

of their employment. The general improvement during 1936 compared with 1935 was rather greater than that in 1935 over 1934. The consolidation of the gains made in the past few years, and their extension to lines which had been slower in responding to the upward movement originating in 1933, resulted in a generally higher level of industrial employment in 1936 than in any other year since 1930. At the 1936 peak at Nov. 1, the index stood at 111.0, which was the maximum in 72 months.

In 1936, as in 1935, public work undertaken primarily for the relief of unemployment was a factor of diminishing importance in the general situation; the number of persons provided with such employment was smaller in the year under review than in 1935, when it in turn had not been so large as in 1934 and 1933. The more favourable situation which existed therefore gave encouraging evidence of a natural revival in business resulting from a greater public demand for commodities and services, rather than from artificially stimulated activity.

The number of man-days worked on a wage basis on relief projects as reported to the Dominion Commissioner of Unemployment Relief by the provinces and Dominion Departments for the twelve months January to December, 1936, was 3,188,155. The average number of men afforded employment per month during the year was 19,719. In camps operated by the Dominion or by the provinces where single men were given useful work in return for subsistence and a small cash allowance, 3,656,735 man-days relief was afforded during 1936. These figures include 2,683,461 man-days relief afforded in camps administered by the Department of National Defence which were in operation from January to June, during which period an average monthly number of 18,103 single men were cared for (after June practically all these men were afforded employment on the railways in connection with the program of maintenance of way and betterment works carried out under arrangements made between the Dominion Government and the Railways). All of the above figures are subject to revision when final reports are received.

