

SECTION XIV.—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, 1917 to 1921.**—The following table shews the total number of applications for employment and from employers, and the number of positions filled in the Commonwealth during the years 1917 to 1921 :—

State Free Employment Bureaux.—Applications for Employment and from Employers, and Positions Filled in the Commonwealth, during the Years 1917 to 1921.

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.	
1917	5,487	76,710	82,197	*994	*27,372	*28,366	36,657
1918	4,676	77,652	82,328	*750	*39,970	*40,720	45,416
1919	5,994	98,527	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

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

It will be seen that there was a considerable increase in the number of applications for employment received during 1920 and 1921, compared with the years 1917 to 1919. This confirms to some extent the position as disclosed by the statistics of unemployment given in Section III. hereof, and shews that during the latter half of 1920 and for the whole of the year 1921, industrial conditions were unfavourable. In 1921 the number of applications made to the Employment Bureaux by employers was considerably less than in the previous year, and consequently the proportion of the positions filled, compared with the applications for work, is considerably less.

3. **Applications and Positions Filled in each State during 1921.**—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 1921 :—

State Free Employment Bureaux.—Applications for Employment and from Employers, and Positions Filled in different States, 1921.

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	292	44,568	44,860	524	37,478	38,002	33,558
Victoria	948	18,812	19,460	..	..	..	1,912
Queensland	6,306	44,805	51,114	273	12,340	12,619	11,546
South Australia	260	9,603	9,953	..	..	..	4,256
Western Australia	152	12,466	12,618	..	..	..	6,467
Tasmania	11	1,520	1,531	..	..	..	589
Commonwealth	7,669	131,867	139,536	†797	†37,181	†12,643	58,328

* Not available. † Exclusive of Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia, and Tasmania.

The following are the percentages of applicants who obtained employment through the Bureaux in the various States :—New South Wales, 75 ; Victoria, 10 ; Queensland, 22 ; South Australia, 43 ; Western Australia, 51 ; and Tasmania, 38 per cent.

4. Applications and Positions Filled in Various Industrial Groups during 1921.—The following table furnishes particulars for the year 1921 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, 1921.

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.	33	914	947	3	122	125	526
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	404	6,414	6,818	36	780	816	1,031
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc.	111	1,290	1,401	1	629	630	600
IV. Clothing, Hats, Boots, etc.	43	630	673	35	778	813	375
V. Books, Printing, etc.	16	165	181	2	47	49	30
VI. Other Manufacturing	6	132	138	..	50	50	46
VII. Building	416	7,285	7,701	11	3,060	3,071	3,447
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc.	122	1,661	1,783	14	736	750	482
IX. Rail and Tram Services	308	11,977	12,285	..	2,742	2,742	6,559
X. Other Land Transport	58	1,365	1,423	..	634	634	649
XI. Shipping, Wharf Labour, etc.	27	324	351	..	86	86	92
XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, Rural, etc.	1,372	15,183	16,555	96	5,801	5,897	8,788
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc.	232	14,449	14,681	541	13,567	14,108	12,902
XIV. General Labour and Miscellaneous.	4,521	70,078	74,599	58	20,792	20,850	22,801
TOTAL	7,669	131,867	139,536	797	49,824	50,621	58,328

* Exclusive of Victoria, South Australia, West 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), 42 per cent. were filled in Queensland, and 55 per cent. in South Australia. In Victoria, in this group, only 183 positions were filled, and in Western Australia only 4, while in New South Wales and Tasmania 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, 10,810, or 84 per cent., as against 10,078, or 82 per cent. in 1920 were for female domestic workers, and the whole of these positions, with the exception of 10 in Tasmania, were filled in the three above-mentioned States, these being the only States which make special provisions for female workers. In the manufacturing groups (I. to VI.) 25 per cent. of the applicants obtained positions as against 40 per cent. in the previous year.

5. Applications and Positions Filled during 1921, 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 1921 :—

State Free Employment Bureaux.—Applications and Positions Filled, Males and Females, 1921.

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	7,510	118,960	126,470	299	37,181	37,480	46,474
Females	159	12,907	13,066	498	12,643	13,141	11,854
TOTAL	7,669	131,867	139,536	797	49,824	50,621	58,328

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

Of the total number of registrations for employment during the year 1921, 90.2 per cent. (against 91.3 per cent. in 1920) were made by males, and 9.8 per cent., by females. The percentage of positions filled for males was 79.7 per cent. (against 82.4 per cent. in 1920), and for females 20.3 per cent.

For every 1000 applications for employment from male workers, 391 positions were filled in 1921, as against 429 in 1920, while for every 1000 applications from female workers, 918 were filled, as against 962 in 1920.