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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION
Washington

INACTIVE

NORTHERN BRANCH OF PEAT INDUSTRY SCHEDULED
FOR SEASONAL EXEMPTION

A seasonal exemption from the hours provision of the Fair Labor Standards Act for the northern branch of the peat materials producing industry was indicated in a determination made today by Colonel Philip B. Fleming, Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division. (Federal Register November 5, 1940). If no objection is received within 15 days following publication of the Determination it will be made final.

Germany was formerly the chief source of the peat supply for domestic markets, with Sweden second. Because of the war importation of foreign peat, particularly from these two countries, has been reduced to practically nothing. It is therefore expected that the market for domestic peat will expand. This is borne out by American experience in the World War, when the demand for domestic peat increased steadily as imports declined. Various types of peat are used largely for horticultural purposes. In the last war moss peat also was used to some extent in making surgical dressings.

The northern branch of the peat materials producing industry is defined as including "the excavating, macerating, spreading, cutting, shredding, or drying of such materials in the states of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Colorado, Utah, Nevada, Montana, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington". The southern branch of the industry is not subject, with possible occasional exceptions, to the same climatic

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limitations which limit the northern branch to a four to six month operating season. This seasonal exemption, granted under Section 7(b)(3) of the Fair Labor Standards Act, permits a 12 hour workday or a 56 hour workweek for a period or periods aggregating 14 workweeks in the calendar year, before the time and one-half overtime provision becomes operative.

The Determination makes provision for enlarging the scope of the northern branch of the industry, as defined, by means of supplemental determinations, to include such peat material production as is conducted, subject to the same seasonal limitations as the operations in the northern branch.

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