

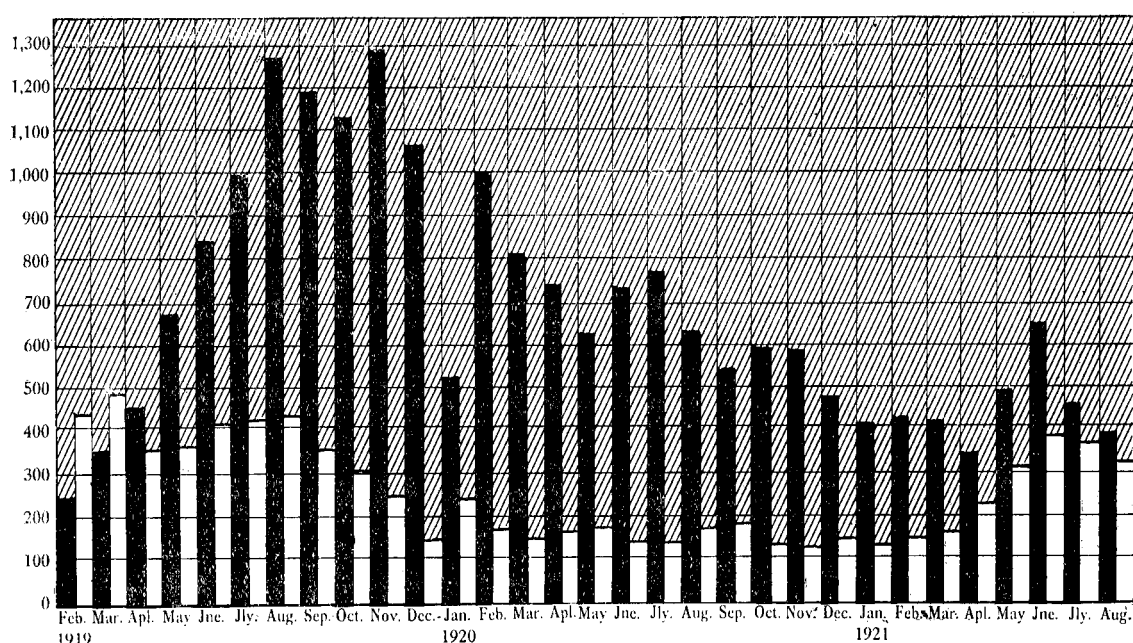
SECTION I.—EMPLOYMENT.

Since the issue of the last year's report in July, 1920, the Department has placed a further 6,908 discharged soldiers in employment, making a total placement to August, 1921, of 24,959; and the following table indicates the number absorbed by the various groups of industry in each of the four centres:

Group.	Auckland.	Wellington.	Canterbury.	Otago.	Total.
1. Wood, furniture, timber, &c. ..	456	511	270	283	1,520
2. Engineers, metal-workers ..	431	706	276	351	1,764
3. Food, tobacco, &c. ..	182	250	240	130	802
4. Clothing, boots, &c. ..	146	241	158	166	711
5. Books, printing, &c. ..	112	111	104	61	388
6. Other manufacturing..	319	156	331	148	954
7. Building ..	355	298	259	127	1,039
8. Mining and quarrying ..	103	127	259	132	621
9. Rail and tram services ..	116	348	222	152	838
10. Other land transport..	270	260	289	154	973
11. Shipping, wharf labour, &c. ..	68	136	171	141	516
12. Pastoral, agriculture, &c. ..	754	1,783	669	555	3,761
13. Domestic, hotels, &c. ..	270	416	206	149	1,041
14. General labour and miscellaneous ..	1,323	2,263	1,558	971	6,115
15. Clerical ..	368	666	364	249	1,647
16. Government ..	369	911	400	589	2,269
Totals ..	5,642	9,183	5,776	4,358	24,959

The number on the Employment Wanted Register of the Department as at the 20th June, 1920, was 151, and conditions remained normal until about March, 1921, when the present financial stringency began to affect the situation. Many employers during the past six months have dispensed with the services of men who had been in constant employment since their return, and who had been looked upon as repatriated, and, as a consequence of this, our list of men requiring work gradually rose, until in June, 1921, there were 398 names on the register—the highest since August, 1919. There has been a slight decrease in both the July and August figures, and the number awaiting employment at the date of this report is 329. It might be argued that this number distributed throughout the Dominion does not disclose an alarming position, but, as billets are very scarce at the present time, it will require the sustained efforts of the Department and the continued co-operation of all employers to prevent the unemployment situation from becoming acute.

A graph covering operations since the inception of the Department is given below, and shows the number of men placed in employment each month and the number remaining on the register.



EMPLOYMENT OF DISCHARGED SOLDIERS.

In this graph the black bars show the number of men placed in employment each month by the Repatriation Department. The white bars show the number remaining on the register.

Unemployment sustenance at the rate of £2 2s. per week to the soldier, 10s. per week to the wife, and 3s. 6d. per week for each child (not exceeding four) may be paid in cases of hardship, but during the past twelve months it has been necessary to grant this form of assistance in only forty-one cases (at a cost of £231).