

under Commonwealth or State Arbitration or Industrial Acts. One hundred and four disputes were classified as having been settled "By other methods." It must be mentioned that a large number of stoppages of work occur each year, principally at the collieries, without any cause for such stoppages being brought officially under the notice of the employers or their representatives. Such stoppages usually last for one day, and work is resumed on the following morning without any negotiations for a settlement of the trouble which caused the stoppage.

SECTION XIII.—STATE FREE EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX.

1. **General.**—In the following paragraphs, particulars are given of the operations of the various State Labour Bureaux. In Labour Report No. 6 (page 130), attention was drawn to the fact that the systems adopted in the several States for the registration of applications for work and from employers are not uniform, and that the comparisons which can be drawn from the figures shewing the results of the operations of these Bureaux are subject to certain limitations.

2. **Applications and Positions Filled, 1913 to 1917.**—The following table shows the total number of applications for employment and from employers, and the number of positions filled in the Commonwealth during the years 1913 to 1917.

State Free Employment Bureaux.—Applications for Employment and from Employers, and Positions Filled in the Commonwealth, during the Years 1913 to 1917.

Year.	Applications for Employment.			Applications from Employers.			Positions filled.
	On Live Register at Beginning of Period.	Received during Period.	Total.	On Live Register at Beginning of Period.	Received during Period.	Total.	
1913	2,520	81,356	83,876	*321	*26,103	*26,424	35,312
1914	2,326	100,917	103,243	*1,017	*29,223	*30,240	37,365
1915	9,075	102,264	111,339	†370	†20,900	†21,270	39,069
1916	7,345	85,349	92,694	†1,758	†34,982	†36,740	42,384
1917	5,487	76,710	82,197	†994	†27,372	†28,366	36,657

* Exclusive of Victoria and South Australia, for which States particulars are not available.

† Exclusive of Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia.

During the year 1917 out of every 1000 applicants for work 446 obtained positions against 457 for the year 1916. The number of applicants for work was 11 per cent., and the number of positions filled 14 per cent. fewer, during the year 1917 than during 1916.

3. **Applications and Positions Filled in each State during 1917.**—The following table shews the number of applications for employment and from employers, and the number of positions filled in each State during the year 1917 :—

State Free Employment Bureaux.—Applications for Employment and from Employers, and Positions Filled in different States, 1917.

State.	Applications for Employment.			Applications from Employers.			Positions filled.
	On Live Register at Beginning of Year.	Received during Year.	Total.	On Live Register at Beginning of Year.	Received during Year.	Total.	
New South Wales .. .. .	..	19,689	19,689	111	12,065	12,176	9,256*
Victoria	1,850	12,371	14,321	†	†	†	3,895
Queensland	3,165	27,589	30,754	883	15,235	16,118	13,031*
South Australia	403	8,896	9,299	†	†	†	5,485*
Western Australia	60	8,164	8,233	†	†	†	4,918
Tasmania .. .. .	..	101	101	..	72	72	72
Commonwealth	5,487	76,710	82,197	3994	127,372	128,366	36,657

* Including persons who received advances of travelling expenses from the Labour Bureau, but who were not directly engaged through the medium of that institution. † Not available.

† Exclusive of Victoria, South Australia, and Western Australia.

The following are the percentages of those applicants who obtained employment through the Bureaux in the various States :—New South Wales, 47, Victoria, 28, Queensland, 42, South Australia, 59, Western Australia, 60, and Tasmania, 71 per cent.

4. **Applications and Positions Filled in Various Industrial Groups during 1917.**—The following table furnishes particulars for the year 1917 of the operations of the Free Labour Bureaux, classified according to industrial groups :—

State Free Employment Bureaux.—Applications for Employment and from Employers, and Positions Filled in different Industrial Groups, 1917.

