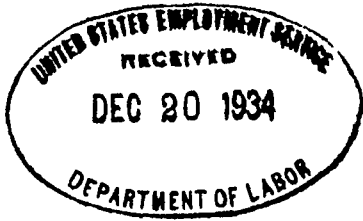


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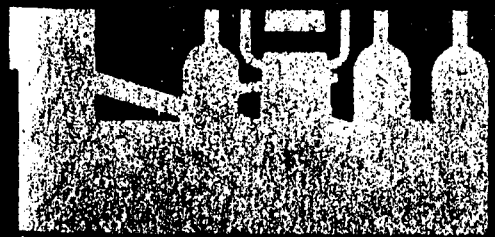


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PENNSYLVANIA LABOR AND INDUSTRY



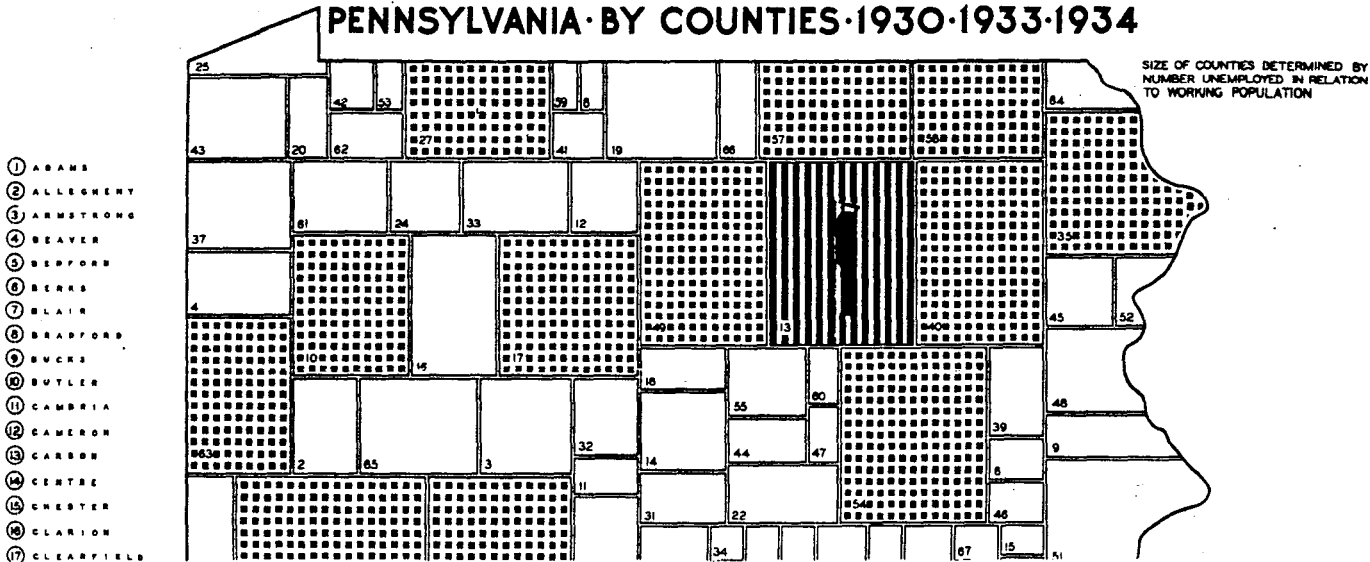
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2) See Departmental
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ESTIMATED PERCENTAGE OF WORKING POPULATION UNEMPLOYED PENNSYLVANIA BY COUNTIES 1930-1933-1934



PENNSYLVANIA

LABOR AND INDUSTRY IN THE DEPRESSION

A Review of the Four-Year Period, 1931-1934
Effect upon Worker and Employer, as Encountered
in the Department of Labor and Industry
Administration of the State Labor Board



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
CHARLOTTE E. CARR, Secretary

Special Bulletin No. 39

Harrisburg

Acknowledgment

This report was written by A. Norman Gage from material furnished by directors of the various bureaus of the Department.

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Letter of Transmittal

To the Honorable Gifford Pinchot, Governor
wealth of Pennsylvania.

Dear Governor Pinchot:

In view of the abnormal conditions of the 1931-1934 inclusive, this report of the Department of Labor and Industry's activities has been devoted entirely to a study of those conditions. No attempt has been made to discuss the varied functions of the department or the conditions which were not directly or indirectly affected by the depression.

The purpose of this report, therefore, is to present in reasonable detail a record of conditions as they were found them and the manner in which the department has met the limitations of the law, appropriations, and personnel, sought to cope with the resulting problems.

Throughout the report an effort has been made to present the factual record from the conclusions drawn from the recommendations based upon, that record. It is adopted to make the report as useful as possible as a historical review of Pennsylvania labor and industry during the depression and as a basis for the consideration of amendments necessary to strengthen the laws.

Information on functional activities of the department covered in this report either has been presented in the publications or is otherwise available from the department.

It is hoped that this plan of preparation of the report's field of general usefulness and increased activity as an instrument of service for legislators and workers of the Commonwealth.

November 1, 1934.

CHARLOTTE E. BROWN
Secretary of Labor

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PART I

At Close Grips with the

Department of Labor and Industry

The unusual pressure which the depression placed upon all departments of the state government was developed early and has continued throughout the volume in the Department of Labor and Industry.

During this time the department had to deal with some of the greatest difficulties presented by the depression. It was natural in view of the functions of the department that the characteristics of the period. The economic and its exigencies consequently largely in fields under the jurisdiction of the department of all governmental departments.

From the outset, the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry has been at close grips with the depression of the era. Even before the depression was fully realized in its true, grim, and crushing form the department had been assigned the unprecedented job of determining the extent of the economic slump and the rapidity of the economic slump. It has been utilized to ascertain the extent of unemployment accurately, and thus provide some basis upon which the Commonwealth could build its work relief programs.

Thereafter, the rapid retarding of the economic machinery was attended, not by a decrease in the demand, but by a pronounced increase in the load automatically placed upon the Department of Labor and Industry.

In normal years the functions of the department are closely the lives of 40 per cent of the Commonwealth—those persons gainfully employed. The department assists in finding jobs for the unemployed, maintains the safety of those at work and supervises the relations between workers and employers. In times of their dependents to collect compensation for injuries, it aids in rehabilitating and retraining handicapped persons to occupational activities. It safeguards the general public by enforcing the Labor Act and other legislation enacted to protect the public.

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The Department of Labor and Industry desires to express its appreciation to the following group of several hundred citizens for the valuable volunteer service they have given in the supervisory and investigative phases of its work.

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* * *

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