

FORESEES CUT IN MANPOWER FOR FARM WORK

Must Help Meet Needs
of Military Services,
Gardiner Tells House

Ottawa, July 26 (CP).—Increased Canadian farm production is expected this year with the existing labor force, and a further reduction of those available for farm work must be expected, Agriculture Minister Gardiner said in the House of Commons Saturday.

Reviewing available sources of manpower while speaking on his department estimates, Mr. Gardiner said that only from the single men between 16 and 45 on the farms, and in factory, clerical and similar employment, can requirements of the armed services be obtained if large numbers of men are needed for the armed services.

The Minister reviewed the beef cattle situation and said improved prices can be looked for later in the year under the sliding price-ceiling on retail beef sales. Authorities were working with the objective of retaining the quota arrangements with the United States under which

about 50,000 cattle may be exported quarterly under preferred duty arrangements.

The House spent its Saturday sessions in discussion of Senate amendments to bills, a bill to amend the External Affairs Department Bill, and the agriculture estimates.

The External Affairs Department bill provides that civil servants appointed as Ministers or consuls to other countries may keep their superannuation privileges. Under existing arrangements those appointed to a position by the King are unable to do so.

Prime Minister Mackenzie King, sponsor of the bill, said he agreed with house members who suggested Canada should seek to have its representatives abroad chosen from the Civil Service rather than appointed from outside the service.

Major increases in farm production had been attained since the war started, Mr. Gardiner said. It was probable labor available for the farms would have to be reorganized and moved from place to place within Provinces to assist the marketing of crops in one area in one season and in another place at a different season.

Voluntary Enlistment.

Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Ross (Con., Souris) said voluntary enlistment in Canada had covered 505,000 people, but those from Quebec were only about 75,000. One of the Prairie Provinces had a record of the greatest per capita enlistment in the Dominion.

The Minister had suggested it might be necessary to move farm labor about the country.

"I wonder if he would suggest if those young men in the prairie Provinces should quit farming and go into the armed forces—young men who can operate farm equipment which can do the work a dozen men used to do less than a generation ago in the production of foodstuffs," asked Colonel Ross.

"Does he suggest that young men of this kind should join the armed forces, and that men from this Eastern Province, men who are totally untrained and inexperienced in farm labor and farm equipment or methods of mass production should take their place?"

Mr. Gardiner said he was not thinking in terms of any particular Province or area, but more of the movement of men within a Province. He did not think men could be moved very far under the system of which he was speaking.

T. J. O'Neill (Lib., Kamloops) said there should be a floor on cattle prices.

Try to Hew to Line.

Dealing with a suggestion of Rev. A. M. Nicholson (C.C.F., Mackenzie) that the order freezing men on the farm had made no difference to calling men for compulsory service, Mr. Gardiner said he believed national war services boards had tried to carry out the spirit of the regulations.

"But I must admit that in some cases, if the information I have is correct, they would probably have leaned toward the side of the army while in others they might have leaned in the opposite direction," the Minister said.

He had an estimate that 215,000 men from farms had been enlisted or called up for the forces or had entered munition factories.

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