

### Subsection 2.—Unemployment Relief.

The assistance rendered by the Dominion Government under relief legislation enacted during the years 1930-38, inclusive, is set out in previous issues of the Canada Year Book. The following is a summary of the new legislation enacted in 1939 and the assistance rendered under these Acts to Mar. 31, 1940.

#### THE UNEMPLOYMENT AND AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1939.

This statute, the administration of which is vested in the Minister of Labour, contains provisions similar to those provided by its predecessor, the Unemployment and Agricultural Assistance Act, 1938. A résumé of this Act is given in Chapter XXX, under Dominion Legislation. The Act expired on Mar. 31, 1940, but provision is made therein that any obligation or liability incurred under its authority may be paid and discharged notwithstanding the expiration of the Act.

**Material Aid.**—Under the provisions of the above Act, agreements were entered into with all provinces providing for a Dominion contribution towards the cost of material aid (food, fuel, clothing, and shelter, or cash in lieu thereof) on a dollar for dollar basis with the provinces up to a maximum Dominion contribution of 40 p.c., the remainder to be contributed by the municipalities. The agreements further provided for a Dominion contribution of 50 p.c. of the provinces' expenditures for material aid supplied to individuals who were in necessitous circumstances and had not established provincial residence, and also to individuals in necessitous circumstances who had provincial residence in one province but at the time of need resided in another province.

An Order in Council dated Oct. 21, 1939, authorized Dominion expenditures for food, fuel, clothing, shelter, and health services supplied to any residents in Canada who were necessitous dependants of enemy aliens interned in Canada, if such services were supplied during a term or terms of internment falling within the Dominion fiscal year 1939-40 and were on a scale not exceeding that given by governmental or municipal agencies to necessitous persons in the locality where said dependants resided. Arrangements were made with the provinces whereby, in cases where the municipality or, in any district where no municipal organization existed, the province distributed assistance to such persons, the Dominion is to reimburse the province and/or the municipality through the province for expenditures incurred.

**Municipal Improvement Projects.**—The agreements entered into with all the provinces respecting material aid, with the exception of that entered into with the Province of Ontario, contained an alternative to material aid by providing for a Dominion contribution of 50 p.c. of the direct labour costs incurred in the carrying out of approved municipal improvement projects during the fiscal year 1939-40, it being provided that the provinces would also contribute 50 p.c. of the direct labour costs, the municipalities bearing the costs of materials and supervision. Projects must be undertaken primarily to relieve unemployment.

The agreements provided that the Dominion contribution should apply only to wages paid to unemployed persons in necessitous circumstances, and that such persons should, as a condition precedent to their employment on authorized projects,