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What is Industrial Sociology?

by Yoshimatsu Aonuma

Industrial Sociology is a new branch of sociology. It comes into being to meet emerging problems of the present industry. The distinctive subject matter of industrial sociology is the human and social factors in industry, which traditional wisdom may be poorly suited to deal with.

From our point of view, industrial sociology holds its object of study in common with economics, but both differ in the method to analyze it. The former shows interest in the aspects which latter gives up to study. They are working together to study industry in all its aspects, as whole.

Industrial sociology will be expected to contribute in resolving the urgent problems of the day and the future, only in cooperation with other disciplines. Any boundary we establish among social sciences is not rigid but loose.

In conclusion, we should look upon resolving problems as greater important than to set limits to a field of study, which is merely an aid to understanding.

On Translation from Vicus to Villa

by Hisashi Uono

We will research the correlation between the vicus and the villa in the early times in Western Europe.

In the classical theories from Fustel de Coulanges, the villa in merovingian age occupied the major position in the Frankkingdom, and the vicus lost its meaning in the history.

However, Robert Latouche insists on his view, that the vicus in the Frank-age had not vanished from the historical stages.

He recognizes an importance of the results in the local historyresearch, and makes clear the structure of the village organization or administration. Moreover, he connected the village with the field system.

We treat with these problems, comparing with the German scholar's studies.

Economies of Scale and Changes in the Leontief Input-coefficients

by Iwao Ozaki

In the field of empirical analysis of the production function, two alternative types of approaches have been developed. One is the neo-classical approach to be referred to as "the homogeneous-capital, smooth, factor-substitutable and aggregate production function," such as the Cobb-Douglas type, the C.E.S. type production functions and the like. Another is the approach which may be referred to as "the commodity-base or linear programming type production function, such as the Leontief type, the factor-limitational type input functions and so forth, These are fundamentally based on engineering information for each production process of a commodity.

The main concern of the former approach would be with the establishment of a macro-economic growth model and the theory of distribution. On the other hand, the latter approach would focus on the problems of structural changes of the intra-and inter-industry commodity mix in a society. Thus, the analysis of input-output relations in this field should typically concentrate on the engineering structure or technical efficiency of heterogeneous fixed capital.

This paper is a report of the empirical results obtained in our experiments belonging to the latter field, in which commodity-base input functions were estimated. In this study, two kinds of experiments were made in the analysis of the production function. The first was the statistical comparison of stability between the traditional type of production functions and the heterogeneous-capital type of input functions. The second was a test of constancy of the Leontief input coefficients. We found that in a commodity-group, economies of scale in production technique were observed as far as the data were concerned.

Generally speaking, the limitational type input functions will give a good statistical approximation to the production functions in manufacturing industries. As a conclusion, in growing economies, Leontief input coefficients tend to change in time series under the influences of economies of scale.