

8.—Employment and Unemployment.

Employment Service of Canada.—The Employment Offices Co-ordination Act (8-9 Geo. V, c. 2), empowering the Minister of Labour to aid and encourage the organization and co-ordination of public employment offices throughout Canada in order to establish a Dominion-wide Employment Service, was passed in May 1918. At that time there were only twelve provincial employment offices in the Dominion, but at the close of the year fifteen offices were in operation and by the end of 1919 the number had increased to ninety-two. As the demobilization period came to a close, the number of offices decreased and at the end of the year 1922 there were 77 offices, distributed among the provinces as follows:—Nova Scotia, 4; New Brunswick, 3; Quebec, 5; Ontario, 26; Manitoba, 9; Saskatchewan, 10; Alberta, 6; British Columbia, 14.

Under the Employment Offices Co-ordination Act, sums aggregating \$50,000 in 1918-19, \$100,000 in 1919-1920 and \$150,000 in subsequent years, (amounts afterwards increased), were appropriated to be paid to the Provincial Governments in proportion to their expenditure on employment offices, to assist them in organizing and extending their services. Subventions were made conditional upon an agreement between the Minister of Labour and the Provincial Governments as to the terms, conditions and purposes upon and for which payments should be made. During 1922 agreements were completed with all the provinces except New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. Agreements were also made during the year with the municipalities of Moncton, Chatham and St. John in accordance with an amendment to the Act passed in 1920. The agreement requires that in the operation of the employment offices the provinces shall endeavour to fill situations in all trades and occupations for both men and women and that no charge shall be made to employers or employees for this service. Each province agrees to maintain a provincial clearance system in co-operation with the interprovincial clearance system established by the Dominion Government; to organize in connection with the Employment Service of the province a provincial advisory council, and in every city of the province with a population of 25,000 or more in which an employment office is established, a local advisory council, representing equally employers and employees, to assist in the administration of the employment offices.

Regulations issued under authority of the Act in December, 1918, in addition to authorizing Provincial and Local Advisory Councils, provided for the establishment of the Employment Service Council of Canada, to advise the Minister of Labour in the administration of the Act and to recommend ways of preventing unemployment. This body is composed of representatives of the Dominion and Provincial Governments, the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, the Association of Canadian Building and Construction Industries, the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada, the Railway Association of Canada, the Canadian Railway Brotherhoods, the Canadian Lumbermen's Association, the Canadian Council of Agriculture and returned soldiers. It has held four meetings, the first in May, 1919, the second in September, 1920, the third from Aug. 31 to Sept. 2, 1921, and the fourth in June, 1922, at which plans for developing the work of the Employment Service and for preventing unemployment were discussed and recommendations presenting the views of the Council were adopted.

From January 1 to October 31, 1923, the applications for employment registered at the local offices of the Employment Service of Canada numbered 509,257, of which 410,815 were from men and 98,442 from women. The number of vacancies