

Research Projects on which graduate students  
are working (1931-2): Summary of Scope.

(Economics)

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

2. 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.

3. Unemployment and Unemployment Relief in Western Canada.

Survey and interpretation of unemployment situation in recent years in the prairie provinces: employment, unemployment and employment-exchange statistics. Local materials. Seasonal, cyclical and technical factors: the special problems of agricultural and rural relief. Differences from Western problem. The operation of the Unemployment Relief Act of 1930 and the Unemployment and Farm Relief Act of 1931. Local relief administration problems. Farm and migratory labour: the employment exchanges and Western employment. Interpretation to bring out differences (and similarities) of Western from Eastern unemployment and relief problems.

(Sociology)

4. A study of a selected group of British immigrants in relation to their occupational adjustment.

Occupational history of the immigrants - former trades and skills, status, conditions, etc. Problems involved in transfer of skills, change of job and employment conditions, including status, labour organisation, cost of living, working conditions, etc. Degree of regular or irregular employment, period of adjustment. Significance of change of job, wages, status and conditions, on individual and on family, in relation to degree of adjustment as member of new community.