

The data thus secured will give the committee some measurement of skilled labour requirements at present and for some months ahead and will indicate in what occupations and locations the labour is needed. This information is being supplemented by reports from all departments of government concerned. As soon as the enlistment of a quota of men, or a new governmental project or a new contract, is decided upon, the committee is to be advised so that the necessary labour may be determined and measures to secure it considered before the project is launched.

In addition this committee is engaged in the determination of the present labour reserve; and various possible sources of labour are being canvassed to learn the number and location of required workers available.

This is being done through the following channels:

1. Through trade unions. The unions which have members in the occupations required are being asked to furnish the committee with lists of unemployed or partially employed members or members working in non-essential industries, or men with required skills now employed in other occupations.

2. Through the use of the provincial employment offices. The cards of the active files in the employment offices are being examined to discover applicants in the required occupations or in allied occupations, and the result of this survey is available to the committee.

3. The same procedure as has been adopted in connection with the employment offices will be followed in connection with the national registration cards as and when they become available.

4. The approximate dates upon which firms can complete their commitments is being given to the committee so that new contracts may be given them without any call on the labour market, so that if new contracts are not assigned them some part of their labour force may be used elsewhere.

The committee, too, is taking steps for the conserving and augmenting of the labour supply by the following methods:

1. In the recruiting policy they are endeavouring to ensure that men in the required occupations should not be recruited unnecessarily, and any already with the forces not being used in their trades should be returned to war industries as needed. A survey of the number of enlisted men in Canada in the scarce trades is being undertaken and the results made available to the committee.

2. Apprenticeship. As a rule apprenticeship training covers too long a period to afford any important increase in the number of skilled workers in the emergency. Intensive instruction may speed up the completion of courses and make a number available to industry somewhat sooner. The character of the instruction is being checked to ensure that so far as possible the men are being trained in the required occupations.