

or license in or around a coal mine, or who since the same date has been employed for a total of at least 24 months in the production of coal (except at office work). Coal mine workers, working at other than coal mining, were required to disclose their previous experience to their present employers.

Selective Service officers were authorized to require former coal mine workers to report for interview and to accept work at a coal mine. Also, Selective Service officers might require any man in any employment subject to Mobilization Regulations but rejected for military training to accept employment at a coal mine. No coal mine operator may terminate the services of any coal mine worker without the permission of Selective Service, nor may any coal mine worker leave employment at a coal mine without similar permission. Present and future coal mine workers are guaranteed postponement of military training to a future date which has been renewed from time to time; and it was announced that no coal mine worker would be accepted for voluntary enlistment in the armed forces.

It was declared illegal for any employer (except a coal mine operator) to solicit for employment or hire any ex-coal mine worker. Regardless of any federal or provincial law, male persons at least 16 years old, and female persons at least 18 years old, were declared eligible for employment as surface coal mine workers. War emergency training classes were made available for training men for coal mining. Ex-coal miners returning to the industry were promised certain financial compensations, including a board allowance and a guarantee of minimum working time.

METAL MINING

36. On October 21, 1942, the minister of labour announced that special consideration would be given to requests for postponement of military service for men engaged in base metal mines and in iron and steel foundries. Special efforts were made to retain men in these industries. In Ontario, as the labour shortage became more serious, men were transferred on a voluntary basis from gold mining, and women were recruited for work in nickel and steel plants. The employment of women required the authorization of orders-in-council under the War Measures Act, since the Ontario Mining Act does not permit women to be employed in or about mines except in a technical, clerical or domestic capacity. Regulations issued under these orders set forth the occupations at which women may be employed and their conditions of work, with steps being taken, in cooperation with the provincial government, to safeguard the welfare of any female employees of the mines.

LONGSHOREMEN AND SEAMEN

37. In order to ensure the regular despatch of the heavy volume of war materials on their way overseas, two orders-in-council were made in July, 1943, with the purpose of stabilizing the employment of longshoremen in eastern Canadian ports. One order compelled the men to remain in their jobs, and the other established a mobile labour pool for use in emergencies. At the close of navigation on the Great Lakes in 1943 special arrangements were made to control the lay-off of navigation workers in order to make certain that they would be available to return to their work at the opening of navigation the next spring. Similar arrangements were made in 1944.