

FARM LABOUR DROPS STEADILY, FURTHER DEPLETION EXPECTED

Workers Are at Liberty
to Leave and Are
Doing Just That

WAGES ARE BETTER

Ottawa, Aug. 25.—(CP)—
The farmer's son and the
hired man have marched away
from the old homestead in the
greatest exodus in the history
of rural Canada, federal gov-
ernment figures revealed to-
day.

Heavy Net Decrease

A survey of the labour situation
showed:

1. Male help on farms between
January 1, 1940, and March 15, 1942,
showed a net decrease of more than
141,800, or 13.2 per cent.

2. Male hired help at January 15
was estimated at 148,900, compar-
ed with 247,800 on January 15,
1940.

Although a selective service reg-
ulation issued in March was de-
signed to freeze men on the farm
to maintain production, officials
said the farm man power supplies
were likely to be further depleted.

They recalled that Agriculture
Minister Gardiner had warned of
further probable losses to the farm
labour brigade when he spoke in
the house of commons July 25 and
said the 429,000 single men be-
tween 16 and 45 engaged in agricul-
ture March 31 represented one of
two pools of man power from which
more men could be drawn for mili-
tary service if large numbers were
required.

Meantime, farm workers are at
liberty to leave the farm and join
the forces if they wish—and they
are doing it.

Officials said their figures cover-
ed earlier periods of this year and
probably showed the farm labour
picture in rosier colours than it ac-
tually was at present. The move-
ment of men from the farm
to the forces has continued steady-
ly throughout the year.

The Economic Analyst, published
by the agriculture department, said
that Nova Scotia, Manitoba, New
Brunswick and Saskatchewan show-
ed the largest net decreases in male
family help between 1940 and 1942,
while the smallest decreases occur-
red in Quebec and Ontario.

The farm labour survey had re-
vealed the reduction in the number
of male hired help in the two
years was 98,900, or about 12,000
more than the total of 87,500 who
joined the armed forces or left
farms for other employment.

The survey was conducted by
sending questionnaires to one of
every 25 farmers on rural mail
lists.

Wages Higher

In all provinces, yearly help
wages were higher in 1942, with
Nova Scotia and New Brunswick
showing the largest increases over
1941, averaging 36 per cent, and 27
per cent, respectively. For all Can-
ada, the average yearly wage in
1942 was \$411, against \$356 in 1941.

Male family help on farms in
1942 averaged 126 for every 100
farms in Canada in 1942, compared
with 141 in 1941, a decrease of
10.6 in the one-year period.

The movement of farmers' sons
from the farm accelerated in 1941.
An average of 14.5 sons from every
100 farms enlisted in the forces or
left for employment in the city,
compared with a total of 9.2 sons
for every 100 farms in 1940. In
1940, Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan,
Manitoba, New Brunswick and Al-
berta all reported more than 15
farmers' sons per 100 farms leav-
ing for the forces or war indus-
tries.

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WAR
EUROPEAN
1939
CANADA
AGRICULTURE

labour shortage

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