



The Unemployment and Agricultural Assistance Act, 1938.—At the third session of the Eighteenth Parliament the Unemployment and Agricultural Assistance Act, 1938, which received the Royal Assent on May 25, 1938, was enacted. This statute, the administration of which is vested in the Minister of Labour, provides that the Governor in Council may authorize the execution of undertakings determined to be in the general interests of Canada. The statute further provides that agreements may be entered into by the Governor in Council with any of the provinces respecting the alleviation of unemployment conditions and of agricultural distress therein, to assist those in need, and for the granting of financial assistance to any province by way of loan, advance, or guarantee for the purpose of assisting the province to pay its share of the expenditures for such purposes.

Grants-in-Aid.—Under the provisions of the Unemployment and Agricultural Assistance Act, 1938, which expired on Mar. 31, 1939, the Dominion continued to assist all of the provinces, except New Brunswick, in discharging their responsibilities in connection with the granting of material aid to necessitous persons by way of grants-in-aid. As the province of New Brunswick did not distribute material aid, the Dominion agreed to contribute an amount, equal to that which would have been necessary by way of grants-in-aid, toward the cost to the province of an enlarged relief works program.

In accordance with the recommendations of the National Employment Commission, payment of the grants-in-aid to the provinces was covered by agreements which laid down regulations governing the granting of material aid to which the Dominion Government contributed. Under the agreements provision was made that, for the fiscal year ended Mar. 31, 1939, the Dominion would contribute towards the provinces' material aid expenditures 35 p.c. in the case of the Prairie Provinces and 30 p.c. in the case of British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island, or a maximum amount, whichever was the lesser. The maximum amounts provided for the fiscal year were as follows: Prince Edward Island \$48,000; Nova Scotia \$210,000; Quebec \$4,800,000; Ontario \$5,580,000; Manitoba,