

Departmental Research Projects.

Session 1931-2.

1. Economics.

(a) Primary field

The unemployment problems of particular Montreal industries.

One possible statement of the "causes" of unemployment is that they comprise (1) seasonal fluctuations, (2) cyclical or "trade cycle" fluctuations, (3) technical progress and industrial change, (4) the organisation of the labour market. But each industry has its special problems of mode of recruitment, technology, seasonality, etc., - it is in itself a miniature reflection of the entire unemployment problem - yet these problems depend on its own structure and organisation. The understanding and analysis of these is the first step towards realising the possibilities of stabilisation of unemployment within industry itself.

[Two studies on these lines - of the construction industry and the men's clothing industry - have already been undertaken.]

(b) Secondary field^L

The unskilled labour market in Montreal.

Knowledge of the extent and character of the market for (male) unskilled labour - industries, degree of organization, amount of fluctuation, etc. - is the most important supplement to the above, especially when we are concerned with the more permanently unemployed.

2. Sociology.

(a) Primary field

The social and occupational adjustment of immigrant groups in Montreal.

Montreal is the dominant city of entry to Canada to which immigrant individuals and families come, and also the city to which many return (or in which they stay) in the event of inadequate adjustment. The racial character of the working-force, and the success or non-success of the new entrant to the country, are very substantial elements in the Canadian unemployment problem. We need more detailed studies of the functioning of immigration agencies, the comparative success, tendencies, and problems of particular groups, etc.

(b) Secondary field

Slum-conditions and problem areas in relation to the effects of unemployment and capacity for securing employment.

It is a well-known fact that in every city there are "problem areas" which can be defined statistically. Such slum-like areas both contribute to the production of "unemployables", and are areas into which the unemployed and unadjusted tend to gravitate. The study of such areas is essential to understanding the problem of unemployment in a great city.

^L i.e., only if students and funds available, or if inclusion desirable in relation to primary study.