

(Projects in more detail).

ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT.

The unemployment problems of particular industries.

1. Employment and unemployment problems in the rail transport industry, as exemplified by the experience of the C.P.R.

The modern railway as the source (with its attendant operations) of employment for a very large part of the Canadian working-force. Importance also because essentially affected by employment conditions special to Canada, and by fluctuations in business conditions in Canada. Various types (occupations, degree of skill, etc.) employed. Methods of recruitment: differences if any for different grades of workers. Problems raised by seasonal fluctuation or variation in type of work. Employment and technical changes. The problem of lay-offs or short-time working in trade depression. Methods by which these problems met, possibly with pre-war and post-war experience compared. Conditions special to railway operation making stabilisation difficult or feasible. Special reference to Montreal but dealing with as much of wider aspects as is consistent with efficiency of the research.

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2. Employment and unemployment problems in the rail transport industry, as exemplified by the experience of the C.N.R.

A parallel study, on the same lines as the above.

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[N.B. An alternative method of studying the railway employment problem, with the object of narrowing the subject for the research student would be as follows, but it is not considered desirable. A study of the employment problems of the system as a whole would be a more integrated piece of work, and should not be beyond the scope of a good research student who has two years for the work:

- (1) The relation of seasonal fluctuations to employment in the railway transport industry; of workers; methods of meeting them; differences for different types as exemplified by the experience of the two Canadian railway systems.

- (2) The problems of technical change and unemployment, in the Canadian railway transport and allied industries.]

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3. The employment and unemployment problems of dock labour in Montreal.

Importance of dock work in Montreal. Special characteristics (e.g., grain). Extent and type of organisation: past history: amount of unskilled labour. Methods of recruitment, type of workers, conditions of work (adjustment of rates, hours, etc., to port activity). Methods and degree of adjustment to (a) daily (b) seasonal fluctuations. Movement of workers to ice-free ports in winter: methods, experience, and degree of success.

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