

men would deteriorate, whereas steady employment and the difference between social security benefit and award rates of pay enable them to maintain their health and a reasonably contented psychology, to provide a somewhat improved standard of comfort for their dependants, and to render useful service to the community.

The numbers of men engaged in each main class of work are :—

Streets, roads, and reserves	352
River-protection	8
School-ground improvements	15
Vegetable-production	179
Recovery of essential war materials	18
Miscellaneous	64
	636

The following table shows the classification by age-groups of those employed :—

Age	20-24.	25-29.	30-34.	35-39.	40-44.	45-49.	50-54.	55-59.	60 and over.	All Ages.
Number	6	10	9	18	51	52	116	174	200	636
Percentage	0·9	1·6	1·4	2·8	8·0	8·2	18·2	27·4	31·5	100·0

More than 90 per cent. of these men are classed as unfit for heavy manual work.

Scheme No. 16 (Subsidized Apprentices in Building Trade) : Since this scheme commenced in September, 1937, some 631 apprentices and 128 trainees have been placed, the position regarding these contracts on the 3rd April, 1943, being as follows :—

	Carpenters.		Bricklayers.	Total.
	Apprentices.	Trainees.		
Contracts in operation	1	..	..	1
Contracts suspended	214	14	7	235
Contracts terminated	185	81	4	270
Contracts completed	198	28	12	238
Contracts cancelled	9	5	1	15
Totals	607	128	24	759

Scheme No. 16A (Subsidized Workers in Boot-manufacturing Industry) : A total of 29 men have been engaged under this scheme since its commencement in August, 1939, 4 of these contracts being in operation on 3rd April, 1943, 17 having terminated and the remaining 8 having expired.

Numbers employed under the above Schemes.—The following table shows the numbers of men engaged under the various schemes in full-time subsidized employment at approximately quarterly points of time from January, 1942, to April, 1943 :—

Date.	Scheme No. 4B.	Scheme No. 4C.	Scheme No. 13.	Scheme No. 16.	Scheme No. 16A.	Total.
1942						
10th January	528	124	3,703	76	11	4,442
4th April	194	70	2,092	47	10	2,413
27th June	50	42	1,401	18	10	1,521
19th September	30	20	1,110	4	7	1,171
12th December	20	16	790	4	8	838
1943						
3rd April	..	4	636	1	4	645

Rabbit-extermination : To obviate the necessity for continued subsidies to encourage “ summer ” rabbiting, the Sale of Rabbit-skins Emergency Regulations 1942 were passed on the 15th April, 1942. The main purpose of these regulations is to provide a scheme, by means of a system of levies and subsidies, whereby persons engaged in the destruction of rabbits will obtain approximately the same return from summer killing as from winter killing, and in this way it is hoped to defeat the instinct to “ farm ” rabbits in summer for the sake of their greater winter value.

Financial.—Provision for expenditure incurred in the promotion of employment is subject to appropriation by Parliament in terms of the Public Revenues Act, 1926, and during the year under review the sum of £263,500 (gross) was appropriated from the Consolidated Fund under vote, “ Labour,” for this purpose.