

Projects ranged from small plants costing \$5,000 to one costing \$60 million. The latest plant to go into operation was opened last week. It is a cable plant in Pincher Creek, Alberta, that cost \$1,300,000.

The areas that have been designated up to now have been those of severe, long-term unemployment. Now we are going to broaden the plan by including areas which generally have low levels of income, although not necessarily high levels of employment.

Having designated an area, what can we do for it? If it is an area rich in undeveloped resources, we shall offer incentives sufficient to make it attractive for industry to move in. This may not be enough in itself, because if the people of the area don't possess the skills and training that industry needs, the result will be an influx of skilled workers from outside. We must be prepared, therefore, to help the workers in such an area to acquire skills and get the training they need to benefit from industrial development.

PROBLEM OF MOBILITY

At the same time many workers will want to move to other areas to take jobs for which they have been equipped by training or experience. This can be a difficult thing for anyone, but especially for a man with a family. Nevertheless, such a move often will offer families their best chance of bettering their living standards, and we intend to help them, through generous loan arrangements and other financial aid, to move themselves and their families to their new employment. At the same time, intensive job-placement services will be available through the nation-wide network of the National Employment Service. We are doing this now to some extent, but we intend to expand and intensify this programme....

TRAINING AND RE-TRAINING

The federal-provincial agreements on technical and vocational training cover a range of training programmes broad enough to take care of most needs that may arise. There has been a tremendous widening of training opportunities in the vocational, trade and technical fields for young people in the past couple of years in all parts of Canada. This will provide a solid background for further expansion of training which will be required for the upgrading of the adult work force....

The experience gained by our Vocational Training Branch and the National Employment Service, the provincial departments of labour and education, and municipalities in setting up training and re-training of the unemployed during the past couple of years will be available. This form of training, available to only 4,600 people in 1960, was given in more than 100 occupations to more than 52,000 during the past year. It is our hope that this form of training, which has proved to be of practical assistance in getting under-employed and unemployed people into good jobs, can be greatly expanded and be of the greatest value to our whole new programme.

There is no age-limit, no minimum of school training, and no fee to pay - rather, training allowances are paid the trainees. Since many applicants for specialized training do lack the education or

background for entry to some courses, an opportunity is provided to reach the desired level of education through basic training for skill development - in layman's terms, the teaching of language and fundamental mathematics.

REGIONAL APPROACH

An example of the regional approach, which will provide valuable experience for us in the future, is a programme undertaken during the past year in the Lower St. Lawrence and Gaspé Region. More than 5,000 persons were involved in a 14-week programme in essential basic education to Grade 5, 7 or 9 level, in some 200 centres. Another 35 courses were conducted in vocational training in the same area....

We are not setting up a new department of government to handle this. We are not setting up any new body, except for a very small co-ordinating agency under the direct guidance of the Prime Minister himself, as the chairman of a committee of Cabinet of which I have the honour to be vice-chairman. Everything we need at the federal level exists now in government departments or can be set up inside their framework.

CANADA ASSISTANCE PLAN

For instance, the Canada Assistance Plan will involve various authorities. The Plan now being proposed will produce a framework for federal-provincial co-operation in helping those who need help most. The Plan has taken note of the wide support for a comprehensive programme of public assistance expressed by welfare organizations and authorities, including the Canadian Welfare Council. It will provide an alternate approach to public assistance, now available under four federal statutes - the Old Age Assistance Act, the Blind Pensions Act, the Disabled Persons Act, and the Unemployment Assistance Act.

An important new element in the Assistance Plan is the support to the provinces for strengthening administration, allowing for additional trained staff and more effective service for recipients. In this way, we intend that assistance should be more effectively linked to other programmes, including vocational training, rehabilitation and job placement. In other words, an attempt must be made to see as many as possible get off welfare and back into the labour force....

AGRICULTURAL POVERTY

...The Department of Agriculture will be involved, because much of our worst poverty and waste of human resources is rural. The Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development Agency has embarked on a programme which promises to do for farms and farmers what other programmes have done for the rest of the economy. We intend to give it greater scope by creating a special fund that it will use for regional development projects.

URBAN RENEWAL

Part of our war on poverty will naturally be our large urban-renewal programme, being carried out in co-operation with the provinces and municipalities