

Subsection 3.—Operations of the Employment Service of Canada.

Employment Service of Canada.—Under Sect. 3 of the Employment Offices Co-ordination Act (c. 57, R.S.C., 1927), an Act passed by the Dominion Parliament in May, 1918, the Minister of Labour is empowered:—

- (1) to aid and encourage the organization and co-ordination of employment offices and to promote uniformity of methods among them;
- (2) to establish one or more clearing houses for the interchange of information between employment offices concerning the transfer of labour and other matters;
- (3) to compile and distribute information received from employment offices and from other sources regarding prevailing conditions of employment.

The Act further provides that certain sums of money are to be appropriated annually and paid to the provinces on a basis proportionate to the amount that each expends on the maintenance of employment offices.

The desired uniformity and co-ordination of employment-office activities throughout the various provinces are obtained by having the Dominion's payments contingent upon an agreement ensuring that the provinces, in the conduct of their employment offices, shall endeavour to fill situations in all trades and occupations for both men and women, and that no charge shall be made to employers or employees for this service. Each province agrees to maintain a provincial clearance system in co-operation with the interprovincial clearance system established by the Dominion Government, in order to secure the necessary mobility of labour as between localities in the same province or in different provinces. For the fiscal year 1939-40, agreements were concluded with all of the provinces except Prince Edward Island. Thus a chain of employment offices reaching from Halifax to Vancouver, administered intra-provincially by the Provincial Governments but co-ordinated inter-provincially by the Dominion Government, constitutes the Employment Service of Canada. At the time the Act came into force only 12 provincial employment offices were operated in Canada. This number was steadily increased until, at the close of 1919, owing to the impetus given by the requirements of the demobilization period, offices were functioning at 84 different centres. Subsequent contractions have reduced the Service to offices permanently located at 76 centres (on Dec. 31, 1939), distributed by provinces as follows: Nova Scotia, 4; New Brunswick, 3; Quebec, 11; Ontario, 32; Manitoba, 4; Saskatchewan, 9; Alberta, 5; and British Columbia, 8.

Operations of Employment Offices.—Statistics covering the work of the local offices are collected and tabulated by the Employment Service Branch of the Department of Labour. During 1939 there were 787,972 applications for employment, 402,393 vacancies, and 384,882 placements recorded, as compared with 782,664 applications, 401,241 vacancies, and 382,295 placements in 1938. About 37 p.c. of the total placements were of a casual nature, many of these being the result of work given on a rotation basis by municipalities and Provincial Governments on various relief schemes throughout the year to persons who otherwise would have been unemployed.

Reduced Railway Fares.—In order to facilitate the movement of labour in cases where there are not enough workers in any one locality to fill the available vacancies, the Employment Service, by special arrangement with nearly all the members of the Canadian Passenger Association, has been granted the privilege of issuing certificates that entitle the bearers to purchase railway tickets at the reduced rate of 2.5 cents per mile. This rate is for second-class accommodation and is