

9.—Employment and Unemployment.

Employment Service of Canada.—Under sec. 3 of the Employment Offices Co-ordination Act (8-9 Geo. V, c. 21), an Act passed by the Dominion Parliament in May, 1918, to aid and encourage the organization and co-ordination of employment offices, the Minister of Labour is empowered:—

“(a) to aid and encourage the organization and co-ordination of employment offices and to promote uniformity of methods among them;

“(b) to establish one or more clearing houses for the interchange of information between employment offices concerning the transfer of labour and other matters;

“(c) to compile and distribute information received from employment offices and from other sources regarding prevailing conditions of employment”.

The Act further provides that certain sums of money are to be appropriated annually and paid to the provinces on a basis proportionate to the amount that each expends on the maintenance of employment offices. The amounts provided for the various fiscal years were to be:—for 1918-19, \$50,000; for 1919-20, \$100,000; for 1920-21, \$150,000; and for each succeeding year, \$150,000. For some years these amounts were later increased by supplementary votes, but since the fiscal year 1923-24 no supplementary appropriations have been made, and the payments to the provinces are now on the basis originally provided for in the Act.

The desired uniformity and co-ordination of employment office activities throughout the various provinces are obtained by having the Dominion's payments contingent upon an agreement ensuring that the provinces, in the conduct of their employment offices, 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, in order to secure the necessary mobility of labour as between localities in the same province or in different provinces. For the fiscal year 1927-28, agreements were concluded with all of the provinces except Prince Edward Island. Thus is formed the Employment Service of Canada—a chain of employment offices reaching from Halifax to Vancouver. At the time the Act came into force, only 12 provincial employment offices were operated in Canada. This number was steadily increased until, at the close of 1919, due to the impetus given by the Employment Offices-Co-ordination Act, together with the requirements of the demobilization period, offices were functioning at 84 different centres. Subsequent contractions have reduced the Service to offices permanently located at 64 centres (on Dec. 31, 1927), distributed by provinces as follows:—Nova Scotia, 3; New Brunswick, 3; Quebec, 5; Ontario, 25; Manitoba, 3; Saskatchewan, 9; Alberta, 5; and British Columbia, 11.

Employment Service Council of Canada.—An Order in Council, issued in 1918 in pursuance of the Act, provides for the formation of a body to be advisory to the Minister of Labour in the administration thereof. This body, known as the Employment Service Council of Canada, is composed of representatives of the Dominion Departments of Labour and Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment, the Provincial Governments, the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, the Association of Canadian Building and Construction Industries, the Trades and Labour Congress