

from the expenditure by the Unemployment Board. The increase in the cost to the State for the provision of relief to the unemployed in recent years is shown by the following figures:—

Year.	Public Works Department (including Main Highways).	State Forest Service.	Other Departments (including New Zealand Railways).	Subsidies to Local Bodies.	Unemployment Fund.	Totals.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1926-27 ..	130,000	14,240	..	..	..	144,240
1927-28 ..	379,565	27,550	..	75,106	..	482,221
1928-29 ..	680,393	50,250	3,500	68,566	..	802,709
1929-30 ..	914,109	185,400	204,464	111,728	..	1,415,701
1930-31 ..	1,249,446	82,000	21,933	116,768	313,209	1,783,356
1931-32 ..	886,953	74,000	14,684	11,478	2,216,886	3,204,001
Totals ..	4,240,466	433,440	244,581	383,646	2,530,095	7,832,228

NUMBERS OF UNEMPLOYED.

As an Appendix to this report will be found a table showing the numbers of men remaining on the registers of employment bureaux at the end of each week during the period under review. It should be explained that on account of the necessity for keeping a continuous check on men employed on a scheme providing only part-time work, these figures include the men employed through local bodies on relief work under Scheme No. 5. On the other hand, the table does not include numbers of men who would otherwise be unemployed but were engaged during the year on permanent or semi-permanent work made available by means of subsidies or grants from the Unemployment Fund, such men being removed from the register and treated as placements.

The actual registrations are the only data available for viewing the movement in unemployment figures over an extended period. The inherent weakness of such data is that during normal times the majority of unemployed persons do not trouble to register, preferring rather to seek employment on their own initiative. Evidence of this weakness is contained in figures quoted in the Appendix to the Board's first report, where it is shown that although there were 10,694 male wage-earners unemployed at the date of the last census, 20th April, 1926 (prior to the inception of the present relief system), the number of unplaced applicants on the books of the Labour Department at the end of the week in which the census day fell was only 576, the weekly average for that year being 1,196.

Immediately, however, on the establishment of a State-controlled scheme for relieving unemployment on a large scale, such as that necessitated by present conditions, the registration system, which is an essential part of the organization, is availed of by practically every person who finds himself unable to secure work in his usual sphere of activity, and incidentally by considerable numbers who normally are unemployable or work only intermittently, but who do not hesitate to seek to participate in benefits provided for genuinely unemployed wage-earners.

As a general indication, however, of the movement in the registrations of unemployed since the beginning of 1930, the following table presents the numbers on the register at the end of each month during that period when unemployment attained its most acute stage in the history of the Dominion. In view of the position during the recent winter months, figures are shown up to the end of September, 1932. They do not include men temporarily removed from registers, and working under schemes other than No. 5, but yet a charge on the Board's funds:—

	1930.	1931.	1932.
Last week in—			
January	2,572	16,607	45,654
February	2,520	27,662	44,107
March	3,130	38,028	45,383
April	3,379	36,981	50,093
May	5,084	42,523	53,543
June	5,491	45,264	54,342
July	5,360	47,772	55,837
August	5,463	50,033	56,332
September .. .	6,025	51,375	55,728
October	6,018	50,284	..
November .. .	7,402	47,535	..
December .. .	11,371*	45,140	..

* This number recorded just prior to Christmas. In the following week the figure dropped to 7,596, owing to the placing of a considerable number of men on a special temporary scheme.