

Subsection 6.—National Employment Commission.*

After the presentation of its final report to the Government on Jan. 26 the National Employment Commission was dissolved on Feb. 1, 1938. On July 31, 1937, the commission had presented an interim report covering its activities from June 1, 1936, to June 30, 1937, and containing a summary of the recommendations made up to the latter date. This interim report, of which approximately 7,000 copies were distributed, was subsequently made an appendix to the final report.

During the year 1937 the Commission continued its activities, including a national re-registration and classification of persons in receipt of unemployment aid and the promotion of the Dominion Government Home Improvement Plan. The former was improved and speeded up so that figures were available with a minimum of delay. Promotion of the Home Improvement Plan, including the establishment of local and provincial voluntary committees throughout Canada, produced very satisfactory results. Not only were direct loan totals of considerable size, but it is estimated that expenditures on home improvement stimulated by the Plan but not involving borrowing were much larger. It is probable that such improvement as has been evident in the building industry can be attributed, in appreciable measure, to the success of the Home Improvement Plan.

Starting with July, 1937, the Commission issued a monthly information bulletin (25,000 copies) which circulated widely throughout Canada. This publication was designed to cover various phases of the Commission's attack on relief and unemployment and to clarify obscure features of these problems. It also provided a medium for issuing the monthly statistical breakdown of relief figures and other pertinent data.

A report on phases of employment conditions in Canadian industry, based on 7,725 replies to a questionnaire circulated among employers with more than 15 employees each, was completed. A great deal of valuable statistical data on employment conditions has thus been made available in compact form and distributed.

The Farm Improvement and Employment Plan, which resulted in placing 46,961 single unemployed persons, of whom 38,606 were males and 8,355 females, on farms during the winter of 1936-37, was again put into operation by the Government in the winter of 1937-38 and over 40,000 persons were placed. Supplementary plans provided for 6,784 men in the winter of 1936-37 and for approximately 2,500 men in that of 1937-38.

The Commission co-operated with the Department of Labour in reviewing all provincial plans for youth training and reconditioning under the Dominion appropriation of \$1,000,000 for that purpose. Studies of women's employment problems were made by the Women's Employment Committee and certain suggestions based on them incorporated in the final report. The importance of the tourist industry as a factor in enlarging employment opportunities was fully realized by the Commission and prompted recommendations calculated to develop and stimulate this trade.

The final report crystallized the views of the Commission on 'long range' policies and dealt at some length with methods which might be utilized to avoid, or at least to mitigate, unemployment conditions similar to those through which Canada had been passing. Drawing attention to the fact that the Commission had so far functioned almost entirely in an advisory capacity, it expressed the view that such work was substantially completed. The translating of Commission

* See 1937 Year Book, pp. 1052-1053.