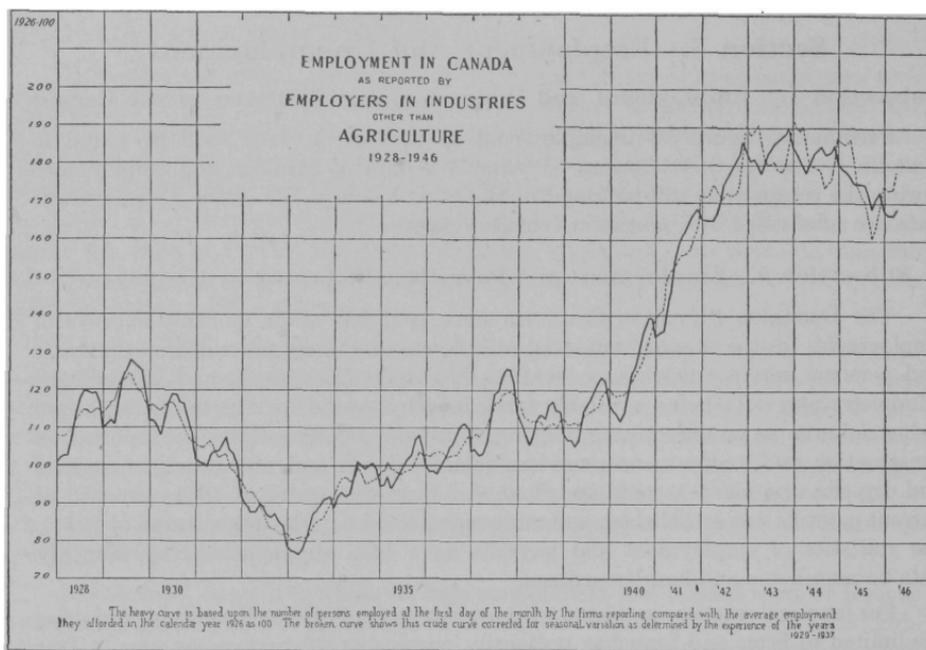


1944 amounted to 4.3 p.c., while the loss as compared with the all-time high of 1943 was almost 5 p.c. The curtailment of employment in munitions plants and the relaxation of wartime controls, which had retarded the production of consumer goods and services, acted in opposite directions to produce a volume of employment in 1945 which was not greatly below the all-time peak, and which was approximately 54 p.c. above the 1939 level. It is also interesting to note that, as compared with 1929, when industrial activity in the Dominion had reached its all-time maximum in the pre-war period, there was in the year under review an increase of some 47 p.c.



The tendency from month to month during 1945 was generally downward, there being few interruptions in the retrogressive movement. The most extensive contractions, apart from those at the opening of the year, took place shortly after V-J Day, namely at Sept. 1 and Oct. 1, when the reductions were on a scale which has rarely been exceeded in any month in the quarter of a century for which the record is available. For obvious reasons, the effect of the War was particularly buoyant in the case of manufacturing, while many of the non-manufacturing classes were adversely affected by the prevailing shortages of men and materials, having had low priority in respect of labour procurement when the market was tight. In reaction from this situation, most of the curtailment in recorded employment in 1945 as compared with immediately preceding years, was reported in manufacturing, while in the non-manufacturing classes, taken as a unit, there was considerable expansion which developed in extent as the year progressed. Except in mining, there were advances in each of the divisions of this broad industrial group, in which there was a general rise of 4.7 p.c. over 1944; the decline in manufacturing in the same comparison amounted to 9.3 p.c. These divergencies in trends resulted in a more normal distribution of workers between the manufacturing and the non-