

CHAPTER XV.—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 showing the results of the operations of these Bureaux are subject to certain limitations.

2. **Applications and Positions Filled.**—The following table shows the total number of applications for employment and from employers, and the number of positions filled in Australia during the years 1918 to 1922. The figures for Western Australia in this and in the following tables are for the financial year ending 30th June, 1922; those for other States are for the calendar years:—

State Free Employment Bureaux.—Applications for Employment and from Employers, and Positions Filled in Australia, during the Years 1918 to 1922..

| 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. | |
| 1918 | 4,076 | 77,652 | 82,328 | *750 | *39,970 | *40,720 | 45,416 |
| 1919 | 5,994 | 93,527 | 104,521 | *459 | *43,775 | *44,234 | 53,040 |
| 1920 | 7,475 | 124,429 | 131,904 | *356 | *61,328 | *61,684 | 62,699 |
| 1921 | 7,669 | 131,867 | 139,536 | *797 | *49,824 | *50,621 | 58,328 |
| 1922 | 8,304 | 134,750 | 143,054 | †744 | †59,968 | †60,712 | 58,351 |

* Exclusive of Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania.

† Exclusive of Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania.

The number of applications for employment increased by 2.1 per cent. during 1922 as compared with 1921, while the number of positions filled increased by less than one per cent. Omitting Western Australia, for which State particulars as to applications from employers in previous years were not available, the increase was 2.2 per cent.

3. **Action in each State.**—The following table shows the number of applications for employment and from employers, and the number of positions filled in each State during the year 1922:—

State Free Employment Bureaux.—Applications for Employment and from Employers, and Positions Filled, 1922.

| 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 | 138 | 43,967 | 44,105 | 434 | 37,015 | 38,049 | 31,773 |
| Victoria | 887 | 12,420 | 13,307 | • | • | • | 1,703 |
| Queensland | 5,613 | 55,583 | 62,201 | 310 | 14,292 | 14,602 | 18,585 |
| South Australia | 279 | 10,552 | 10,831 | • | • | • | 3,987 |
| Western Australia | • | 10,907 | 10,907 | • | 8,061 | 8,061 | 6,684 |
| Tasmania | 882 | 1,321 | 1,703 | • | • | • | 1,159 |
| Total | 8,304 | 134,750 | 143,054 | 744 | 159,068 | 160,712 | 58,851 |

* Not available (if any). † Exclusive of Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania.

The following are the percentages of applicants who obtained employment through the Bureaux in the various States:—New South Wales, 72; Victoria, 13; Queensland, 22; South Australia, 37; Western Australia, 61; Tasmania, 68; and all States, 41 per cent.

4. **Details in Industrial Groups.**—The following table furnishes particulars for the year 1922 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, 1922.

| 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. | 39 | 408 | 447 | • | 296 | 296 | 320 |
| II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc. .. | 471 | 6,101 | 6,572 | 1 | 663 | 664 | 874 |
| III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc. | 84 | 1,226 | 1,310 | 15 | 788 | 803 | 512 |
| IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc. .. | 27 | 460 | 487 | 162 | 608 | 770 | 373 |
| V. Books, Printing, etc. .. | 15 | 112 | 127 | • | 34 | 34 | 23 |
| VI. Other Manufacturing .. | 1 | 74 | 75 | • | 169 | 169 | 39 |
| VII. Building | 678 | 5,960 | 6,638 | 18 | 3,398 | 3,416 | 3,552 |
| VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc. .. | 181 | 1,330 | 1,511 | 1 | 532 | 533 | 530 |
| IX. Rail and Tram Services | 348 | 17,501 | 17,849 | • | 7,191 | 7,191 | 10,857 |
| X. Other Land Transport | 6 | 919 | 925 | • | 865 | 865 | 782 |
| XI. Shipping, Wharf Labour, etc. | 23 | 194 | 217 | • | 42 | 42 | 29 |
| XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, Rural, etc. .. | 1,088 | 11,902 | 12,990 | 62 | 10,260 | 10,322 | 9,510 |
| XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc. .. | 330 | 10,596 | 10,926 | 421 | 19,078 | 19,497 | 13,627 |
| XIV. General Labour and Miscellaneous. .. | 5,013 | 67,060 | 72,073 | 64 | 16,046 | 16,110 | 17,823 |
| TOTAL | 8,304 | 134,750 | 143,054 | 744 | 59,960 | 60,712 | 58,851 |

* Exclusive of Western Australia.

† Inclusive of Western Australia.

‡ Exclusive of Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania.

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), 22 per cent. were filled in New South Wales, 44 per cent. in Queensland, and 35 per cent. in South Australia. In Victoria, in this group, only 86 positions were filled, and in Tasmania only 7, while in Western Australia no positions were filled. 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, 11,557, or 85 per cent., as against 10,810, or 84 per cent. in 1921 were for female domestic workers, and the whole of these positions, with the exception of 38 in Tasmania, were filled in the three above-mentioned States, these being the only States which make special provisions for female workers.

5. Sexes.—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 1922.

State Free Employment Bureaux.—Applications and Positions Filled, Males and Females, 1922.

| 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 | 8,055 | 123,694 | 130,749 | 254 | 41,319 | 41,573 | 46,254 |
| Females | 249 | 12,056 | 12,305 | 490 | 18,649 | 19,139 | 12,597 |
| TOTAL | 8,304 | 134,750 | 143,054 | 744 | 59,968 | 60,712 | 58,851 |

* Exclusive of Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania.

Of the total number of registrations for employment during the year 1922, 91.4 per cent. (against 90.2 per cent. in 1921) were made by males, and 8.6 per cent., by females. The percentage of positions filled for males was 78.6 per cent. (against 79.7 per cent. in 1921), and for females, 21.4 per cent.

For every 1000 applications for employment from male workers, 354 positions were filled in 1922, as against 391 in 1921, while the number of positions found for female workers was greater than the number of women applicants.