

possible have been taken to avoid removing men from winter agricultural employment where a decrease in farm production might be caused by their absence. Logging and pulpwood cutting have benefited heavily from the winter services of farmers, as have also coal and metal mining, heavy steel, meat packing, grain handling, food processing and other essential employments beset with labour shortages. Farm workers on postponement of military training have carried their postponement with them, so long as they observed Selective Service requirements in regard to permits, engaged at approved essential work and returned to agriculture as needed in the late winter or spring.

MEAT PACKING

33. In 1943, because of a shortage of feeds, some farmers found it necessary to slaughter many of their cattle to an extent that the meat packing houses became congested. The shortage of manpower, already serious, became acute during the late summer. In October the director of National Selective Service announced that the military call-up of men in the meat packing industry was postponed. The industry had lost 21 1/2% of its manpower to the armed forces up to that time, and the prospects were that during the period from October, 1943, to January, 1944, the processing turnover would reach an all-time high record. In May, 1944, the situation was again critical, and the question of meat packing once more came to the fore. Mobilization boards were asked not to call up packing house employees for military training, and the Department of National Defence agreed to give leave to men who could be spared from the army for this essential work.

FISHERIES

34. As already mentioned, in July, 1943, in order to maintain a normal supply of fish, both fresh and canned, the regulations were amended to authorize Selective Service officers to order men to work at fishing and fish processing.

COAL MINING

35. In May, 1943, a proclamation was issued that declared a national emergency to exist in regard to coal supply. Earlier efforts made by National Selective Service, both in regard to the recruiting of experienced coal mine workers and inexperienced labour, and in regard to the return from the armed services of experienced coal mine workers, had not maintained working forces at the level required to produce the tonnage necessary for Canada at war. Therefore, when the emergency proclamation was issued, new regulations were adopted to build up working staffs of the coal mines: These were additional to the previous authority to direct anyone who was at the moment out of work to the coal mining industry. The new regulations placed the onus on every employer other than coal miners regardless of his industry:

(a) to notify his employees of the regulations and to assist in discovering among his employees any who had previous experience as coal mine workers;

(b) To report on any coal mine workers in his employ.

For this purpose a "coal mine worker" is described as anyone who, since January 1, 1935, has worked under provincial certificate