

NUMBERS EMPLOYED.

The following table shows the numbers of men engaged under the various schemes in full-time subsidized employment from January, 1940, to 4th April, 1942 :—

Date.	Scheme No. 4B.	Scheme No. 4C.	Scheme No. 16.	Scheme No. 16A.	Scheme No. 13.	Total.
1940.						
13th January	3,624	14	498	7	10,285	14,428
10th February	3,359	17	488	7	9,866	13,737
9th March	3,435	18	475	7	9,412	13,347
6th April	3,629	21	452	7	8,627	12,736
4th May	4,041	15	442	7	8,393	12,898
1st June	3,836	15	427	7	8,373	12,658
29th June	3,579	48	416	7	8,358	12,408
27th July	3,512	143	410	6	9,412	13,483
24th August	3,018	292	397	7	10,111	13,825
21st September	2,885	567	389	8	10,626	14,475
19th October	2,746	749	359	8	10,133	13,995
16th November	2,541	785	314	8	9,747	13,395
14th December	2,155	798	286	8	9,144	12,391
1941.						
11th January	1,880	777	275	8	8,449	11,389
8th February	1,759	702	253	9	7,105	9,828
8th March	1,655	544	220	9	6,363	8,791
5th April	1,500	384	199	11	5,426	7,520
3rd May	1,526	343	192	11	5,052	7,124
31st May	1,501	319	173	10	4,837	6,840
28th June	1,548	302	151	9	4,714	6,724
26th July	1,572	263	139	10	5,038	7,022
23rd August	1,581	254	122	10	4,993	6,960
20th September	1,478	220	109	10	4,976	6,793
18th October	1,212	190	97	10	4,858	6,367
15th November	969	164	91	11	4,822	6,057
13th December	697	137	79	11	4,258	5,182
1942.						
10th January	528	124	76	11	3,703	4,442
7th February	372	91	68	10	3,332	3,873
7th March	255	79	50	10	2,668	3,062
4th April	194	70	47	10	2,092	2,413

It will be seen that the number of men for whom provision is still required to be made has been very substantially reduced, and this is the direct outcome of the acute labour shortage in all fields of industry brought about by war conditions which have increased the general acceptability to employers of those types of men whom they would not engage in normal times.

SCHEME No. 4B.

Under this scheme subsidies up to 75 per cent. of the wages-cost were provided for the employment of registered and eligible men on a contract basis for the improvement and development of farms.

From the very nature of the work undertaken the men engaged under Scheme No. 4B must be considered as reasonably fit, and during November, 1941, the scheme was suspended owing to the shortage of labour for maintaining and processing production, particularly on farms and in the cheese, woollen, and linen-flax industries. At that time it was left open for all work which had already been started to be continued to completion, even although labour was not then employed. The prosecution of urgent defence works following the entry of Japan into the war rendered the labour position more acute, and in February instructions were issued that no more men were to be placed under Scheme No. 4B and that all outstanding commitments were to be cancelled. Current contracts were allowed to continue to completion.

The following analysis shows what has been done under the scheme during the period under review :—

SUMMARY OF SCHEME No. 4B CONTRACTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH, 1942.

Number of contracts	1,195
Total number of men allocated	2,096
Average number of men employed monthly	990
Total labour-cost	£225,572
Total of subsidies	£158,206
Estimated stock increase—	
Sheep	69,925
Cows	7,456
Cattle	3,339
Pigs	287
Work completed—	
Scrub-cutting	68,653 acres.
Gorse-grubbing	21,956 acres.
Stumping	4,360 acres.
Bushfelling	2,513 acres.
Drains dug, deepened, and widened	47,838 chains.
Fencing	23,123 chains.

Additional work carried out under the scheme comprises river-protection work, top-dressing, track and road formation to enable access to be given to isolated areas, flood-damage restoration, and ploughing of virgin land.