

UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF

In recent years the Service has assisted in alleviating the unemployment problems during the winter and early spring months by expanding its normal tree-planting programme, and thus providing additional employment. The expenditure incurred by these unexpected expansions affected the State Forests Account so adversely that some relief became necessary, and by arrangement with the Unemployment Board relief workers were engaged under the Board's single men's camp schemes – *i.e.*, the Unemployment Board paid each man 10s. per week with free rations while the Service provided camp accommodation and paid all supervision charges.

During the peak period in July over 930 single men were so employed, and as the Service had a semi-permanent complement of 170 it will be observed that more than 1,100 men were given employment during midwinter.

Financial considerations have in past years precluded much very necessary work being done in connection with thinning, underscrubbing, &c., in the older plantations. Last year, however, advantage was taken of the camp schemes to retain numbers of the men and employ them in this silvicultural work, and during midsummer 450 relief workers were still employed.

It may be mentioned that similar arrangements have been made with the Unemployment Board for the 1933 season.

Speaking generally, the work performed was as reasonably efficient as could be expected in the circumstances, and, with a few exceptions, the camps were carried on for several months with little friction.

It is also pleasing to record that, although the bulk of the labour was recruited from the towns, no serious incidents occurred.