

EFFECTIVE CITIZEN CO-OPERATION

WHAT IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS SHOULD
BE EACH BODY'S BUSINESS

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Bringing Supply and Demand Together

Should any willing worker be without employment in a country as rich in resources as Canada, no matter how many may come in from other lands?

Yet unemployment exists—even when there is work enough for all workers, if properly distributed.

General restriction of immigration, deportation, or charitable work will never solve the problem.

Some form of central control is what we need.

A Tentative Scheme for Central Control of Labor Supply, Unemployment and Immigration

(A) Administration:

1. A central "compilation bureau" to be established in Ottawa, under the Immigration Branch of the Department of the Interior, whose chief function would be the compiling of information received from provincial agents regarding surplus supply of and demand for labor (as outlined under Sec. B., 2-4).
2. Designation of some already existing official (Immigration Superintendent or Director of Colonization) in each province who would receive the information above referred to from each municipal agent in the province. (Procedure as outlined under Sec. B, 2-2). No new department or office need be created.
3. Designation of official in every city and town to receive direct application from employers and those seeking employment, who will forward facts as to the surplus of supply and demand in their locality to the provincial authorities. The Dominion or Provincial Immigration agent, wherever there is one, might be the official designated. In other cases the town clerk or other city official might be chosen.

(B) Method:

1. The following forms to be issued and given to all designated agents:
 1. Application from employers stating kind of labor required, temporary or permanent, with salary or wages offered.
 2. Application from unemployed giving the usually required information.
 3. Compilation of Forms 1 and 2—under classified headings of skilled and unskilled labor.
 4. Compilation of unfilled applications, Forms 1 and 2, under same heading as Form 3.

2. Procedure:

1. Every municipal agent to forward on a set day (say every Tuesday) Form No. 4 to the provincial authorities, i.e. the class and quantity of work or workers which he was unable to supply in his own locality.

2. Each provincial official to compile the information received on Forms No. 4, bring together the supply and demand in his province as far as possible and forward the total surplus classified under Form No. 4 to the Central Bureau at Ottawa not later than, say Thursday every second week (bi-weekly in the case of British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan, this to be wired whenever practicable so as not to cause too much delay.
3. On this basis the Central Bureau would have the information from all the provinces not later than every second Monday.
4. The work of the General Bureau would then be as follows:
 - a. To compile all information from the provinces, by town or district.
 - b. To secure information from all the immigration agents (Dominion and Provincial) in Europe, and the Canadian Trade Commissioners where advisable, as to emigration from their respective stations or nearest port, specially as to emigrants booked for Canada. (Such information when important to be cabled.)
 - c. To send out directly not later than every second Thursday, pamphlet containing information "a" and "b" and a list of agents for each town or district, to all European, provincial and municipal agents; list to be furnished to the Bureau by each provincial agent.
5. In this way every agent would have the information concerning labor requirements all over the country, every second Saturday or Monday, or in less than two weeks (12 days) after he sent in his weekly report to the provincial agent. It would then be an easy matter for the agent to communicate with other agents directly and whenever possible bring together employers and those seeking employment.

It might be suggested that the Central Bureau should try to bring together the surplus supply and demand of the different provinces. Arguments against this are, first, the Central Bureau at a distance could not be a good judge of requirements, and second, such a plan would tend to eliminate healthy competition.

6. Immigration agents at United States border points should also report similarly to the Central Bureau.
7. No names of applicants should be published.

(C) Fees and Costs:

1. The cost of this scheme will be very small except in the case of the Central Bureau, but so as to reimburse the governments to a

certain extent and at the same time insure the bona fides of applicants, it would be advisable to charge a nominal fee of 25 cents for each application for employment and a scale of fees for applications from employers ranging from 25 cents to \$2.00 per application, according to the number of workers required.

2. The fees received could be apportioned as follows:

- 40% to the Local Authorities.
- 40% to the Provincial Authorities.
- 20% to the Dominion Authorities.

(D) Co-operation by the Central Bureau with other departments, particularly the Departments of Labor, and Trade & Commerce, is desirable.

(E) Legislation Required:

1. Act to provide for the above scheme in general, same to give power to the Minister of the Interior to modify certain clauses if required by new conditions not foreseen.
2. Amendment of the Immigration Act to conform with details in the Central Bureau Act.
3. Act to bar all private employment agencies from doing business, except those who are not operated for profit—on condition of course, that they co-operate with the government authorities.

(F) Additional Functions:

After the Bureau is established it might assist in creating new demands for labor by:

1. Setting up a comparative classified table of statistics (which are now kept) showing the articles manufactured in Canada and their value, as against the value of imports of the same articles. This would in many cases point out in what direction the industries might be stimulated and developed.
2. Asking every agent to report any suggestion for possible new development in his district.
3. Sending out periodically this information to all agents, interested persons and associations.

(G) Conclusion:

This suggestion is offered merely as a starting point for discussion. Early action is necessary. A doubling of the population, before organization, means a doubling of the difficulties in the way. Starting now on a comparatively small scale would enable us to catch up to our rapidly increasing development. The success of this plan depends largely upon the co-operation of Labor and Capital, government authorities, and the public in general.