

WARTIME  
EMPLOYMENT  
OF  
STUDENTS  
AND  
TEACHERS

Students and teachers on the three levels of education in Canada have been helping to relieve the manpower shortage in industry and agriculture by accepting temporary and part-time employment. National Selective Service has been especially concerned to absorb into essential employment all teachers and students during summer vacations. Special attention is being given to employment on farms, and many of the provinces, through their departments of education, have shortened the school term by closing earlier and reopening later in order to permit teachers and students to work on farms. Many high schools now open as late as October 1. Furthermore, students of better than average ability are allowed to leave school earlier and to return to school later than the others if they attain a certain minimum standing. Provision is made for these students to catch up on the work they miss by means of intensive courses.

In some cases, secondary and even elementary school pupils have been organized into farm service forces by provincial government on a Dominion-provincial equal-cost basis. On one occasion university students were organized into groups of harvesters to work in the wheat fields of the western provinces. In October, 1942, when the government sent out a plea for help to save the Saskatchewan wheat crop, 4,000 easterners responded to the call. Half of these were students.

For a limited period of time before the end of the academic term, officials of local employment and Selective Service offices are located at universities and colleges to advise and direct students to summer employment. Arrangements are made to supply the students with the permits required before they can seek or accept employment.

Under these arrangements, special attention is given to the placement of science and engineering students by the Wartime Bureau of Technical Personnel. It is considered in the national interest that such students should engage in summer employment essential to the prosecution of the war, while at the same time it is desirable that summer work should advance the technical training of such students. With these ends in view, the Wartime Bureau of Technical Personnel compiles lists of available positions. The lists are restricted to positions in essential industries and are made up from the applications for student help received by the bureau from employers. Although there is no intention on the part of the Wartime Bureau of Technical Personnel to find employment for students or to allocate them to positions, its efforts in compiling the lists help to guide and supplement the efforts which the students, universities and employers are willing to make in order to put the long summer vacation to the best use.

Part-time war work is engaged in largely by pupils on the secondary school level. The type of work is relatively non-essential. Wartime conditions have supplied students from the ages of 12 to 18 years with a variety of after-school and week end employment in shops, hotels, restaurants, messenger services, places of amusement, street trades, domestic service and many other odd jobs. More than ever, pupils in rural areas are engaged in part time work on farms.

STUDENT  
ENROLMENT

Increasing numbers of students have left the secondary schools before graduating in order to join the armed services or to accept relatively unskilled jobs in industry to which they are lured by the prospect of high wages. A comparison of the enrolment figures for the ages of 14 to 18 years and over reveals a steady decline in the school attendance of both boys and girls during the war years. The following table shows the number of pupils, 14 years of age and over, who were registered in the schools of eight provinces (Quebec excepted) during the first three years of the war: