

Youth Training.—On Mar. 31, 1941, the Dominion-Provincial Youth-Training Program completed its fourth year of operation and its second year of operation under the Youth Training Act, 1939. An amount of \$1,500,000 was appropriated by Parliament for carrying out the purposes of the Act during the fiscal year.

Those eligible to participate in training projects under the Youth Training Act are young people aged 16 to 30 who are not gainfully employed and whose families are not in a position to pay for the cost of training.

The Agreements entered into with the Provincial Governments during the previous year continue in force until Mar. 31, 1942. Under these Agreements, schedules were approved providing for the carrying on of the following main types of projects: mining and prospecting; industrial apprenticeship and learnership; training of urban young men and women for work in industrial and commercial establishments; home service training for young women; handicraft and home-craft classes for rural young women; general and specialized courses in agriculture for rural young men and women; physical recreation and training; farm apprenticeship; aid to university students; ground mechanics and wireless operators for the R.C.A.F.

The Youth-Training Projects were not all designed to train young people for wage-earning employment. The rural classes were conducted with a view to giving young people from the farms the necessary training and knowledge not only to increase their efficiency as farm operators but to improve the standards of rural home life and develop rural leadership. The physical recreation centres were, of course, designed to build up physical fitness.

Following the outbreak of war in 1939 certain adaptations of projects were made to meet the greater demand for technicians not only in industry but in the armed forces. During the fiscal year 1940-41 the classes established during the previous year to train aircraft mechanics and wireless operators for the R.C.A.F. were expanded. Classes for the training of young men between the ages of 18 and 30 years, desirous of subsequently enlisting with the R.C.A.F. as aero-engine fitters, airframe mechanics and wireless operators were conducted in the four western provinces, and in Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick. All trainees for these classes were selected from young men of secondary-school education after medical examination, and the instruction given followed the syllabi drawn up by the R.C.A.F. who lent the necessary equipment. During the fiscal year, 6,093 young men received training in these classes, of whom 3,281 had completed their training and enlisted; 2,199 were still under instruction at the end of the year. In addition to enlistments in the R.C.A.F. some of those trained as wireless operators enlisted in other branches of His Majesty's armed forces.

The Dominion's contribution towards the cost of these classes was generally 50 p.c. To reimburse, in part, those provinces that assumed 50 p.c. of the cost, authority was obtained, by Order in Council issued pursuant to the War Measures Act, for a refund to the province from the War Appropriation of \$100 for each aero-engine fitter and aircraft mechanic who enlisted with the R.C.A.F. and a similar refund in respect to each wireless operator who enlisted in any of His Majesty's military, naval or air forces, Canadian or Imperial, for active service relative to wireless operation.

To assist in placing trainees from projects designed to fit young people for wage-earning employment special placement officers and project supervisors were engaged, and the facilities of the Employment Service of Canada were utilized.