

Oct. 1, 1937, to Mar. 31, 1938, were entered into with the four western provinces providing for the continuance of the Farm Improvement and Employment Plan along the same lines as provided by the 1936 agreements, that is, payment of \$5 per month to the farmer, and payment to the individual placed on the farm at a rate equal at the end of the period to \$7.50 per month. Provision was also made for the purchase of suitable work clothing at a cost not in excess of \$3 for each individual placed, while the necessary cost of transportation of workers from the point of employment to the home of the employing farmer was also contributed to by the Dominion under the terms of the agreements. The basis of the Dominion's contribution to the provinces under the provisions of the Farm Improvement and Employment agreements was the same as under the 1936 agreements, namely, 50 p.c., the provinces bearing all necessary administration expenses. The largest number of placements during any one month under the 1936 agreements was effected during January, 1937, when 43,915 persons were placed.

Drought Relief.—As the serious drought conditions in the large agricultural areas of the Prairie Provinces prevalent during 1936 were still existent at Mar. 31, 1937, the date of the expiration of the agreements entered into under the Unemployment Relief and Assistance Act, 1936, for aid in these areas, provision was made for the extension of the agreements to Aug. 31, 1937. These agreements provided for Dominion contribution of 100 p.c. of the costs, exclusive of administration expenses, incurred by the three provinces in distributing food, fuel, clothing; and necessary shelter to all permanent residents of the defined areas in need of material aid, except those located in cities or towns within the areas. The latter were cared for by the provinces and municipalities with the assistance of the Dominion grants-in-aid. Provision was made in the agreements that the measure of aid granted pursuant to the arrangement should not exceed that given to similar needy in other rural sections of the provinces. Effective from Sept. 1, 1937, the administration of aid in the drought areas was, in conformity with the recommendations of the National Employment Commission, transferred to the Department of Agriculture in order that the different groups of relief recipients might be segregated, and that agricultural assistance might be distinguished as far as possible from unemployment aid.

Youth Training.—To help the situation caused by the volume of unemployment among young people which existed concurrently with an increasing measure of industrial recovery and with a growing demand for skilled workers, Parliament voted the sum of \$1,000,000 to the Department of Labour to be used during 1937-38 for training and development projects for "unemployed young people" between the ages of 18 and 30. This fund was established to provide for: (a) training projects of an occupational nature devised to increase the skill and employability of young people; (b) industrial learnership courses devised to provide theoretical training concurrent with employment; (c) work projects devised to conserve natural resources, as well as to train and recondition the young people participating; and (d) training projects of a physical nature to assist in the maintenance of health and morale. Agreements were entered into with the provinces covering training projects suitable to their individual conditions. Some of the projects undertaken were as follows: forestry work; training in hard rock and placer mining; industrial apprenticeship and learnership; practical and technical training in agriculture; women's courses in household work, handicraft and other specialized services; and various forms of urban occupational training. Provision was made in the execution of these projects for vocational guidance, recreation and instruction in physical education. It was hoped by these means to make available for the primary and secondary industries a more adequate supply of skilled workers, and also to give an opportunity of training