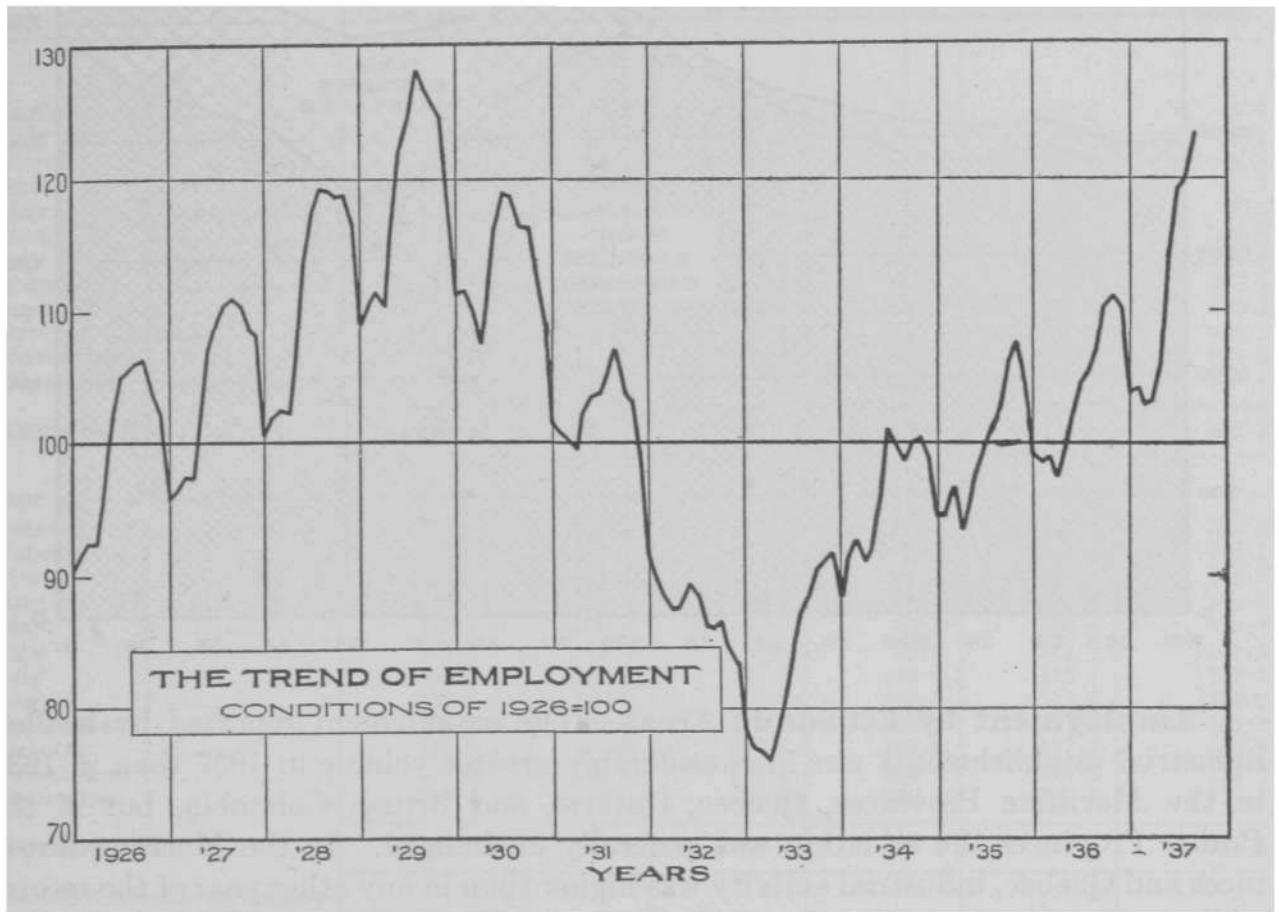The fluctuations in general industrial employment in the past 12 years are illustrated in the following chart. This shows, to September, 1937, the generally upward movement that has characterized industrial activity since the low point of employment in the depression was reached at April, 1933.

THE TREND OF EMPLOYMENT
CONDITIONS OF 1926=100

The generally high level of industrial activity in 1937 was accompanied by a diminution in unemployment, though this was not commensurate with the advance in employment. The Census Analysis Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics in a comprehensive study* of the known facts regarding employment, unemployment, and population in Canada, has evolved very significant estimates of the total number of wage-earners, of those in employment and those unemployed; the estimates cover workers in all industries, including agriculture and other important classes necessarily excluded from the monthly employment surveys. During 1937, the average number of wage-earners was estimated at 2,802,000, of whom 2,452,000 were employed and 349,000 were unemployed. In 1936, the estimated number of wage-earners was 2,671,000, of whom 2,225,000 were employed and 447,000 were unemployed. Based on these estimates, the unemployed in 1937 constituted some 12·5 p.c. of the total wage-earners, as compared with 16·7 p.c. in 1936. In 1928, when unemployment was at the minimum in the years since 1921, this proportion had been estimated at 2·5 p.c., and in 1929, at 4·2 p.c. The low point of the depression was reached in 1933, when it was estimated that, on the average, there were 265 unemployed men and women in each thousand wage-earners.

In the chart on p. 770 are depicted the fluctuations since 1921 in the estimated number of wage-earners, of those in employment and those unemployed, showing that in 1937 the potential and actual wage-earners reached their maxima while the estimated number of unemployed, though still abnormally large, was smaller than in any other year since 1930.

---

*See monograph "Unemployment" by M. C. McLean, M.A., which may be obtained from the Dominion Statistician.