

**The Unemployment Relief and Assistance Act, 1936.**—At the first session of the 18th Parliament, the Unemployment Relief and Assistance Act, 1936, which received Royal Assent on May 7, 1936, was enacted.

Section 2 of the Act provides that it shall be administered by the Minister of Labour.

Under this statute, the Dominion is continuing to pay to the provinces monthly grants-in-aid to assist the provinces in discharging their responsibilities in connection with the relief of necessitous persons within their respective boundaries. The amounts of the monthly grants to the provinces, which had been increased by 75 p.c. for the period December, 1935, to March, 1936, were reduced 15 p.c. for the first three months of the fiscal year 1936-37, the monthly grants paid to the provinces for April, May, and June, 1936, being as follows: Prince Edward Island, \$3,160.94; Nova Scotia, \$59,500.00; New Brunswick, \$37,187.50; Quebec, \$743,750.00; Ontario, \$892,500.00; Manitoba, \$200,812.50; Saskatchewan, \$297,500.00; Alberta, \$148,750.00; British Columbia, \$223,125.00.

The amounts of the monthly grants-in-aid paid to the provinces for the months of July, August, September, and authorized for October, November, and December, were reduced by 10 p.c., making the monthly grants-in-aid for that period as follows: Prince Edward Island, \$2,844.85; Nova Scotia, \$53,550.00; New Brunswick, \$33,468.75; Quebec, \$669,375.00; Ontario, \$803,250.00; Manitoba, \$180,731.25; Saskatchewan, \$267,750.00; Alberta, \$133,875.00; British Columbia, \$200,812.50.

In addition to payment of the monthly grants-in-aid above referred to, agreements have been entered into, under the provisions of the Unemployment Relief and Assistance Act, 1936, with all the provinces providing for Dominion contribution of 50 p.c. of the provinces' cost of construction on the Trans-Canada and other provincial highways.

Provision is also made in the agreements for Dominion contributions to the cost of construction of mining roads in the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia.

The agreements with the provinces further provide for Dominion assistance toward the cost of the following relief measures: Prince Edward Island, municipal works; Quebec, municipal works; Ontario, municipal works; Manitoba, municipal and provincial works; Saskatchewan, moving and placing on suitable farming land in northern parts of the province, agricultural settlers and assisting said settlers so placed, also provincial undertakings consisting of drainage projects and construction of a rock dam; Alberta, moving and placing agricultural settlers on suitable farming land in northern parts of the province, assisting settlers so placed, and moving feed and fodder into dried out areas.

At the date of this statement, namely, Oct. 31, 1936, agreements had been entered into with the four western provinces, while negotiations for the consummation of similar agreements were being carried out with the other provinces, for the purpose of placing on farms unemployed persons, without means of support, who would otherwise be in receipt of direct relief. The agreements make provision for payment to the farmer of \$5 per month, and payment to the individual placed on the farm of a rate equal, at the end of the period, to \$7.50 per month. Provision is also made for the purchase, for each individual placed, of suitable work clothing not in excess of \$3, while the Dominion is to contribute to the necessary cost of transportation of workers from the point of employment to the home of the employing farmer. The Dominion's contribution under the Farm Improvement and