

A special transportation rate for persons sent by the Service to employment at a distance has been granted by the principal railways. This rate, applying only in cases of *bona fide* placements through the Employment Service, was granted during the year 1921 to 37,445 persons, of whom 23,536 were going to points in the same province as the dispatching provinces and 13,909 to points in other provinces.

During the fiscal year 1919-20 an arrangement was put into effect with regard to the admission of workers from Great Britain to fill vacancies which cannot be filled in Canada. This plan, which involves close co-operation between the Immigration Department and the Employment Service and between the Employment Service of Canada and the British Employment Exchanges, proved on the whole very satisfactory and continued in force during 1921. A procedure has been adopted which as far as possible obviates delay and at the same time insures that workers shall not be brought into the country before every effort has been made to secure the required help in Canada and the authorities have had an opportunity of deciding whether prevailing conditions warrant the importation of the required labour.

Data covering the field of employment are collected and compiled under authority of the Employment Offices Co-ordination Act. For this purpose five principal sources of information were used during 1921: reports from employers, trade union reports, employment office reports, reports on civic employment and reports on building permits. The returns received and tabulated during the year showed that while in 1920 employment remained at a high level until autumn, the volume of employment in 1921 was at a low ebb throughout the whole year, the highest level attained being considerably lower than the peak in 1920, and only slightly above the lowest level of the latter year.

The reports from employers and trade unions are on the whole the best indices of employment. The former are received weekly from some 5,200 employers employing about 600,000 persons, and the latter monthly from some 1,500 unions with a combined membership of over 160,000. As shown in the accompanying chart, returns from these two sources agree in indicating a continuation until the 1st of April 1921, of the marked contraction in employment which commenced in October 1920. From the spring of 1921 until late in October, employment expanded fairly steadily, but in the following month the autumn and winter contraction in industry set in, causing the curve of employment to decline rapidly, so that at the end of the year it stood at a very low level.