

Labour, after the termination of the work of the Commission itself. Consequently, when the Commission ceased to exist at Feb. 1, 1938, the work of the registration was placed under the Department of Labour as the National Registration Branch, where it has been carried forward on the same basis; third and fourth national registrations, comparable with those of the two preceding years, were taken in September, 1938 and 1939.

From the commencement of the national registration, the number of local authorities throughout Canada issuing aid has averaged about 2,000; the success of the registration depends upon receiving complete and reasonably prompt returns from each of these authorities. Monthly reports, published by the Department of Labour, give detailed statistics as to numbers, classes, employability, etc., of persons on direct relief.

In addition to the registration of persons on material aid* throughout the municipalities and provinces, special registrations have been maintained by the National Registration Branch of pensioners on aid, and of Indians on aid, through the Department of Pensions and National Health and the Indian Affairs Branch of the Department of Mines and Resources, respectively.

Statistics of Persons on Aid.—Prior to the inception of national registration, general statistics of persons in receipt of material aid were secured through reports furnished to the Dominion Commissioner of Unemployment Relief by the several provinces distributing aid. The Dominion monthly averages so reported up to the initiation of the national registration and the registration figures from September, 1936, are as follows: 1932 (8 months), 833,989; 1933, 1,227,558; 1934, 1,135,901; 1935, 1,162,563; 1936, 1,148,083; 1937, 965,907. Persons on urban aid constituted 72.8 p.c., while persons on agricultural aid were 27.2 p.c. of the monthly average Dominion total for 1939. The monthly average total of all persons on direct relief (as given in Table 7) showed the following percentage distribution by provinces in 1939: Prince Edward Island, 0.3 p.c.; Nova Scotia, 1.2 p.c.; Quebec, 19.7 p.c.; Ontario, 29.2 p.c.; Manitoba, 6.3 p.c.; Saskatchewan, 29.9 p.c.; Alberta, 5.7 p.c.; and British Columbia, 7.7 p.c.

Subsequent to Apr. 1, 1937, the Province of New Brunswick substituted a works program for material aid and consequently that Province does not contribute to the registration totals on material aid as shown in Tables 7 and 8, for the months after the date mentioned. Moreover, in the case of all provinces the present figures include only persons receiving aid to which the Dominion Government contributed financially.

An analysis of the status of the 629,246 persons receiving aid in December, 1939, reveals that 132,696, or 21.1 p.c., were heads of families, † 450,234, or 71.5 p.c., their dependants, while the remaining 46,316, or 7.4 p.c., were classified as 'individual persons'. ‡ Of the 556,676 persons receiving urban aid, 119,202 were

* Material aid refers only to direct relief, so that in the sense here used the term does not include persons being provided with work on relief projects paid for in wages, even though such work was undertaken to alleviate unemployment. Material aid is divided into urban aid and agricultural aid. Agricultural aid refers to assistance given to resident farm operators and their dependants for human subsistence, where such farmers would normally derive their livelihood from the land they occupy. Urban aid refers to all persons other than farm operators and their dependants, and thus includes the unemployed and unemployable persons.

† 'Head of family' is used to designate a person who is socially responsible for the support of one or more dependants. An 'individual person' is one who is neither a dependant of a head of family nor has anyone dependent upon himself. The term 'wife' refers to the member of a family unit who performs the housekeeping duties and 'wives' are a subclassification of dependants. 'Dependants' are all who look to the head of a family for their support and thus 'dependants' include some adult employable persons still living under the parental roof.