Industrial Group.	Applications for Employment.			§§ Applications from Employers.			Positions filled. ||
	¶ On Live Register at Beginning of Year.	Received during Year.	† Total.	On Live Register at Beginning of Year.	Received during Year.	Total.	
I. Wood, Furniture, Saw-mill, Timber Workers, etc.	421	1,197	1,618	16	498	514	605
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc.*	410	4,280	4,690	23	454	482	498
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc.	51	578	629	7	189	176	136
IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc.	5	259	264	24	352	376	170
V. Books, Printing, etc.	35	217	252	..	81	81	66
VI. Other Manufacturing . . . . .	..	473	473	30	327	357	316
VII. Building	261	7,665	7,926	2	1,929	1,931	2,062
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc.	41	2,315	2,356	..	1,369	1,369	1,309
IX. Rail and Tram Services†	699	11,731	12,430	..	4,876	4,876	5,629
X. Other Land Transport . . . . .	..	524	524	..	39	39	49
XI. Shipping, Wharf Labour, etc.	4	152	156	..	42	42	20
XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, Rural, etc. †	944	8,802	9,746	189	3,187	3,376	5,465
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc.	264	10,371	10,635	293	7,016	7,309	6,689
XIV. General Labour and Miscellaneous.§	2,283	28,146	30,429	405	7,033	7,438	10,643
TOTAL	5,487	76,710	82,197	994	27,372	28,366	36,657
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* Including railway and tramway workshops. † Excluding railway and tramway workshops, but including construction and maintenance of permanent way and works. ‡ Including horticultural, viticultural and gardening. § Excluding railway and tramway employees and labourers employed on railway and tramway construction and maintenance. || Including persons in New South Wales who received advances of travelling expenses from the Labour Bureau, but who were not directly engaged through the medium of that institution. ¶ Exclusive of Western Australia. ** Inclusive of Western Australia. §§ Exclusive of Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia.

Attention has already been drawn to the fact that there is considerable diversity in the nature and scope of the work ordinarily carried out by the Bureaux in the various States. For example, in some States in which certain Government Departments obtain workers from the Labour Bureaux, the number of workers is naturally larger in comparison with the number in the same groups in other States. Thus, of the positions filled in Group IX. (Rail and Tramway Services), 13 per cent. were filled in New South Wales, 41 per cent. in Queensland, 44 per cent. in South Australia, and 2 per cent. in Victoria, while in Western Australia only 29 and in Tasmania no positions were filled in this group. Practically the whole of the positions filled in Group XIII. (Domestic, Hotels, etc.) were in three States, New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia. Of the positions filled in this group, 5571, or 86 per cent., as against 5504, or 90 per cent. in 1916, were for female domestic workers, and the whole of these positions were filled in the three above-mentioned States, these being the only States which make special provisions for female workers.

5. Applications and Positions Filled during 1917, Males and Females.

—The following table gives particulars, for male and female workers separately, of the number of applications for employment, and from employers, and the number of positions filled during the year 1917 :—

State Free Employment Bureau.—Applications and Positions Filled, Males and Females, 1917.

Particulars.	Applications for Employment.			* Applications from Employers.			Positions filled.
	On Live Register at Beginning of Year.	Received during Year.	Total.	On Live Register at Beginning of Year.	Received during Year.	Total.	
Males	5,246	66,683	71,929	687	20,797	21,484	30,431
Females	241	10,027	10,268	307	6,575	6,882	6,226
TOTAL	5,487	76,710	82,197	994	27,372	28,366	36,657

* Exclusive of Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia.

Of the total number of registrations for employment during the year 1917, 71,929, or 87.5 per cent. (against 89.5 per cent. in 1916) were made by males, and 10,268 or 12.5 per cent. by females. The number of positions filled for males was 30,431, or 83 per cent. (against 85.5 per cent. in 1916), and for females, 6,226, or 17 per cent.

For every 1000 applications for employment from male workers, 423 positions were filled in 1917, as against 437 in 1916, while for every 1000 applications from female workers, 606 were filled, as against 630 in 1916.