

employment offices reported applications for work and vacancies for labourers to the clearing houses for labour established by the Dominion Government at Halifax, Ottawa, Winnipeg and Vancouver. As a result of this legislation, the number of free public employment offices in Canada was increased from 26 at the beginning at 1919 to nearly 100 at the end of that year, the co-ordinated service being collectively known as the Employment Service of Canada, under the supervision of a Director. In its initial year of operation, 1919, the Employment Service of Canada was of material assistance in alleviating the congestion of the labour market arising out of demobilization and the transition from war to peace-time conditions of production.

During the fiscal year ended March 31, 1920, there were 470,250 applications for employment, 449,022 vacancies reported and 328,937 permanent and 51,663 casual placements. By means of the inter-provincial clearing houses 16,116 workers were transferred from one province to another and 23,962 from one point to another in the same province. A scheme of co-operation with the British Employment Exchanges has been inaugurated, whereby the Employment Service of Canada furnishes regularly to the Oversea Settlement Office of the British Ministry of Labour information for the use of intending immigrants as to the state of the Canadian labour market.

Employment conditions in Canada are ascertained by the Employment Service of Canada in several different ways. Its records indicate that in 1919, a year weighted with the demobilization problem, midsummer arrived before industry fairly got under way. Employment in that year, however, continued into the late autumn and there was less than usual of seasonal unemployment in the winter of 1919-20. This winter unemployment passed off quickly, and the demand for labour began to exceed the supply about April 1st, 1920, and continued very heavy until July. At the end of July an increase in unemployment became evident, and unemployment, as measured by the various tests applied, increased rapidly until the end of the year. Table 11 shows by provinces and Table 12 by industries the percentage of unemployment among trade unionists down to December, 1920, as shown by the monthly reports of some 1,500 trade unions having a combined membership of over 200,000. As defined in these tables, "unemployment" means involuntary idleness due to economic causes. Persons occupied in work other than their own trades, or who are idle because of illness or as the direct result of strikes or lockouts, are not regarded as unemployed.