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THE NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE OF CANADA

The experience of a decade and a half, during a portion of which the nation was involved in a world war, has demonstrated the value of Canada's National Employment Service. This country-wide organization, which is administered by the Unemployment Insurance Commission as one of its main branches, has achieved an assured position in the national economy. More and more employers are turning to it for their employee requirements. Unemployed workers are learning the value of a system that spans the nation and is based on familiarity with the entire employment field.

The Unemployment Insurance Act, which provides the statutory basis for the National Employment Service, was passed by Parliament in the summer of 1940. Its introduction followed an amendment to Canada's constitution that gave the Federal Government jurisdiction in the field of unemployment insurance. This provided the Government with the power necessary to establish a national employment service which is essential to the operation of an adequate programme of unemployment insurance.

The new organization started operating at the peak of the Second World War. The doors of Commission offices across Canada were opened to the public in the summer of 1941. The start was made in the main cities and towns; but in a comparatively short time, local offices were functioning in a majority of urban centres of any size.

The National Employment Service is not, however, Canada's first venture into the field of public employment. Late in the First World War, Parliament passed legislation under which the Government paid subsidies to provinces organizing and operating public employment services. Eight of the provincial governments entered into agreements with the Federal Government covering the operation of public employment offices. As a result a chain of offices called the "Employment Service of Canada" eventually functioned across Canada. This network included approximately 75 urban centres, in all provinces with the exception of Prince Edward Island.

Thus, when the Unemployment Insurance Act was passed, an employment service which embraced eight of the nine provinces then forming Canada was in existence. The provinces were notified that, with the coming into effect of the new law, federal aid to the Employment Service of Canada would terminate. Negotiations were undertaken with the provincial governments with a view to their withdrawal from the field of public employment service administration. As a result, the governments