

preparation of draft specifications for commodity standards; application of the national trademark "Canada Standard" to commodities which conform to specifications established under any Act of Parliament; investigation of complaints respecting unfair trade practices, and recommending the prosecution of offences against any Dominion law prohibiting unfair trade practices; the convening of conferences for the purpose of considering commercial practices prevailing in industry, and determining what practices are unfair or undesirable in the interest of the industry or the public.

Section 13.—The National Employment Commission.*

In accordance with the National Employment Commission Act, 1936, the personnel of the National Employment Commission was appointed by the Dominion Government early in 1936 and the Commission held its first meeting on June 1, 1936. Since that date the Commission, which is advisory in nature except where specific administrative duties may be allocated to it by the Governor in Council, has actively studied the various problems specified by the Act as coming within its purview, and has made its recommendations for action to the Government as decisions on specific problems were reached.

Under the Act, the Commission was first instructed to carry out a national registration and classification of unemployed persons in receipt of relief. This registration was commenced in September, 1936, arrangements being made to receive monthly returns from that time. Two reports, summarizing the data collected, were tabled by the Minister of Labour in the House during the 1937 session and further information, as tabulated, will shortly form the basis of periodical reports for the information of the public.

The Commission at the same time sent out a questionnaire for completion by employers; the Dominion Bureau of Statistics co-operated by making available its list of employers with more than fifteen employees each—this group covering about 40 p.c. of all employees in the industrial field. The response received was almost complete and very thorough, and, from the answers received, a great deal of data valuable to the Commission is being obtained.

Other problems of the Commission fall into two main categories, those dealing with re-employment measures, including public works programs, and those dealing with the administration of relief, e.g., as to conditions which should be attached to Dominion grants-in-aid to Provincial Governments, and as to co-ordination of governmental and voluntary measures for providing relief to unemployed persons. In both cases special consideration is indicated for problems affecting women and youth.

Additionally, the Commission is specifically directed in the Act to report upon plans for the establishment of an apprenticeship system, and upon long-range plans of national development which might be used to ameliorate the effects of any future depression. The latter are now under consideration; the studies on apprenticeship have been completed and a report on this matter made to the Government.

In the field of re-employment the Commission's work has been aided by the general recovery which has taken place in primary and secondary industry, and therefore efforts were first directed to stimulating activities in two special fields:—

First, in the residential construction field, for which purpose the Home Improvement Plan was launched late in 1936 (see page 475). This Plan is providing an accelerating stimulation to alterations, renovations, and repairs of all descriptions as

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