

to light. This should indeed be the ultimate objective of the research-survey. It would certainly not be possible, however, until a major part at least, of the programme had been realised.

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The parts of the programme here set out would by no means all be filled by the same methods. Not all of it is material for research theses by graduate students, though the larger part of it is so fitted. A considerable amount of statistical material, for instance, bearing upon Canadian employment problems, is available which has not yet been analysed with any central or co-ordinating purpose in mind. There is room for this to be assembled, while special research studies are proceeding.

Some parts of the programme, again, cannot be started upon as soon as others: some parts are more difficult than others. Once a beginning has been made, the materials at hand in each particular year will play some part in determining the next projects to be started.

It is clear that the branches of the programme outlined overlap at many points. But this should be a help rather than a hindrance. If the general lines of the programme are clear, there should be little difficulty in seeing the relation of part to part. Concentration on one main - though widely-interpreted - subject gives order to research which might well otherwise be lacking. And the chance of making a contribution in social sciences is undoubtedly greater from such delimitation for a time at least.

On the question of what "results" are to be expected, a few further words may perhaps be added. In the first place, the question "are we to discover the causes of unemployment?" is largely a misleading one. It is possible to regard certain economic phenomena, of which changes in the price-level are the chief, as direct causes of unemployment. But generally speaking, unemployment research, whatever the method we pursue and the sphere in which we work, is research directed not towards the discovery of "causes", but the separation and solution of types (or specific cases) of dislocation, maladjustment, or lack of organisation. Some of them may be much more important, more far-reaching in their effects than others: unemployment is really a series of problems of this sort, ranging all the way from those which are local or limited to those which are international. Our choice from this range has to be determined, jointly, by our resources and our aim.

The period to which the results are relevant may also call for a word. In a period of economic depression there are certain immediate problems, of which the most pressing are those of direct relief - the "ambulance work" of the unemployment problem. In a period of severe unemployment it is an aspect of which everyone is aware, and which colours a great deal of current thinking on unemployment. But supremely important as these questions of relief may be, they are still problems of emergency administration. We can learn from them; but research cannot do much at this stage to remedy the immediate situation. It is forward-looking and, in major part at least, directed towards questions which are a more continuous part of the total problem. Its contribution, necessarily, is not immediate, but in helping to prevent the recurrence or to reduce the magnitude and complexity of unemployment problems in the future.

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