

AGRICULTURAL WAGES

At a meeting held today the Agricultural Wages Board resolved that the holidays allowed to agricultural workers under the Holidays with Pay Act should be six per annum in every county with an extra day for workers regularly employed on Sundays. In counties where, by bringing the holidays with pay up to six days, the aggregate of such holidays and public holidays would become more than 10 the Board considered that the public holidays should not exceed four, provided that, in no county should the aggregate holidays be less than those at present in operation.

The Board also resolved that the period during which a worker would have the right to take the holiday with pay should be from April 1 to October 31.

The Board adopted a report of its Drafting Committee, which had been considering the terms of the holidays with pay directions in the Order with a view to simplification and greater uniformity.

The Board also decided that the Orders defining as overtime any employment on Saturday afternoon or other agreed week day for the purpose of securing agricultural workers a weekly half holiday should prescribe that the overtime employment should commence at a fixed time in the day instead of after a particular number of hours. The Agricultural Wages Committees should be invited to suggest a precise time to fix for their counties provided that in no case should it be later than 1 p.m.

The Board will now consult the County Agricultural Wages Committees on all the above proposals and will give consideration to the Committees' views before taking steps to put them into operation.

The next meeting of the Board will be held on ~~May~~ 3, 1944.