

①

UNEMPLOYMENT RESEARCH

Very broadly, there are two types of unemployment investigation, or two approaches to the same range of problems:

(a) The study of business fluctuations or industrial depression in general: mainly economic, a vast field for economic analysis and statistical research, national and international in scope. This may perhaps be characterised as the "theoretical" or "casual" approach

(b) The study of the unemployment which exists (the unemployed, in the community), aiming at separating the types of unemployment (and therefore suggesting its causes) and making clearer by distinction and analysis the problems of dealing with unemployment. This may perhaps be distinguished as the "community" approach, or the study which begins with the effects.

It is this second approach which the survey-method involves. While this in no way means, however, that the research of type (a) is or will be excluded - indeed it, and a number of other studies, are bound to follow if the method outlined as (b) is pursued far enough - it is essential if confusion is to be avoided that this distinction should be made. In any case one cannot study causes or presume to study remedies, for any particular community, until the effects are adequately known.

The scope of the survey-method ^X in its "ideal" form would be as follows; and this should be the field we should attempt to cover as the research goes forward:

1. The industrial and occupational character of the community.
2. The extent of unemployment in the community, its character and incidence.
3. Analyses of the special problems or special aspects this suggests (i.e., special studies additional to the general survey).
4. Analysis (or description) of existing communal organization for dealing with the problems of unemployment.
5. Remedies, changes, reorganisation, etc., indicated as desirable: based in general upon the above.

X

The general scope of the "theoretical" method of research would cover:

- (1) International causes of industrial fluctuations. The post-war depression.
- (2) Causes of the "business-cycle".
- (3) Remedies for world-causes of unemployment.
- (4) Methods of controlling cyclical fluctuations.

Dec. 1930.

{ Submitted to Committee - Dec. 1930
- - - Council - Jan 9th 1931