

have reduced the Service to offices permanently located at 64 centres (on Dec. 31, 1928), 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 Pensions and National Health, the Provincial Governments, the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, the Canadian Construction Association, the Trades and Labour Congress 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 nine annual meetings of the Council, the most recent of which was held on April 19-20, 1928, 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 15 shows the positions available, applications for work and placements effected by the Service in each year since 1920. During 1928, there were 597,493 applications for employment, 506,426 vacancies and 470,328 placements, as compared with 553,871 applications, 453,573 vacancies and 414,769 placements in 1927. 1928 constituted a record year in respect of the number of placements effected, exceeding by nearly 2 p.c. the former record of 1923. Quebec was the only province to show a decline in the number of positions filled, the decrease there being only nominal. In addition, all industries except logging showed increased placements, the most noteworthy increases occurring in construction and maintenance, services, agriculture, and manufacturing. 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 1928 than in 1927, as was also the ratio of placements to applications. For each 100 applicants registered during 1927 there were 81.9 vacancies and 74.9 placements, while there were 84.8 vacancies and 78.7 placements for each 100 applicants in 1928.

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 1927, 42,009 certificates were issued, 22,706 to persons proceeding to points within the same province as the despatching office, and 19,303 to workers going to points in other provinces. Of the certificates issued, 7,318 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 1928, 43,792 certificates for special rates were granted, 23,233 to persons travelling to employment within the same province as the despatching office, and 20,559 to persons for whom employment had been secured in other provinces; these included