

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 eight annual meetings of the Council, the most recent of which was held on June 23-24, 1927, 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 in each year since 1920. During 1927, there were 553,871 applications for employment, 453,573 vacancies and 414,769 placements, as compared with 542,469 applications, 456,932 vacancies and 410,155 placements in 1926. Placements in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Quebec gained, more than offsetting declines in the remaining provinces. The outstanding changes from 1926 were the increases in farm placements in Alberta and Saskatchewan and the decrease in construction placements in British Columbia. 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 lower in 1927 than in 1926, as was also the ratio of placements to applications. For each 100 applicants registered during 1926, there were 84.2 vacancies and 75.6 placements, while there were 81.9 vacancies and 74.9 placements for each 100 applicants in 1927. The absolute number of placements, however, was larger in 1927.

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 1926, 35,797 certificates were issued, 18,080 to persons proceeding to points within the same province as the despatching office, and 17,717 to workers going to points in other provinces. Of the total of certificates issued, 7,347 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 the 2.7 cents per mile rate. During 1927, 42,009 certificates for special rates were granted, 22,706 to persons travelling to employment within the same province as the despatching office, and 19,303 to persons for whom employment had been secured in other provinces; these included 7,318 certificates issued for the special harvest rate from British Columbia to the Prairie Provinces.