

The Unemployment and Agricultural Assistance Act, 1937.—At the second session of the Eighteenth Parliament the Unemployment and Agricultural Assistance Act, 1937, which received Royal Assent on Apr. 10, 1937, was enacted. This statute, the administration of which was vested in the Minister of Labour, provided that the Governor in Council might authorize the execution of works and undertakings determined to be in the general interests of Canada. It was further provided by the statute that agreements might be entered into by the Governor in Council with any of the provinces respecting the alleviation of unemployment conditions and of agricultural distress therein, 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 expenditure for such purposes.

Grants-in-Aid.—Under the provisions of the Unemployment and Agricultural Assistance Act, 1937, the Dominion continued throughout the fiscal year 1937-38 to assist the provinces in discharging their responsibilities in connection with the granting of aid to necessitous persons by way of a monthly grant-in-aid. The amounts of the monthly grants-in-aid paid to each of the provinces for the months of April to December, 1937, inclusive, are set forth in the following statement:—

Province.	April, 1937, to June, 1937, inclusive.	July, 1937, to September, 1937, inclusive.	October, 1937, to December, 1937, inclusive.
	\$	\$	\$
Prince Edward Island.....	2,000 per month	1,300 per month	1,750 per month
Nova Scotia.....	30,000 "	20,000 "	17,500 "
Quebec.....	500,000 "	410,000 "	400,000 "
Ontario.....	600,000 "	480,000 "	465,000 "
Manitoba.....	175,000 "	175,000 "	165,000 "
Saskatchewan.....	230,000 "	230,000 "	230,000 "
Alberta.....	130,000 "	130,000 "	125,000 "
British Columbia.....	150,000 "	120,000 "	115,000 "
Totals.....	1,817,000 per month	1,566,300 per month	1,519,250 per month

As a result of representations made by the province of New Brunswick to the effect that the granting of material aid had been discontinued, and an enlarged works program substituted therefor, the monthly grant-in-aid to that province was replaced by Dominion contribution toward the cost of the province's relief works expenditures of an additional amount equal to that which would have been paid to the province by way of grant-in-aid had such been necessary.

Relief Works.—In addition to the payment of the aforementioned monthly grants-in-aid agreements with all the provinces were authorized under the provisions of the Unemployment and Agricultural Assistance Act, 1937, providing for Dominion contribution toward the cost of works consisting in the main of Trans-Canada Highway and provincial highway works, provincial works, and, in some provinces, municipal works. Dominion contribution to the province's works program was generally on a fifty-fifty basis.

Farm Placement.—The agreements entered into with the provinces of Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, under the Unemployment Relief and Assistance Act, 1936, respecting the placement on farms of unemployed persons who would otherwise be in receipt of aid, necessarily expired on Mar. 31, 1937, together with the legislation under which they were executed. Under the provisions of the Unemployment and Agricultural Assistance Act, 1937, these agreements were, at the request of the provinces, extended to Apr. 30, 1937. Later in the year agreements effective from