

of Canada, the Railway Association of Canada, the Railway Brotherhoods, the Canadian Lumbermen's Association, the Canadian Council of Agriculture and the returned soldiers. At the seven annual meetings of the Council, the most recent of which was held on Sept. 9-10, 1925, various recommendations and suggestions relative to employment office administration were brought forward and presented to the Minister.

Operations of Employment Offices.—Statistics covering the work of the local offices are collected and tabulated by the Employment Service Branch of the Department of Labour. Table 17 shows the positions available, applications for work and placements effected by the Service each year since 1920. During 1926, there were 542,469 applications for employment, 456,932 vacancies and 410,155 placements, as compared with 557,045 applications, 447,043 vacancies and 412,825 placements in 1925.

Placements made in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and British Columbia gained considerably, while those effected in Saskatchewan and Alberta declined. The reduction in these provinces was due to the smaller number of workers placed during the harvest period: the demand for harvesters was not smaller than in the preceding year, but in 1926 there were not as many harvesters seeking employment. It will be noted that the placements made in British Columbia exceeded the vacancies listed at the local offices, owing to the large number of transfers of harvest workers to the Prairie Provinces.

The ratio of vacancies to applications was higher in 1926 than in 1925, as was also the ratio of placements to applications. For each 100 applicants registered during 1925, there were 80.3 vacancies and 74.1 placements, while there were 84.2 vacancies and 75.6 placements for each 100 applicants in 1926.

Reduced Railway Fares.—In order to facilitate the movement of labour in cases where there are not enough workers in any one locality to fill the available vacancies, the Employment Service, by special arrangement with nearly all the members of the Canadian Passenger Association, has been granted the privilege of issuing certificates which entitle the bearers to purchase railway fares at the reduced rate of 2.7 cents per mile. This rate is for a second class ticket and is applicable only to fares of not less than \$4. During 1925, 36,747 certificates were issued, 18,241 to persons proceeding to points within the same province as the despatching office, and 18,506 to workers going to points in other provinces. Of the total of certificates issued, 9,471 were issued in British Columbia to persons proceeding to the Prairie Provinces to engage in harvesting operations; these travelled at harvesters' rates, which were cheaper than 2.7 cents per mile. During 1926, 35,797 certificates for special rates were granted, 18,080 to persons travelling to employment within the same province as the despatching office, and 17,717 to persons for whom employment had been secured in other provinces; these included 7,347 certificates issued for the special harvest rate from British Columbia to the Prairie Provinces.