

THE SCOPE OF THE SURVEY PROGRAMME

The scope which the survey method should cover can be outlined as follows.

(1) The industrial and occupational character of the community.

The industrial and economic make-up of the city in general (with comparisons with other cities and with the Dominion as a whole). The most important industries; the size of their personnel, the types of labour (degree of skill, sex, age, etc.) they employ; their special problems or features of organisation (scale of operations, division between sections, markets, methods of labour recruitment, etc); the influence of these factors on their employment and unemployment problems.

The occupations of the population; significant distinctions between occupational and industrial classifications (incidence of unemployment, specialisation or localisation by age, status, race, etc).

Significant industrial or occupational changes in recent times (e.g., last decade).

(2) The measurement of unemployment in the community - its character, extent, and incidence.

Detailed analysis of available unemployment statistics (trade union unemployment, Bureau of Statistics Employment indices, Federal Employment Service statistics) for Montreal and comparative areas. Seasonal variations; trends of employment and unemployment since the war; differences between industries or industrial groups.

Analysis of information from other sources, particularly with reference to the characteristics of the unemployed groups in Montreal. Age- and sex-distributions, nationality, occupations, degree of family dependency, sources of relief, degree of mobility.

Studies of the "qualitative" characteristics of the unemployed. Industrial and mental abilities, literacy, etc. Differences between groups; comparison with employed groups; relation to other characteristics above.

(3) Special problems. These problems which although in one sense special aspects of the general research field, are of more immediate relevance because they are strategic points of attack, or else specially significant in Montreal or Canada.

There are four fields, each of them requiring further subdivision for research, which may be mentioned here: others will undoubtedly emerge as research proceeds.

(a) The juvenile entrant to industry. The relation of education (general and technical) to the problems of employment, placement and industrial opportunities. Employability and vocational guidance.

This is a key-field for any research plan which is concerned with more than the immediate conditions of business depression. The inadequately placed or trained boy of to-day is the unemployed man of tomorrow. Montreal's quota of young entrants is particularly large, and organisation to deal with these problems is only in its earliest stages.