

SOCIAL SCIENCES RESEARCH: (UNEMPLOYMENT
SURVEY): ~~PROGRESS REPORT, 1930-31.~~

General Programme

The evolution of a programme of research in general outline, and of plans to enable its details to be filled in, was the task of the first part of last session. After discussion of these plans, it was agreed that four departments would participate (in cooperation with the Director) immediately - the departments of Economics, Sociology, Psychology, and Education - and that the departments of Medicine and Law would probably begin active participation in the second year.

A statement of this programme and its objectives, in the form in which it has been accepted by the Executive Committee and the Council, is appended. (I)

Separate projects.

Nine graduate students have now been secured to work upon separate projects fitting into the general programme, and have started work this term. All of them will work for at least two years (subject to their project and progress meriting this): eight of them proceeding to the degree of M.A., and two to the degree of Ph.D. These students are working under the joint guidance of the Director and a member of the Department with which the specific study is primarily concerned; and are of course taking lectures relevant to their research on the subjects bearing upon their work.

Provision for continuous contact between the students and their advisers, and between the Director and the departments concerned, has become the established principle and practice of the research.

The list of the separate projects now under way is appended, (II) together with a list of the graduate students and their qualifications (III). Without exception all of them appear to be fitted for their work and to have the capacity to profit from research experience and training.

The type and proportion of preliminary reading, statistical work, etc., and actual field work undertaken by each student of course very widely: but each has now formulated his own programme in detail, is working upon the extant or more readily-available relevant materials, and will undertake some field work at least this term. The summary of the scope of each project, which is appended, is the best indication of what each will be doing in the future.

A basic questionnaire has been drawn up for use by all investigators dealing with employed or unemployed groups. It covers the most immediately relevant information we need in order to know the detailed nature of the unemployment problem in Montreal. The ideal would be to have this answered by all the unemployed, but the most that can be hoped for this year is that we obtain this information from a number of sample groups (including employed groups) which between them give us a representative picture of the whole.

Director's organisation

As the organisation of the work has so far proceeded, the following appear to be the functions which the Director can usefully serve:

- (1) The coordination of the research, and the preservation of the outlines and objectives of the programme, in general.
- (2) The maintenance of contact between departments (which is also secured through the meetings of the Executive Committee).