' daughters who are at present employed in cities. As a rule, those volunteering for this sort of work are from 24 to 30 and all must be of good physique. They will be capable of doing all sorts of chores, from cleaning stables to milking the cows. They also will be able to drive cultivators, harrows, rollers, hay rakes, besides hoeing and stooking grain. They will be expected to load hay or grain, but those in charge of the enrollment very properly draw the line at pitching.

The terms of employment have not been definitely decided upon in the case of these girls who are to go out for general farm work, but it is believed that a reasonable arrangement would be about ten hours a day. The matter of remuneration, like the hours of work, has not yet been definitely decided, but it is probable that around \$15 a month with board will be considered fair for one on trial, with more later on if satisfaction is given.

One of the most difficult problems to deal with in this connection is that of arranging for the housing of the girls sent out for general work. It is believed it may be possible in some cases, where three or four girls are employed on neighboring farms, to arrange for a tent in which the girls can make their homes and provide their own breakfasts, with dinner and supper provided at the farms where employed. In other cases, it is possible that a number may obtain rooms in a village near their place of employment. Local officers of Women's Institutes will very likely be consulted on such matters, as their knowledge of local conditions will make their advice particularly valuable.

In the case of girls going out to fruit farms, fairly definite arrangements have

A BUSY ENGLISH WOMAN



Lady Mackworth, daughter of Lord Rhonda, Great Britain's Food Controller, who, in succession to her father, has become chairman or director in twenty-eight British business corporations.

been made both as to housing and remuneration, last year's experience having furnished a basis to go upon here. Where houses are available girls will be grouped in these. Where houses are not available tents will be put up, each tent providing living quarters for three girls. Employers will be expected to provide mattresses and pillows, the girls furnishing their own bed linen and coverlets. Where the girls are in houses, employers will also be expected to provide rough tables, stoves and dishes. The Y. W. C. A. will have general oversight of the housing of the girls, and where possible will supply table boards; the charge to the girls for board is not expected to exceed \$4.50 per week. Fruit pickers are to be guaranteed \$1 a day, min or shoe. When on pick work two cents per box is to be paid for picking strawberries, three cents for raspberries, two cents for blackberries or small gooseberries, twenty cents for eleven-quart baskets of cherries, forty cents for black currants and twenty cents for red currants. If the picking is poor, and the majority of the pickers do not average fifteen cents an hour, the pickers are to be put on time at that rate. When picking pears, peaches, plums, apples and grapes, \$6 a week is to be paid, or twenty cents an hour for extra good pickers. For hoeing the wage is to be fifteen cents an hour. Girls who were employed in this sort of work last year gave excellent satisfaction. They were not, as a rule, as fast as professional pickers, but they did the work more thoroughly and could be trusted to keep their own count.

To Help in Homes. Perhaps the most useful work of all will be that performed by girls who go out to give part or all their time in farm housework. Farmers have had a strenuous time of it in the last two or three years, but farmers' wives have had a still more strenuous experience. Moreover, the productive capacity of Ontario farms today is governed to a large measure by woman-power in the home. In lumberless cases farmers have reduced production because of the impossibility of securing enough help in the house to meet the extra demands for food and housework involved in employing all the help necessary in the fields. Many farmers have limited their farm operations to what they can do themselves rather than put upon their overworked wives the labor of providing in the house for an extra man or two. With help in the home, even for part of a day, this difficulty would disappear. They also serve who stand and wait—wait on the table at which hungry men are fed. Such service may, indeed, tell for more in actual food production than that rendered by the girl with a hoe or behind the disc-harrow.

NATION-WIDE PROHIBITION

(Toronto Globe.)

The dominion government has renegeed its prohibition pledges to the hit. The liquor traffic has lost, for the time being its last stronghold, though it may not have fought its last battle. When the barroom was driven out of province after province, the residue of the trade sheltered itself behind the clauses of the British North America Act, which forbade a provincial ban on interprovincial commerce. So long as the federal authority stayed its hand, the distillers and brewers would find an outlet for their wares. The federal enactment has destroyed, for the present at least, the whole power of the liquor interests in the country, and it may be taken for granted that this power was exerted to the full to ward off the blow. The pressure brought to bear upon the government must have tested all its moral courage. When the liquor forces realized that some measure of prohibition was inevitable they made a last-ditch fight for a higher alcoholic content in beer, but the cabinet refused to sell the pass.

The measure is so sweeping that it meets every demand of the prohibition organizations. The importation of liquor was stopped at the end of January, and the remaining loopholes will be closed on the first of April, so far as the government can close them, except that the manufacture of beer in Quebec and of native wines in Ontario may continue to the end of the year. The flood of mail orders between Ontario and Quebec in anticipation of the dry spell will end with the present month, and liquor will no longer be delivered to Ontario households from local warehouses or from outside the province. Even in Quebec, where the retail sale will be permitted under provincial legislation until May 1 next year in districts not under local

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provincial prohibition, the majority of the Canadian people will never tolerate the revival of the liquor traffic. The friends of the temperance cause cannot afford to rest on their laurels. An active and vigilant public sentiment will be needed to reinforce the administration of the law. Its enemies will not be idle. Nothing would so facilitate the return of the liquor evil as the lax enforcement of the measure. Those who have faith in absolute prohibition must see that it receives a fair trial.

Farmers May Borrow Money From Banks. Toronto, Mar. 20.—To further the Ontario government's effort to increase production of food in the province of Ontario, Hon. T. W. McFarry, provincial treasurer, on behalf of the government, has signed an agreement with the Canadian Bankers' Association by the terms of which farmers may secure money by way of loan to buy seed through all

branches of banks comprising the association. Loans to the maximum of \$200 for the purchase of seed to any one applicant may be obtained. It is felt, in view of the experience of the past year, that this practical method of aid will enormously benefit the effort on application to branch managers up to last year, that this practical method of repayment being set sufficiently far ahead, to Nov. 1, 1918, to enable the able sowing of much additional farmland to be carried out and supplement the work of the government in tractor ploughing. To do its share in winning the war, the Church of St. Thomas, New York City, has reduced its expenses by \$10,000 those who have already received loans a year.