

The Graduates' Society Employment Bureau
of
McGill University

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R E P O R T

January 1st to March 31st, 1932.

At the commencement of the new year we were encouraged by a slight increase in the number of inquiries received, both in the engineering and commercial fields. Most of the openings were for sales representatives for American firms entering the Quebec territory or for firms established elsewhere in Canada who wished to extend their activities into the Quebec district. It was hoped this might indicate improved conditions generally, but unfortunately the promise of the opening year was not botne out by the succeeding months, and, so far as we can judge from the viewpoint of the Bureau, employment conditions generally were at a lower level in March than at any time during the preceding twelve months.

The increasingly large number of men laid off, particularly in the civil and electrical engineering fields, and the likelihood of reductions in staff in the near future by firms who have hitherto endeavoured to retain their personnel, has resulted in a large increase in the number of applicants during the past two months. As many of these men have been employed for several years in specialized work there is very little prospect of immediate placement in their own work, and it is difficult to even suggest possible avenues which might lead to employment in other directions.

In this connection, the Bureau often performs a useful function in being able, through our contact with employers, to give these men information which may save them the disheartening task of applying for positions where we know there are no openings. On the other hand, where any possibility of an opening exists, we are often able to arrange an interview for a man who might not be able to obtain it by his own efforts. It can be readily understood that under existing conditions employers do not wish to be besieged by applicants who may be quite unsuitable for their particular class of work. In the