

# ORDER FREEZES NEEDED MINERS

## Selective Service Regulation Deals With Coal and Base Metal Production

Ottawa, Oct. 23.—(CP)—Action to “freeze” the present working staff in coal mines, certain base metal mines and primary steel production has been taken through an order advising selective service officers not to issue permits for men engaged in such work to seek employment in other industries, labour department officials said to-day.

### Meet Shortage

This “freezing” action was taken, they said, to meet labour shortages in essential mines — among the most acute being faced in the present man-power shortage.

A departmental spokesman said the action had been taken through an order issued by selective service, under existing authority and without any special order-in-council. This authority enables selective service to halt labour leaks from any industry in which there is a labour shortage.

“The instructions are that men are not to be given a permit to go into any other occupation unless circumstances warrant it,” the spokesman said. “Men are badly needed in these industries.”

The action does not constitute actual “freezing” to a job, but rather “freezing” to an occupation. The instructions leave power to selective service officers to grant permits for movement from one mine to another or one plant to another if such movements are considered justified.

Only large-scale “freezing” action previously taken applies to agricultural workers who, under a special order-in-council, are prohibited from leaving their employment except to join the armed forces or take temporary work in off-seasons.

Material shortages affecting war production are particularly acute in base metals and steel.

It is understood that under the order specific establishments, or specific departments of an individual establishment, must be designated as being affected by the instructions.

The order is effective for four months—to February 15, 1943. It was learned that provision has also been made that men employed in designated establishments will receive “special consideration” by war services boards if they are called for compulsory military service.

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